

Marius Kwint: 300-word statement for REF Submission 2018

The *Frontiers Reimagined* exhibition: an official Collateral Event of the 56th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Museo di Palazzo Grimani, Venice. 9th May – 22nd November 2015. Curatorial Director: Sundaram Tagore; Co-curator: Marius Kwint

[*Frontiers Reimagined: Art That Connects Us*](#) was an official Collateral Event of the [Venice Art Biennale in 2015](#), held at the 16th-century [Museo di Palazzo Grimani](#), the only Roman-style palazzo in the city. Featuring 44 artists from 25 countries, it was the first official cooperation between the Italian Ministry of Culture and the Biennale.

In his book [Imagined Communities](#) (1983), Benedict Anderson identified the collective imagination as an instrument of nationalism. *Frontiers Reimagined*, by contrast, proposed the artistic imagination as a means of transcending such limitations and boundaries, addressing global challenges and cultural collisions through creative problem-solving.

The exhibition was based on the lifelong researches into the response of artists to empire and globalization by the art historian, curator, gallerist and film-maker Sundaram Tagore – an international quest that [over the previous 26 years](#) frequently involved scholarly dialogue and curatorial collaboration with the co-curator, Marius Kwint.

Kwint's role in this exhibition included concept development, researching, selecting and commissioning several of the artworks, liaising with artists, obtaining grant funding, writing the rationale of the 85-page Biennale application document, key exhibition panels, and one of the underpinning essays in the 120-page catalogue. He also gave supporting lectures and talks.

The artists ranged from emerging talents such as the Haitian-Swiss activist artist Sasha Huber and Iranian abstract calligrapher Golnaz Fathi, to international superstars such as the Bulgarian environmental artist Christo, Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado and the late American neo-Dadaist Robert Rauschenberg, who was a pioneer of cultural interchange through art. At least six new works were specially commissioned for the exhibition.

Frontiers Reimagined was rated by [The Art Newspaper](#) high among the top five outside the main Arsenale and Giardini areas; [ArtsHub](#) (Australia) labelled it 'certainly' 'the most successful collateral show'. It attracted over 25,000 visitors over the period: extraordinary numbers for a collateral show.

The Venice Art Biennale is the world's premier contemporary art event and comprises approximately 90 national pavilions and exhibitions, with a further 44 official collateral shows of grouped and solo artists in 2015, and many more unofficial exhibitions and events around the city that the Biennale always attracts.

[Statement body 349 words]