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Venice Highlights 2015: Pavilions and Collateral Events

by Robin Cembalest



Installation View of Patricia Cronin's *Shrine for Girls*, Venice, 2015

Photo : Mark Blower

"All the World's Futures," the 56th Venice Biennale presentation curated by artistic director Okwui Enwezor, takes a strong political position. As Gregory Volk wrote for A.i.A. last week, "this complex, tough-minded exhibition decisively shifts focus from the art world to, well, the world."

Beyond Enwezor's show, yet another universe of national exhibitions and collateral events dot the Venetian islands, occupying places from established pavilions in the Giardini to churches, gardens and beyond. Here are ten additional exhibitions selected by Robin Cembalest not to be missed in Venice this biennial season.

Chiesa di San Gallo

Patricia Cronin, "Shrine for Girls"

Curated by Ludovico Pratesi, presented by the *Brooklyn Rail*

Presented by the *Brooklyn Rail* and created by Brooklyn artist Patricia Cronin, this might be considered the Brooklyn Pavilion. The spare, eloquent installation "Shrine for Girls" speaks volumes with a minimum of intervention. Its basic elements are garments of young women, which stand for the mute victims of violence and oppression around the world. Working with curator Ludovico Pratesi in the confined space of the tiny 16th-century Chiesa di San Gallo, Cronin has piled the clothing on three stone altars: one with brightly colored saris to honor girls in India; one with hijabs representing the kidnapped schoolgirls in Nigeria, and one with aprons and uniforms like those worn at the Magdalene Asylums and Laundries, where young women were forced to work in Europe and the United States. The mounds are beautiful and tragic.