

Venice Art Biennale 2011 Highlights

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The 54th International Art Exhibition features the works of 83 individual artists from around the world, as well as 89 country pavilions.



Here are our highlights plus some place picks for where to eat, drink, stay and explore in the City of Bridges.

Britain

Mike Nelson's large-scale sculptural installation for the British Pavillion is a reconstructed version of the artist's contribution to the 2003 Istanbul Biennial, evoking the connection between these two powerful mercantile centres.

Australia

Featuring 11 large installations with everyday objects: think leaf-blowers, teapots, baskets - even a cardboard Burger King crown - cast and moulded into sculptures. Sydney-based sculptor Hany Armanious was the Australia Council for the Arts choice for Australia.

Egypt

Five screens showing Ahmed Basiouny's project "Thirty Days of Running in the Space", with video footage shot by the artist in the days before his death in Tahrir Square, Cairo.

Germany

Awarded the international exhibition's highest honour, the Golden Lion for best national pavilion, is a controversial work by the late artist, filmmaker, and theatre experimentalist, Christoph Schlingensief, which sees the German pavilion transformed into a replica of a church, featuring multimedia documents relating to his battle with cancer.

Food & Drink

Al Muro

Campo Bella Vienna, 222 San Polo

Join the Venetians for the dish of the day on Saturdays which could be frito misto or wild mushroom risotto and wash it down with a glass of aperol spritz.

Fortuny Bar and Gabbiano Bar

Hotel Cipriani Giudecca, 10 30133 Venice, Italy +39 041 520 7744

hotelcipriani.com/web/ocip/cipriani_bars.jsp

Away from the crowds on Giudecca island, both bars offer an uninterrupted view of St. Mark's Square across the lagoon - best enjoyed with cicchetti (Venetian tapas) and the Hotel's signature Bellini.

Accommodation

Ca' Pisani *Dorsoduro 979/a, Venice*

Nestled between the Peggy Guggenheim and the Accademia Galleries, this boutique design hotel is housed in a 500-year-old restored merchant town home and features Futurist furniture from the 1930s and 40s.

See & Do

Peggy Guggenheim Museum *Dorsoduro, 704 30123 Venice, Italy - +39 041 2405411*
guggenheim-venice.it/inglese/museum/index.html

An extraordinary collection featuring some of the 20th century's greatest artists such as Picasso, Marc Chagall, Paul Klee amongst others housed in Peggy's stunning former private residence, the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, overlooking the Canale Grande.

Jewish Museum of Venice *Cannaregio 2902b*

+39 041715359 <http://www.museoebraico.it/english/>

When Napoleon conquered Venice in 1797 he eliminated every gate enabling Jews to finally to live in other areas of the city. The many Renaissance- era synagogues built in "skyscraper" style representing the different Jewish "nations" can be seen around the Ghetto Vecchio (Old Ghetto). Beyond that is a larger square, the Campo del Ghetto Nuovo or New Ghetto.

Artisans at work Take the Vaporetto to the islands of Murano (glass blowing) and Burano (lace making) to see generations of artisans working their age old craft.