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What not to miss in and around the Venice Biennale

From a fountain of fire to a Lebanese egg, via crystal trees, Nepali and Omani newcomers and art from Ukraine

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Kristina Foster and Dalia Dawood APRIL 14 2022



Doomsday and disorder

A flaming fountain of fire could be an apt summary for the mood of the past two years. This image, from a video installation by French-Swiss artist Julian Charrière, is in a group exhibition of 11 artists responding to the phenomena which have ravaged society and the planet in recent decades, from environmental destruction to economic inequality and racism. The artists have turned to the concept of entropy, the thermodynamic principle which defines disorder and unpredictability within a system. Visions of chaos range from Si On's "Doomsday", a polemic against mass consumption in the form of a giant wave of discarded clothing, to Oliver Beer's playful installation of microphones in hollow vessels. parasol-unit.org **KF**

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Venice Biennale

FTWeekend



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Highlights Kristina Foster and Dalia Dawood



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CLAY OPULENCE Visitors to the Grand Canal will notice rows of red, raw spheres lining the ground floor of the Palazzo Vendramin Grimani. They are the work of Mexican artist Bosco Sodi: he has created 195 clay objects, part of an installation that examines cultural and commercial exchanges

through the raw, unprocessed materials he uses. The coarse, textured surfaces and vivid pigments of his paintings are juxtaposed with the opulent rooms of the *piano nobile*, representing a reversal of a historically one-way flow of trade and materials between Europe and the Americas. fondazionealberodoro.org **DD**

▼ **BIENNALE NEWCOMERS** Eight countries will stage national pavilions at the Biennale for the first time. Among the newcomers are Kyrgyzstan, whose immersive installation "Gates of Turan" by Tehran-born artist Firouz FarmanFarmaian is housed in a yurt and explores nomadic identity, and Oman, which debuts with an exhibition tracing 50 years of the sultanate's contemporary art and includes the final works of the late sound artist Raiya Al Rawahi. Multimedia artist Tsherin Sherpa will use the inaugural Nepal pavilion as a chance to break down the country's stereotype as a mythical utopia, while Acaye Kerunen and Collin Sekajugo, representing Uganda, turn their attention to local craft traditions and interrogate the western dominance of mainstream culture. **KF**

