

Venice 2017



**PERSONAL
STRUCTURES
Open Borders**

Philippe Leblanc

YEAR 2017 CALENDAR

Suspended at over five meters, a steel disk features 12 perforations, just like a clock. Months are represented by cables threaded through each hole, forming a vertical cylinder.

Stainless steel ellipses, fixed on the cables at regular intervals, stand for days. They are mirrored on one side and lacquered on the other. Their dimensions recall time units, and their shape the rotation movement of the earth around the sun. Colors are assigned to each day of the week: yellow for Mondays, yellow-orange for Tuesdays, orange for Wednesdays, and so on till Sundays which are purple.

January 1st is the highest ellipse, February 1st hangs a bit lower on the second cable, March 1st still lower on the third cable, etc. This disposition creates an effect of helicoidal movement, such as the earth's around the sun which in turn follows a curving path in our galaxy.

At dusk, bottom-up lighting reflects on the mirrored surfaces and projects crescents of light on the surrounding walls, immersing spectators in a stellar universe.

2017 corresponds to the year of this calendar's creation, which was produced for the "Personal Structures" exhibition. But it was also valid for 2006, as it will be for the years 2023, 2034, 2045, 2051... It can thus be considered as an eternal calendar, an outlook on the present, the past and the future to come.

I have always been attracted by abstract, playful, and even disturbing representations of time, such as watches without numerals or hands, dateless calendars... perhaps as a way not to see time pass... so quickly!

My calendar is conceived as a time machine. The hours, days and months compose a tridimensional and colorful structure which invites walking around and through the calendar, traveling through past, present and future, and perhaps fixing your gaze on a particular color, allowing for individual daydreaming and experimentation at one's own pace.

The choice of various colors for each weekday is not devoid of meaning. From yellow to purple by way of orange, each person might have a marked preference (or aversion) for a particular day of the week, as happens with colors.

When seen from below the calendar is all mirrors, discreetly reflecting the colors of the other days, and it appears rather neutral or even void. When viewed from above, it is dense and colorful, like a patchwork symbolizing past events or those expected to happen throughout the year.



PERSONAL STRUCTURES: Open Borders

This publication accompanies the exhibition PERSONAL STRUCTURES: Open Borders. The exhibition is organised by the GAA Foundation and presented by the European Cultural Centre in the context of the 57th Biennale di Venezia 2017.

PERSONAL STRUCTURES: Open Borders features more than 200 artists from over 50 different countries. The exhibition shows the commonness and differences between Europeans, in dialogue with works of Non-Europeans. In addition the exhibition stimulates a more conscious relationship from the spectator towards his daily surrounding aiming to increase the awareness of their own personal Existence as human beings influenced by a specific Culture within Space and Time.