

Press release

**51. International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**  
*THE EXPERIENCE OF ART; ALWAYS A LITTLE FURTHER*

**LATVIA**  
***DARK BULB***

June 12 - November 6, 2005  
Opening hours 10.00 am - 6.00 pm, closed on Mondays

Palazzo Malipiero (San Samuele boat station, line n. 82-3-4),  
San Marco 3078 - 30124 Venice

Commissioner: Līga Marcinkeviča  
Vice-Commissioner: Päivi Tirkkonen  
Vice-Commissioner: Signe Pucena  
Artists: Group F5 (Līga Marcinkeviča, Ieva Rubeze, Mārtiņš Ratniks and Ervins Broks)  
Supporters: Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia,  
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia,  
Rietumu Banka, Kolonna, Ventpils Nafta  
Co-organiser: Arte Communications

Latvia is represented at the 51<sup>st</sup> Venice Biennale by the group *F5* with its project "Dark Bulb". *F5* stands for Famous Five and this group of students at the Visual Communications Department of the Latvian Academy of Art were given this grand sounding title by the organisers of a workshop in Finland in 1998, which became the year of the group's foundation.

The *F5* group currently consists of Līga Marcinkeviča, Ieva Rubeze, Mārtiņš Ratniks and Ervins Broks and this is the team that has worked on the "Dark Bulb" project for exposition at the Venice Biennale in Palazzo Malipiero.

These days the name of the group is already its trademark.

Without examining their work more carefully, it may seem that the creative activities of *F5* are not homogenous but it would be more accurate to say that their work is multi-faceted. In its projects the group does not try to reduce its ideas or subjugate them to some specific and therefore limited means of expression. The full-blown nature of their projects sometimes means that only one artwork is created in a year - the creative work of a cultural-political group does not come cheap. The *F5* group's raw material is the imagery of contemporary visual culture.

Each member of the group is an individual personality and works independently but the most serious and well-known works have been joint efforts - "Have a nice evening" at the 25th Sao Paulo Biennale, "TimeWillShow" and "Peepers".



Minister of Culture Helēna Demakova, writing in the catalogue of the 2003 exhibition “2Show”, gave a succinct description of each of the members of F5. “The works of Mārtiņš Ratniņš are characterised by a rational structure; his involvement of “media archaeology” and the “acoustic space”, taking pleasure in the graphic and spatial possibilities of the electronic image is getting “dangerously” close to equating a work of art with a work of advertising. We could describe the approach of Ervins Broks in a similar way. Līga Marcinkeviča’s sharpened sensitivity to social developments, supplemented by Ieva Rubeze’s poetic enthusiasm for creating fictions guarantee a good tandem for a successful joint project formula”.

It has to be said though, that their creative projects have not always been realised. Looking at art through the prism of politics, it is not always possible to find a rational explanation; if the policy of the day is “we cross out what we don’t understand”, then art no longer has any free space. This was the case with F5’s participation, or rather non-participation in the 50<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale and the group’s creative gesture in the Biennale catalogue.

In the text above we have used the expression “creative project”; please understand that we are talking about completed artworks - installations. We use this expression deliberately because the creation of each work of art is a project for the group; F5 works completely independently, beginning with the initial concept, creating the idea of the artwork to its realisation, including management, production, advertising etc.

A brief note on the “Dark Bulb” project. Palazzo Malipiero, which is home to Latvia’s exposition, has two entrances and this situation is the key to the exposition.

IT ALL ENDS WITH A STORY THAT’S BEEN ACCIDENTALLY SPOTTED...IT ALL BEGINS WITH READING AN ACCIDENTALLY FOUND PIECE OF NEWS.

What’s important is which door you will you come in by?

### INFORMATION:

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