

Laster, Paul, 10 Must-See National Pavilions in the 2024 Venice Biennale, *Art & object*, 22 April 2024



10 Must-See National Pavilions in the 2024 Venice Biennale

The 60th edition of the International Art Exhibition, titled “Foreigners Everywhere,” is a testament to how artists have always traveled and moved about under various circumstances. Curated by Adriano Pedrosa, artistic director of the São Paulo Museum of Art, the exhibition features 331 artists and collectives living in and between 80 countries. “Foreigners Everywhere” opened to the public on April 20 and runs through November 24, 2024.

“The backdrop for the work is a world rife with multifarious crises concerning the movement and existence of people across countries, nations, territories, and borders, which reflect the perils and pitfalls of language, translation, nationality, expressing differences and disparities conditioned by identity, nationality, race, gender, sexuality, freedom, and wealth,” Pedrosa states in his introduction.

During the Biennale previews, Venice was chock full of people from all walks of life—reflecting the true nature of the exhibition. The national pavilions and collateral exhibitions also explored the theme of “Foreigners Everywhere” in a spectrum of fascinating ways from various points of view, which has led our selection of shows to discuss.

These are our picks for the top ten national pavilions, which should be on every 2024 Venice Biennale visitor’s not-to-be-missed list.



Installation view of “Yuko Mohri: Compose” for the Japan Pavilion at the 60th Venice Biennale. Photo: kugeyasuhide, courtesy of the artist, Project Fulfill Art Space, mother's tankstation, Yutaka Kikutake Gallery, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery.

5. Yuko Mohri: “Compose”, Pavillion of Japan, Giardini della Biennale

Celebrated for creating sustainable ecosystems that employ everyday objects, Yuko Mohri follows in the footsteps of Marcel Duchamp, John Cage, and Nam June Paik by sourcing her material from the existing environment. Finding the elements for her “Compose” installation at local Venetian antique stores, furniture shops, grocery stores, liquor stores, produce stands and flea markets, the Tokyo-based artist has filled the pavilion with radiating and acoustic sculptures made by rotting fruit attached to electrodes that generate light and sound and whimsical water sculptures that turn an environmental spotlight on the floating city, which has been repeatedly overcome by rising water levels. Rather than producing the works in her studio, Mohri spent time studying the site in 2023 and then returned to the pavilion – using it as a studio – to produce her enchanting *Decomposition* and *Moré Moré (Leaky)* installations over a six-week period.