



## **Antarctic Resolution, Opening and Round Table TBA21 at Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza**

“Antarctica is not only the most precious thermostat that we have on our planet, it also represents a unique opportunity for governments to work together in order to further the initial goal of the Madrid protocol, rather than reverse it. Cooperation must outweigh national interests.”

-Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, TBA21 Founder and Chair

Signed in Madrid on October 4, 1991, the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty came into force in 1998, designating Antarctica as a “natural reserve, devoted to peace and science” (Art. 2).

In honor of the 30th anniversary of the Antarctic Environmental Protocol and building upon TBA21’s 20-year long commitment to environmental and peace advocacy and its long-term relationship with the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, TBA21 will present a publication-centered exhibition and conference at the museum, with the collaboration of the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge and its Minister Teresa Ribera.

### **Exhibition, October 2-12, 2021**

#### **Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza**

“Antarctic Resolution” is the first holistic body of research ever produced on the Antarctic which offers a high-resolution image of our seventh continent. Developed by UNLESS, a non-profit agency for change founded by architect Giulia Foscari, in collaboration with the world’s leading experts on Antarctica, the encyclopedic project focuses on the continent’s unique geography, unparalleled scientific potential, contemporary geopolitical significance, experimental governance system, and extreme inhabitation model.

“Accounting for approximately 10 % of the land mass of Planet Earth, the Antarctic is a Global Commons we collectively neglect. Far from being a pristine natural landscape, the continent is a contested territory which conceals resources that might prove irresistible in a world with ever-increasing population growth. The 26 quadrillion tons of ice accumulated on its bedrock, equivalent to around 70% of the freshwater on our planet, represent at once the most significant repository of scientific data available, providing crucial information for future environmental

policies, and the greatest menace to global coastal settlements threatened by the rise in sea levels induced by anthropogenic global warming.”

-Giulia Foscari, Antarctic Resolution

Premiered in the twofold format of publication and exhibition at the 17th Architecture Biennale of Venice, “Antarctic Resolution” was reproduced in its installation form by TBA21 as an integral part of its commitment to support of artistic research projects underlining the urgencies caused by our anthropogenic world. The installation will be exhibited at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, in Madrid alongside an impressive photograph of the southernmost cryosphere taken by Paolo Pellegrin during NASA’s Operation IceBridge as evidence of the alarming pace by which Antarctic glaciers are relentlessly calving icebergs into the Southern Ocean.

Aspiring to catalyse and disseminate knowledge on the Antarctic, the monumental 1000 page publication of “Antarctic Resolution” - which encompasses over 150 authored texts, a vast portfolio of photographic essays, data-based visualisations and detailed architectural drawings - reveals the intricate web of growing economic interests, tensions and international rivalries overtly at play in the continent, and calls for action.

The publication is available to purchase online at [Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza's Shop](#), at [Lars Müller Publishers](#), and Artbook.

### **Inauguration Round Table, Saturday October 2nd, 2021, at noon**

**Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza.** Auditorium.

To reserve your tickets, click [here](#)

- **Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza** (TBA21 Founder and Chair)
- **Giulia Foscari** (Founder of [UNLESS](#))
- **James N. Barnes** (Founder of the [Antarctic & Southern Ocean Coalition](#), ASOC)
- **Pascal Lamy** (Co-chair, [Antarctica 2020](#), Former Director-General of the [World Trade Organization](#), WTO)
- **Emil Dediu** ([Pew Charitable Trusts](#))

"Given the profound ecological upheavals underway in Antarctica from the climate and biodiversity crises, we need to preserve the spirit with which the Madrid Protocol was agreed 30 years ago today, and commit to further bold action to protect this fragile wilderness”

- James N. Barnes, Board Chair of the Antarctica and Southern Ocean Coalition

### **ABOUT TBA21**

**Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21)** is a leading international art and advocacy foundation harnessing the power of art as an agent for change. With hubs in Madrid and Venice that radiate worldwide, TBA21 has partnered on the realization of more than 100 works that engage the public in the most pressing issues of our times. Created in 2002 by the activist, philanthropist, and collector Francesca

Thyssen-Bornemisza, TBA21 represents the fourth generation of the Thyssen family's commitment to the arts.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

**Giulia Foscari Widmann Rezzonico** is an architect, researcher and writer who has been practising in Europe, Asia and the Americas. She is the founder of UNA, an architecture studio focussed on cultural projects, and of its alter ego UNLESS, a non-profit agency for change devoted to interdisciplinary research on extreme environments threatened by the planetary crisis. Foscari's past work experience includes an extensive collaboration with Rem Koolhaas/OMA which started in Hong Kong and led her to run OMA's South American platform, and with Zaha Hadid Architects. She is partner of the architecture office FWR Associati, and member of the International Council of the MoMA. Her work was exhibited in multiple editions of the International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Foscari taught at Hong Kong University and at the Architectural Association, where she ran a Diploma Unit and founded The Polar Lab. She authored *Elements of Venice* and is the editor of *Antarctic Resolution* (Lars Müller Publishers).

**UNLESS** is a non-profit agency for change that brings together interdisciplinary experts to conduct research on extreme environments threatened by the planetary crisis. Founded by Giulia Foscari, UNLESS' collaborative practice engages specialists from the fields of architecture, biology, chemistry, climate science, engineering, geography, history, law, literature, logistics, medicine, physics, political science, sociology, technology, and the visual arts.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

### **James Barnes**

James Barnes (Jim) received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1970. From mid-June 1971, he was a lawyer on the Alaska Pipeline case at the Center for Law and Social Policy for two years, and from 1977 to 1982, he was an attorney with the Center's International Project. He co-founded the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) in 1978, serving for many years as General Counsel, and then as Executive Director (2005-2014). He helped direct ASOC campaigns for an ecosystem-as-a-whole fisheries convention (1978-1982); against the proposed Minerals Convention (1982-1989); and for an Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty banning minerals activities (1989-1998). Jim helped develop the campaign to protect the Ross Sea, starting in 2003. He wrote *Let's Save Antarctica* in 1982, as a citizens' handbook advocating for Antarctica to be protected as a World Park. He serves ASOC as Board Chair.

### **Emil Dediu**

Emil Dediu is an officer with Pew Charitable Trust's protecting Antarctica's Southern Ocean Campaign. He focuses on outreach to the European Union and its member States in support of creating a network of marine protections in the waters surrounding Antarctica.

Before joining Pew, Dediu was Moldova's deputy head of mission to the EU, serving as the lead negotiator in talks with the body and was commended for his work on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. He was also head of the Americas, Asia, and Africa department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he worked on and developed Moldovan interests in the three continents and coordinated all activities of Moldovan embassies in those regions.

Dediu holds a doctorate and Master of Laws in international law from the State University of Moldova.

### **Pascal Lamy**

Pascal Lamy is the President of the Paris Peace Forum and Brunswick Europe Chair. He is special advisor to the European Commission.

He shares his other activities between the Jacques Delors think tanks (Paris, Berlin, Brussels), the Presidency of the UNWTO ethics of tourism committee, and Chair of the French Committee of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PEEC), the Aspen meeting Europe/Africa, and the Musiciens du Louvre orchestra (Marc Minkowski). He also holds positions in various French, European, and global boards or advisory boards (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, IFPRI, CERRE, TMEA, Transparency International, Alpbach Forum, Beijing Forum, World Trade Forum, WEF global risks, Europaeum, Collegium international etc.). He is an affiliate Professor at the China Europe International Business School CEIBS, Shanghai, and at HEC (Paris). From 2005 to 2013, Pascal Lamy served for two terms as Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). He previously was European Commissioner for trade (1999-2004), CEO of Crédit Lyonnais (1994-1999), Chief of Staff to the President of the European Commission Jacques Delors and his G7 sherpa (1985-1994), Deputy Chief of Staff to the French Prime Minister (1983-1985) and to the French Minister for Economy and Finance (1981-1983). Among his latest publications, one can find “Strange New World” (Odile Jacob 2020, “Où va le monde?» (Odile Jacob 2018).

### **Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza**

Founder and Chair of Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21), Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza is an activist, philanthropist and patron of the arts. Driven by a belief in the power of art to serve as an agent of change, Thyssen-Bornemisza has supported artists throughout her career in the production and creation of new work that fuels engagement with the most pressing issues of our times. Her sustained commitment to the cultural realm extends a long tradition of collecting and philanthropy in the Thyssen family that dates back generations.

Since 2002, TBA21 has helped realize more than 300 commissions, by such artists as Olafur Eliasson, Claudia Comte, Ragnar Kjartensson, Walid Raad, Rikrit Tiravanija and Ai Weiwei.

TBA21 has partnered with institutions internationally to lend works and mount cultural programs of ambitious scale and scope. In 2019 TBA21 established a hub in Madrid, including an ongoing collaboration with the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza. In 2011, Thyssen-Bornemisza co-founded TBA21–Academy with Director Markus Reymann, and in 2019 TBA21–Academy inaugurated a new art space in Venice called Ocean Space.

Thyssen-Bornemisza has received numerous honors, including the Honor of the Order of Distinction in the rank of Commander for contribution to the Environment and Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Jamaica in 2021, the Simmons Award for Philanthropic Excellence in 2015, the Merit Award in Gold of the Province of Vienna for her cultural engagement in Vienna in 2009, the Iceland’s Order of the Falcon in 2007 and the Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award in 1996.

## **ABOUT THE PUBLICATION**

ANTARCTIC RESOLUTION

Edited by Giulia Foscari / UNLESS

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