



## Inaugural Citywide Festival

Presenting an outstanding array of visual arts, film, literature, music, and architecture events

**Tirana Open 1** presents the first of its kind initiative in the Balkans, bringing together under one umbrella an unprecedented array of Albanian and International cultural institutions presenting a rich multi-disciplinary program of exhibitions, events, and public interventions.

Reflecting on a city that is at once an old Roman center, Ottoman outpost, Italian Novecento archetype, Fascist utopian dream, an example of Stalinist brutalism, and finally, a model of contemporary (non) architecture run amok, *Tirana Open 1* explores its locale as a vibrant lab of cultural hybridity and an alternative model for urban development and audience engagement.

“*Tirana Open 1* is an invitation to a pass-the-word that Tirana is the urban square that has no cultural barriers, but only porous borders of cultural belonging” says festival co-director Helidon Gjergji. “By inviting international cultural institutions to participate in this city-wide happening, we hope to make the local institutions and citizens of Tirana feel a bit like visitors in their own city, and to make visitors feel like citizens of Tirana. This is not a role play, but a playful reality.”

*paMUR*, the festival’s contemporary arts section, presents a special guest project by celebrated artist **William Kentridge** (South Africa), alongside a juried competition of video art by prominent international and local artists, including **Yuri Ancarani** (Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino), **Olivo Barbieri** (MAXII, Rome), **Henry Chapman** (T293 Gallery, Naples), **Donika Cina** (Galeria e Vogël, Tirana), **Alberto Di Fabio** (Gagosian Gallery, London), **Nathalie Djurberg** (Museo Pascoli, Polignano a Mare), **DZT Collective** (Stefano Romano & Eri Çobo) **TICA** (Tirana Institute of Contemporary Art, Tirana), **Yilka Gjollës** (Zeta Gallery, Tirana), **Elis Gjoni** (Art Kontakt, Tirana), **Felix Gmelin** (Stacion - Center for Contemporary Art, Prishtina), **Ibro Hasanovic** (Tirana Art Lab, Tirana), **Aurora Kalemi** (Zenit Gallery, Tirana), **Santiago**

**Mostyn** (Moderna Museet, Malmö), **Alban Muja** (Tulla Culture Center, Tirana), **Marzena Nowak** (Galerija Gregor Podnar, Berlin), **Matilda Odobashi** (FAB, Tirana), **Anri Sala** (Hauser & Wirth Gallery, Zurich), **Sissi** (MAM Foundation, Tirana), **Cauleen Smith** (Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago), **Stefanos Tsivopoulos** (Thessaloniki Center of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki), **The Two Gullivers** (Flutura Preka & Besnik Haxhillari) **MAI** (Marina Abramovic Institute, Hudson, New York), **Nasan Tur** (Blain/Southern Gallery, London), **Nico Vascellari** (The National Gallery of Arts, Tirana), **Kostis Velonis** (Kunsthalle Athena, Athens), **Driant Zeneli** (Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella). Granting an award named after the renown Albanian artist Danish Jukniu, competition jury includes **Edoardo Bonaspetti** (Mousse Magazine), **Cathryn Drake** (Artforum & Frieze Magazine), and **Michele Robecchi** (Phaidon). Artist **Adrian Paci** (Shkodër/Milano) will be delivering a featured artist talk.

The Music Venice Biennale and Italian contemporary opera company **Cantieri Teatrali Koreja** will tour to Albania its acclaimed production ***Katër i Radës. Il Naufragio***. The festival will also feature concerts by prominent bands **Fanfara Tirana** and **Gipsy Groove** hosted by **Tulla Sounds**. Film selections include **DocuTIFF**, showcasing pioneering documentary cinema organized by the Tirana International Film Festival (TIFF), as well as a side-program of four recent Israeli films presented by **The Academy of Film and Multimedia (MARUBI)**. **Urban Laboratory Tirana Albania (ULTRA)** will mount its annual festival of commentary and ideas on urban life and the built space in the context of Tirana's ever-changing nature of urban space, curated by **Elian Stefa** and featuring among other projects "Mapping Identity" by **Antonio Ottomanelli**.

*Tirana Open's* expansive book fair exhibits stands by the majority of Albania's book publishers, daily reading events, and the Ardian Klosi Prize for best non-fiction book. The book fair will present daily events to its readers with special guest talk the celebrated Italian writer and journalist, **Roberto Saviano**.

*Tirana Open 1* Directors: **Arlinda Dudaj, Helidon Gjergji & Vladimir Myrtezai-Grosha**. *Tirana Open 1* is organized by Tirana Open, under the auspices of **Edi Rama**, Prime Minister, and the Ministry of Culture, Republic of Albania.

For more information about Tirana Open and its diverse programming please click [here](#)

**International Press Contact: Livia Alexander**, email: [livia@livalex.net](mailto:livia@livalex.net) Tel: [+1 917 402 1548](tel:+19174021548)

**Local Press Contact: Nevila Jones**, email: [info@tiranaopen.org](mailto:info@tiranaopen.org), Tel: [+355 69 408 0005](tel:+355694080005)