



PRESS RELEASE

15 March 2019

» **WAS – IS – WILL BE** «

40th Anniversary

›*La Galleria*‹ *Dorothea van der Koelen · Venice*

The gallerist, publisher and art historian Dr. Dorothea van der Koelen celebrates the **40th anniversary** of her gallery in 2019 with a series of extraordinary events in Mainz and in Venice. The festive start to her jubilee will take place on **7 May** in the lagoon city on the occasion of the 58th Venice Biennial. Van der Koelen presents two brilliant projects: the exhibitions »**Was - Is - Will be**« in ›La Galleria‹ and »**Lore Bert: Illumination - Ways to Eureka**« in the church of San Samuele, Venice.

» **WAS – IS – WILL BE** « 40th Anniversary of the Gallery

Dorothea van der Koelen was only 19 years old when she was able to fulfill her first, great wish: Without much start-up capital but full of determination, she opened her gallery in Mainz in 1979. The first step on a long, successful path had been taken. For the next 40 years, with devotion, courage and exceptional productivity, she realized impressive and far-sighted projects that are remembered above all as moments of happiness. »*Looking back at my life with art and for the art, I notice how strong the impressions and memories of the beautiful experiences, the wonderful encounters, the interesting conversations are.*« (Dorothea van der Koelen). Collaborations with high-profile international artists, the realization of large exhibition projects in Germany, Europe and other continents, the establishment of the ›Chorus-Verlag‹ publishing house (1995), the opening of ›La Galleria‹ in Venice (2001), the foundation of the ›Van der Koelen Foundation for Art and Science‹ (2003) and the inauguration of the ›CADORO‹ (Centre for Art and Science) 2014 in Mainz - those are some of the moments of happiness which Dorothea van der Koelen has shared over the years with grateful collectors and art lovers, museum people and journalists. Getting excited together about this long, successful history (*WAS*) while also looking to the future (*WILL BE*) - this attitude also shapes the spirit of the upcoming exhibition in ›La Galleria‹ with works by top international artists such as **Daniel Buren, Lore Bert, Joseph Kosuth, François Morellet, Fabrizio Plessi, Arne Quinze, Turi Simeti, Bernar Venet.**



»Lore Bert : Illumination – Ways to Eureka« Church San Samuele

In 2013, Lore Bert's »Art & Knowledge« exhibition was an official collateral event for the Venice Biennale, captivating more than 105,000 visitors. In 2019, again at the Biennale, she will realize an impressive installation in the lagoon city: a vast environment of paper and dichroitic glass entitled »Illumination - Ways to Eureka« in the church of San Samuele. Two transparent and lustrous glass columns rise from a ocean-like white field (10 x 6 m) made up of thousands and thousands of folded papers, 5 meters high. An invitation to look, to observe the environment from different perspectives and to discover how colors and light continue to change through the dichroitic glass both on the column structure and reflecting in the space. The work refers to the Prophet San Samuele (the Illuminated), but also manifests itself in a philosophical dimension as a moment of insight. The accompanying large-format picture objects pay tribute to Venice. Their colored and golden structures are reminiscent of characteristic architectural elements of the *Serenissima*.

Grand Opening of the exhibitions in Venice on **Tuesday, 7 May 2019:**

from 4 p.m. in San Samuele

Opening speech in San Samuele at 4:30 p.m.

from 6 p.m. in »La Galleria«

Opening speech in La Galleria at 6:30 p.m.

After the opening, an **aperitif will be served in the garden.**

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www.galerie.vanderkoelen.de