

Venice Biennale 57 A Bold Brash Statement to Counter The Earnest-Hearted

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Running around the Venice Biennale is like any other big art event work and pleasure. This year is a lot cooler and a bit rainy so at least you don't have the discomfort of contending with the exhausting heat.

This is the single most important art event on the international art calendar

Venice is a small walkable group of islands and you keep running into the same people who are on an endless circular trajectory of exhibition, event and party-going. There are many official and unofficial collateral events to attend as well as the main pavilions located in the Giardini and Arsenale sites.

The 57th International Art Exhibition features 85 National Participations in the historic pavilions at the Giardini, the Arsenale, and the city of Venice. Four Countries are participating for the first time: Antigua and Barbuda, Kiribati, and Nigeria. Selected Collateral Events are presented by international organizations. The main exhibition this year curated by Christine Macel, is organised by La Biennale di Venezia chaired by Paolo Baratta. The aim of the 2017 Venice Biennale "Viva Arte Viva" is to place art in the middle of the life cycle adding glimpses of beauty in the world around us. The Biennale statement declares that, "In the wake of the Biennale Arte directed by Okwui Enwezor, centred on the theme of the rifts and divisions that pervade the world, and aware that we are currently living in an age of anxiety, La Biennale has selected Christine Macel as a curator committed to emphasizing the important role artists play in inventing their own universes and injecting generous vitality into the world we live in. Her experience in the Department of "Création contemporaine et prospective" at the Centre Pompidou in Paris has long offered her a vantage point rich in potential from which to observe and identify new energies coming from various parts of the world". Artlyst is now routing around to assess if this is succeeding in its mission.



So much more to do and see both at the Arsenale and collateral events. Have made it to Wales – a stimulating, thought provoking sound and video installation by James Richards which uses appropriated youtube footage.