

JUNE 2017 £4.99

THE WORLD OF INTERIORS

venice roundup

Charlotte Edwards spotlights shows from the Biennale and beyond



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GIARDINI 13 May-26 Nov, Tues-Sun 10-6

AUSTRIAN PAVILION BRIGITTE KOWANZ, ERWIN WURM This year's national presentations are the usual mix of splashy solo shows and (occasionally baffling) ideas-driven group affairs; the Austrians, however, have played it safe, fielding two high-profile artists with a strong sense of spectacle. KowanZ investigates space and language by way of light and mirrors, while Wurm's sculptures usually demand some sort of audience participation to activate or complete them. Details: labiennale2017.at.

BRITISH PAVILION PHYLLIDA BARLOW Born in Newcastle in 1944, Barlow constructs giant sculptures using humble materials: plywood, cardboard, plaster, cement, fabric, paint. Her 2014 show in Tate's Duveen Galleries proved how well they work in Neoclassical buildings like this one. Look out, too, for off-site projects by Scotland (Rachel Maclean's dark film based on *Pinocchio*) and Wales (James Richards's sound works echoing round Santa Maria Ausiliatrice church). Details: venicebiennale.britishcouncil.org.

CENTRAL PAVILION VIVE ARTE VIVA Curated by the Pompidou's Christine Macel, the main attraction - the 57th International Art Exhibition itself, featuring 120 invited artists - is a rallying cry for art's role in a troubled world. It unfolds across nine 'chapters', with the first addressing the relationship between artists and books. Details: labiennale.org.

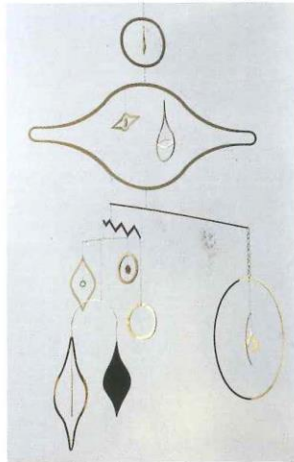
DANISH PAVILION KIRSTINE ROEPSTORFF A theatrical architectural installation that threatens to plunge viewers into darkness sounds like something of a departure for this Jutland-based artist, most recently producing lanterns, mobiles and bronze-and-concrete sculptures. Details: danishpavilion.org.

FINNISH PAVILION THE AALTO NATIVES In addition to contributing (with Norway and Sweden) to the serenely beautiful Nordic pavilion, the Finns make a separate national presentation in a wedge-shaped Alvar Aalto prefab. This year, Nathaniel Mellors (blackly comic films, grotesque animatronics) and Erkkä Nissinen (absurdist videos) have come together to create a 'comic-cosmic perspective on national identity'. Details: frame-finland.fi.

HUNGARIAN PAVILION GYULA VARNAI Living since childhood in Dunaújváros, an industrial city built in 1949 (and, at that time, named after Stalin), Várnai adapts Cold War-era slogans and imagery for installations and videos that ponder past, present and future utopias. Details: varnaigyula.hu.

RUSSIAN PAVILION THEATRUM ORBIS This show, named (for reasons not yet clear) after a world atlas published in Antwerp in 1570, invites you to navigate Grisha Bruskin's field of white human-tech hybrid sculptures, Recycle Group's VR evocation of hell and Sasha Pirogova's ritualistic dance video, all set to a soundtrack by contemporary composers. Details: ruspavilion.ru.

SWISS PAVILION WOMEN OF VENICE Although Diego Giacometti designed this building, his brother repeatedly declined requests to represent his home nation in Venice (although he allowed the French to exhibit his *Femmes de Venise* plasters there in 1956). Dwelling on this narrative, Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler's new film gives voice to an airbrushed-from-history American artist, Flora Mayo, who had an affair with Alberto in 1920s Paris, while Geneva-born Carol Bove shows new sculptures that respond to his late figurative work. Details: biennials.ch. ▷



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1 *untitled: dock*, 2014, installation at Tate Britain, by Phyllida Barlow, representing Britain. 2 *The Post*, 2014, by Kirstine Roepstorff, representing Denmark. 3 *Abstract Sculptures (Kiss)*, 2013, by Erwin Wurm, representing Austria. 4 *Second Blue Column*, 2016, by Carol Bove, representing Switzerland. 5 *The Finnish Pavilion*, designed by Alvar Aalto in 1956.



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6 *Scene Change*, 2016-17, by Grisha Bruskin, representing Russia. 7 *Aura*, 1994, by Gyula Várnai, representing Hungary

BARLOW: © PHYLLIDA BARLOW; COURTESY THE ARTIST; FANO HAUSER: © WITTH; TURNER: © BILDRECHT; WERNER: 2017; PHOTO: STUDIO ERWIN WURM/ERVA WURM/ERVA WURM/ERVA WURM; BOVE: COURTESY THE ARTIST AND DAVID ZWISNER NEW YORK/LONDON