

10 to see at the 2017 Venice Biennale

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Published 12 May 2017

Phyllida Barlow RA's bulbous sculptures, Robert Cuoghi's messiah machines and Damien Hirst's demons – here are ten highlights of this year's contemporary art spectacular.

2. ...and Maclean and Richards too

Away from the main settings for the national pavilions – the gardens (Giardini) and the docks (Arsenale) of the city's Castello area – the British Council presents a powerful, site-specific film installation by Scotland's representative [Rachel Maclean](#), in the darkness of the Chiesa di Santa Caterina. It's a good job the church is deconsecrated, since what is projected in place of the altar is most ungodly: a savage satire on the debasement of our culture through lies. The fantasy narrative riffs on the Pinocchio story, and verges from laugh out loud lightness to hard to watch violence. Similarly schismed (although less extreme) is Wales representative James Richards' audio installation in Santa Maria Ausiliatrice. This epic sound work moves from Mac-made noise to hand claps, smooth vocal segments and what sounds like hand-plucked piano strings.

Rachel Maclean,
Spite Your Face, 2017.

Courtesy Scotland + Venice. Commissioned by Alchemy Film & Arts in partnership with Talbot Rice Gallery and the University of Edinburgh. Photo by Patrick Rafferty.

