

Halperin, Julia, *Here are 7 Standout Pavilions at the 2024 Venice Biennale, From a Quirky Sculptural Orchestra to a Luscious 'Creole Garden'*, artnet, 18 April 2024

artnet

Here Are 7 Standout Pavilions at the 2024 Venice Biennale, From a Quirky Sculptural Orchestra to a Luscious 'Creole Garden'

Solo shows from Egypt, Japan, and Spain are among those that made the cut.

Japan

"Yuko Mohri: Compose" in the Giardini



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.

The Venice Biennale is a little like high school. Wandering around the Giardini and Arsenale, you quickly get a sense of which pavilions are the popular kids. Often, they have the slick, highly produced air of a girl who got a designer bag for her 16th birthday. In light of this dynamic, Yuko Mohri's charming and subtle Japan Pavilion is especially refreshing. The artist created a funhouse of Rube Goldberg-like machines from everyday items, like plastic sheeting, buckets, and hoses. The display, part of an ongoing series by the artist, is inspired by the clever, improvisational ways that workers repair leaks in the Tokyo subway system. In Venice, these materials are harnessed as instruments in a quirky orchestra. A whirring fan makes a rubber tube quiver, rustling a shopping bag in turn; rain falling onto a plastic sheet jostles a set of wind chimes. Situated throughout the space are groupings of rotting fruit connected to electrodes; the fluctuating moisture content of the oranges, strawberries, and grapes is converted into synth sounds and flickering light. The installation activates all the senses and manages to do something lofty—embodying the interconnectedness of all things—with humor and verve.

—Julia Halperin