

## Adelina von Fürstenberg

Granddaughter of the Armenian architect Dikran Kalfa Cüberyán, **Adelina Cüberyán von Fürstenberg-Herdringen** is an international and renowned curator and one of the field's pioneers in broadening contemporary art. A Swiss citizen, Armenian origin, born in Istanbul, married when she was still at the university to the photographer Graf Franz Egon von Fürstenberg-Herdringen, son of Gloria Guinness and Count Franz-Egon von Fürstenberg-Herdringen.

Adelina von Fürstenberg is one of the first curators who showed an interest in non-European artists, thus opening the way for a multicultural approach in art. She is also a curator who took a more global and flexible approach to contemporary art exhibitions, in bringing art in spaces such as monasteries, medersas, large public buildings, squares, islands, parks, etc. Her objective is to give a larger context for visual art in making it a more vigorous part of our lives, in creating a more vivid dialogue for it with other arts, and relating it more to worldwide social issues.

During her studies of Political Sciences at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, Adelina von Fürstenberg founded the **Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève**, which she directed until 1989, presenting several solo shows of the pioneers of Pop Art, Fluxus, Conceptual Art, Minimal Art such as **Christian Boltanski, Daniel Buren, Sol LeWitt, Andy Warhol, Laurence Weiner**. In the same period she organized performances with **John Cage, Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, Joan Jonas, Trisha Brown, Marina Abramovic, Robert Wilson** and many group exhibitions, among them the well known open-air exhibition *Promenades* (1985), on the Lake Lemán shores at Parc Lullin, Genthod with the sculptures and site-specific installations with the Arte Povera artists.

During her stay in Geneva, she opened the door of many international organisations to contemporary culture. In 1989 she organized large exhibitions in the Geneva headquarters of international organisations such as the ILO (International Labour Organization), where she presented *The Line of Fire* a model by the American architect **Daniel Libeskind**, scale 1/1, that would later become the Jewish Museum Berlin.

From 1989 to 1994, she directed **Le Magasin, Centre d'Art Contemporain of Grenoble**, where she curated large solo exhibitions of major artists, such as **Gino De Dominicis** and **Alighiero Boetti**, as well as symposia and lectures on architecture, science and philosophy. Furthermore, for five years she has directed the **Ecole du Magasin** (School of Curators). In 1993 for the 45th Venice Biennale she curated the Italian Pavilion and the Russian Pavilion (**Ilya Kabakov**). She also curated the exhibition *Trésors du Voyage* on the Island of San Lazzaro. On this occasion, the international Jury of the Biennale awarded her a prize for her direction of Le Magasin and her work at the School of Curators.

In 1995, on the occasion of the United Nations 50th Anniversary, she was invited to conceive and curate the exhibition *Dialogues of Peace*, an international exhibition presented at the UN Headquarters, in Geneva. **Chen Zhen, Tadashi Kawamata, Alfredo Jaar** are some of the 60 artists from various continents who contributed to the exhibition. In 1996 she founded **ART for The World**, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) associate to the UN Department of Public Information for the diffusion and promotion of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through the organization of exhibitions and events around the world.

Adelina von Fürstenberg has curated with **ART for The World**, at the occasion of the Venice Biennale at the Armenian Monastery of San Lazzaro, solo shows of **Robert Rauschenberg** (1997), **Jannis Kounellis** (2003) and **Joseph Kosuth** (2007) and in Palazzo Zenobio the *Children Museum* of the architect Philip Johnson. Since 2005, with *Art for The World Europa*, in Milan, she has worked with **Hangar Bicocca**, in creating a series of shows, among them the world avant-première *Balkan Epic* by **Marina Abramovic** (2006).

Since 1998, she works in partnership with the **Regional Direction of SESC Sao Paulo**, Brazil, in curating large exhibitions, among them *The Overexcited Body. Art and Sport in Contemporary Art*, *Voom Portraits* by Robert Wilson (2008), and, in 2010, *Urban Manners 2* on Indian contemporary art, for the first time in South America.

In 2011-2012 she curated *The Mediterranean Approach*, an itinerant exhibition under the auspices of the Cultural Council of the Union pour la Méditerranée (UPM) and Marseille Provence 2013, Cultural Capital of Europe. Aiming to emphasize differences as well as similarities as part of the underlying deep identity connecting all Mediterranean peoples, the exhibition was presented at Palazzo Zenobio in Venice (June-August, 2011), during the Venice Biennale, in Marseille at the mac - Museum of Contemporary Art (February-May, 2012) and will tour to SESC Pinheiros in Sao Paulo, Brazil during the Sao Paulo Biennial in October 2012-January 2013, in collaboration with the Regional Direction of SESC Sao Paulo.

Adelina von Fürstenberg shares the common belief that art and cinema are two of the strongest catalysts that can facilitate human relations, especially within the context of political, ideological or religious spheres. Knowing that cinema is peculiarly potent to familiarize cultures to each other, to create endless possibilities that regenerate and enrich our social lives, in 2008, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), she created and produced the long feature film *Stories on Human Rights*, inspired by the UDHR and composed a series of short movies directed by 22 prominent video artists and filmmakers from all over the world. Premiered at the Palais de Chaillot, Trocadero, in Paris on December 2008, the film has been screened in more than 70 film festivals.

In 2010-2011 Adelina von Fürstenberg produced with ART for The World the new series of 7 short films *THEN AND NOW Beyond Borders and Differences*, under the auspices of the UN Alliance of Civilizations and the Council of Europe. Inspired by article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion", the omnibus film involves 7 independent well known filmmakers from the five continents to promote tolerance by creating films stories highlighting the long-standing historical, spiritual and cultural links across cultures and beliefs: **Tata Amaral** (Brazil), **Fanny Ardant** (France), **Hüseyin Karabey** (Turkey), **Masbedo** (Italy), **Idrissa Ouedraogo** (Burkina Faso), **Jafar Panahi** (Iran), **Robert Wilson** (USA).

She is currently working on a new production, the film *The Human Condition, Myths and Misconceptions*, to eliminate cancer as a life-threatening disease for future generations and to support the mission of those who are fighting this illness. The film will be composed by 6 original short movies by worldwide awarded filmmakers, among them: **Karim Aïnouz** (Brazil), **Sergei Bodrov** (Russia/USA), **David Evan Giles** (Australia), **Xiaolu Guo** (China), **Hüseyin Karabey** (Turkey). Along with medical research, awareness, responsibility and action are one of the major weapons against cancer. *The Human Condition* aims to present and discuss issues related to cancer, cancer control and cancer prevention, increasing awareness as well as hope in fighting this illness, with the help of the great variety of themes concretely illustrated by the different short films.