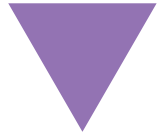


# VENICE BIENNALE 2015 REVIEW



BY IRENE DUE

“All the World’s Futures” curated by Okwui Enwezor is this year’s title for the Venice Biennale which runs until the 22nd November 2015, and for all art lovers this event is definitely something not to be missed.

TRIAD’s team was fortunate to be invited for the vernissage of the biennale and we set ourselves the huge task to see the Arsenale, 89 national pavilions and the 44 collateral events in four days. Here we have the top 12 highlights of the Biennale.

The site specific installation Shrine for Girls by Patricia Cronin at the 16th Century Chiesa di San Gallo, which also happens to be the smallest church in Venice, is a commemoration to women and young girls around the world who face violence and repression. It is a simple and colourful installation and a powerful reminder at the same time.



*Chiharu Shiota, The Key in the Hand, Venice Biennale, 2015.*

Hong Kong artist Tsang Kin-Wah’s installation The Infinite Nothing brings together narratives of religious symbolism, philosophical concepts and popular cultural references through exquisite video installations.

The Romanian pavilion at the Giardini is represented by Adrian Gheni with the title Darwin’s Room. Curated by Mihai Pop, the installation is a strangely refreshing experience as it showcases paintings referencing the notions of survival and evolution. The paintings are so beautiful that it’s worth going to Venice just to see them.

The other pavilions at the Giardini that must be seen are the Venezuelan, Polish and Japanese. Be prepared for Japan’s pavilion with Chiharu Shiota The Key in the Hand as it will probably take your breath away with its delicate beauty.

At the Arsenale we recommend a visit to the Turkish Pavilion by Turkish-Armenian artist Sarkis Zabunyan who touches on the subject of the creation of the universe and beginning of time. There is a wonderful neon light installation representing the first ever rainbow.

Tuvalu’s Crossing the Tide is a floating pavilion by Taiwanese eco-artist Vincent Huang, it represents the tiny pacific island and the problems they face if the sea levels continue to rise.

The last four exhibitions are off site events so if you have time to look around Venice, these are worth looking for.

Jaume Plensa’s work at Basilica di San Giorgio Maggiore is truly inspiring, as is his work always, but what is new are his drawings which, like his sculptures, take on a strange dimension.

Lampedusa is a floating installation by Vik Muniz. This public piece is a paper boat built to scale of one of the town’s traditional vaporetto. Muniz’s work is a response to the migrants crossing the Mediterranean into the Italian island of Lampedusa.

Conflicting countries, Pakistan and India, have joined forces for this year’s biennale in My East is Your West. Shilpa Gupta (India) and Rashid Rana (Pakistan) have expressed the integral essence of a people divided.

The Leading Thread by local artist Federica Marangoni placed a neon installation on the façade of Ca’ Pesaro, the thread leads inside the exhibition where more of her works are exhibited.