

Wallpaper*

Venice Biennale 2019

Venice's crowded corridors will be teeming more than ever as design and art-hungry crowds descend on the lagoon city for the biggest event on its cultural calendar. The 58th Venice Biennale (11 May – 24 November) gets underway this week, with Ralph Rugoff taking the curatorial reins of central exhibition 'May You Live In Interesting Times' at the Arsenale and Giardini. There's plenty of action spilling over into Venice's labyrinthine waterways too, from inventive installations and soaring sculptures, to monastic manuscripts and a design collection inspired by the city's high tide. Here's the Wallpaper* pick of the must-see national pavilions and exhibitions beyond the biennale.

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It'd be wise to keep your wits about you in the Italian Pavilion, with plenty of Biennale visitors vexed by the maze-like scenography. The pavilion's title, 'Neither Nor: The Challenge to the Labyrinth', was inspired by Italo Calvino's 1962 essay for *Il menabò* magazine. He wrote the article in an attempt to help his readers cope with the increasingly modern world, offering them an important instrument with which to draw a sort of Ariadne's thread that might lead to a way out, or to the entrance of another maze of paths. *Photography: Delfino Sisto Legnani and Marco Cappelletti. Courtesy of DGAAP-MiBAC*

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Curated by Milovan Farronato and supported by Gucci, the Italian Pavilion includes works by artists Enrico David, Chiara Fumai and Liliana Moro. *Photography: Delfino Sisto Legnani and Marco Cappelletti. Courtesy of DGAAP-MiBAC*

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