

PRESS RELEASE

## FRAGMENTS

### Meeting Architecture III

A programme of lectures and exhibitions

Friday 29 April 2016: Part III

## Francesco Bandarin: The past as hostage. Heritage, conflicts and international organizations

18.00: Lecture introduced by Pippo Ciorra, with Duilio Giammaria

The British School at Rome  
via Gramsci 61, Rome

Francesco Bandarin's lecture *The Past as Hostage. Heritage, Conflicts and International Organization*, in collaboration with the French Academy in Rome-Villa Medici, is the third event in *Meeting Architecture: FRAGMENTS* curated by Marina Engel.

'Throughout the last decades, the world has witnessed several situations in which the built or the intangible heritage has been at the core of political, ethnic and religious conflicts. From the deliberate destruction of the Mostar bridge in Bosnia in 1993 and of the Bamyán Buddhas in Afghanistan in 2001, to the recent offenses to the heritage of Mali, Iraq and Syria, historic heritage is increasingly targeted in situations of conflict. Intangible heritage is also often at the core of conflict or controversy, as it is linked to the identity of communities and it carries meanings and messages.' [Francesco Bandarin]

In spite of the important developments brought forward by International instruments such as the World Heritage Convention, and the universal recognition of the common value of heritage for humanity; political and sectarian movements that aim to create antagonism and to attack the values of the other often exploit heritage.

Bandarin will examine recent cases and discuss the actions taken by the international community to address these issues as well as ways to improve and extend the protection of cultural heritage.

Francesco Bandarin is the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture. He is Professor of Urban Planning and Conservation at the University IUAV of Venice (currently on leave). From 2000 to 2010 he was Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Secretary of the World Heritage Convention. From 2010 to 2014 he served as Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Culture. In October 2015 he was re-appointed in this position for an interim period. In 2014, he was appointed President of the Jury of the Venice Architecture Biennale, curated by Rem Koolhaas and President of the Jury of the First Shenzhen Creative Design Award (SCDA).

He is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal *City, Culture and Society*, published by Elsevier. He is President of the Italian Association of Historic Cities (ANCSA), member of the Visiting Committee of the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles and member of the Steering Committee of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

His recent publications include: *The Historic Urban Landscape: Managing Heritage in an Urban Century*, 2012 and *Reconnecting the City. The Historic Urban Landscape Approach and the Future of Urban Heritage*, 2015, both published by Wiley-Blackwell.

## MEETING ARCHITECTURE - FRAGMENTS

FRAGMENTS considers how emotions are stirred, memories evoked and ideologies shaped by buildings, ruins and their contents. To this end the programme focuses on the concept of the fragment, defined as an urban ruin, a house and/or its remaining contents, personal vestiges, images, photographs, and documents. Architects, visual artists and historians are invited to examine and to reevaluate the fragment in an attempt to reconstruct personal or collective identities in zones of conflict or former conflict. The programme also discusses the destruction of monuments and heritage sites brought about by war and in particular the attempt to erase or fragment the memories of differing cultural identities and ideologies

**The programme is in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts who will host an annual summer forum in London inviting participants in the programme together with RA Academicians to debate some of the main issues discussed in Rome.**

## CALENDAR 2016

**3 May 2016 – 24 May 2016 | Lecture and exhibition | Dor Guez (Israel)**

**Visual artist and head of the Photography Department at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem**

Guez's installations combine diverse modes of video and photographic practices and raise questions about contemporary art's role in narrating unwritten histories, referring to his own cultural heritage, Christian Palestinian and Jewish Tunisian. In 2009, Guez founded the *Christian-Palestinian Archive* (CPA), the first archive devoted to the Christian-Palestinian minority of the Middle East.

**30 May 2016 | Lecture | Eyal Weizman (Israel)**

**Architect and Professor of Spatial and Visual Culture and Director of the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London.**

An authority on the architecture of Israel's occupation, Weizman recently established *Forensic Architecture*, a multidisciplinary research project based at Goldsmiths University of London. *Forensic Architecture's* investigations provide evidence for international prosecution teams, political organisations, NGOs and the United Nations. In a separate event, Weizman will lead a workshop at MAXXI – Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo.

**In 2016-2017, FRAGMENTS will concentrate on Eastern and Central Europe and invite: Miroslaw Balka, Joseph Rykwert, Grzegorz Piątek, Helen Walasek and Dragana Zarevac.**

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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**Admission free**

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## In collaboration with

French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici, Royal Academy of Arts

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