

5 More Canadian Connections at the Venice Biennale

Recently, we posted about nine projects with Canadian connections at the Venice Biennale. Here are five more.

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The Grand Canal in Venice. Photo: Leah Sandals.

The Venice Biennale is the world's longest-running art event, and also one of the most influential. Nations from around the globe select artists to represent their countries for the event, creating heated competition for the Biennale's top prize, the Golden Lion (this year, that has gone to Germany's Anne Imhof). The Biennale's major thematic exhibition, this summer featuring 120 artists and curated by Centre Pompidou's Christine Macel, is also a site where perspectives on global artmaking are shaped and debated.

A few weeks ago, just as the Biennale was about to open, we [highlighted nine projects](#) Canadians needed to know about for the Venice Biennale—many of them with Canadian connections. Here are five more, all happening in or around the Biennale.

4. James Richards and Steve Reinke's *What weakens the flesh is the flesh itself* at Wales in Venice

The Welsh representation at this year's Venice Biennale is helmed by artist James Richards, a Cardiff-born, Berlin-based artist who was nominated for Britain's Turner Prize in 2014. But what many critics have noted most this month about the Wales exhibition is a collaboration Richards created with Canadian artist Steve Reinke, with whom he has collaborated on a few films in the past. Titled *What weakens the flesh is the flesh itself*, this video focuses on a series of images found in the private archive of Albrecht Becker—a production designer, photographer and actor imprisoned by the Nazis for being homosexual. Among Becker's pictures of friends is a collection of self-portraits that reveal an obsessive commitment to body modification.