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## 10 Shows to See in Venice During the Biennale, From a Pierre Huyghe Blockbuster to Art About Palestine

BY ALEX GREENBERGER

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Shahzia Sikander, *Segments of Desire Go Wandering Off*, 1998.

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Italy's Venice Biennale, the world's biggest art festival, would be big enough if it were limited to merely its main venues, the Arsenale and the Giardini. But the sprawling show has gradually expanded beyond these sites as other seek to get in on the action, piggybacking on the central show and accompanying national pavilions by staging their own exhibitions alongside it.

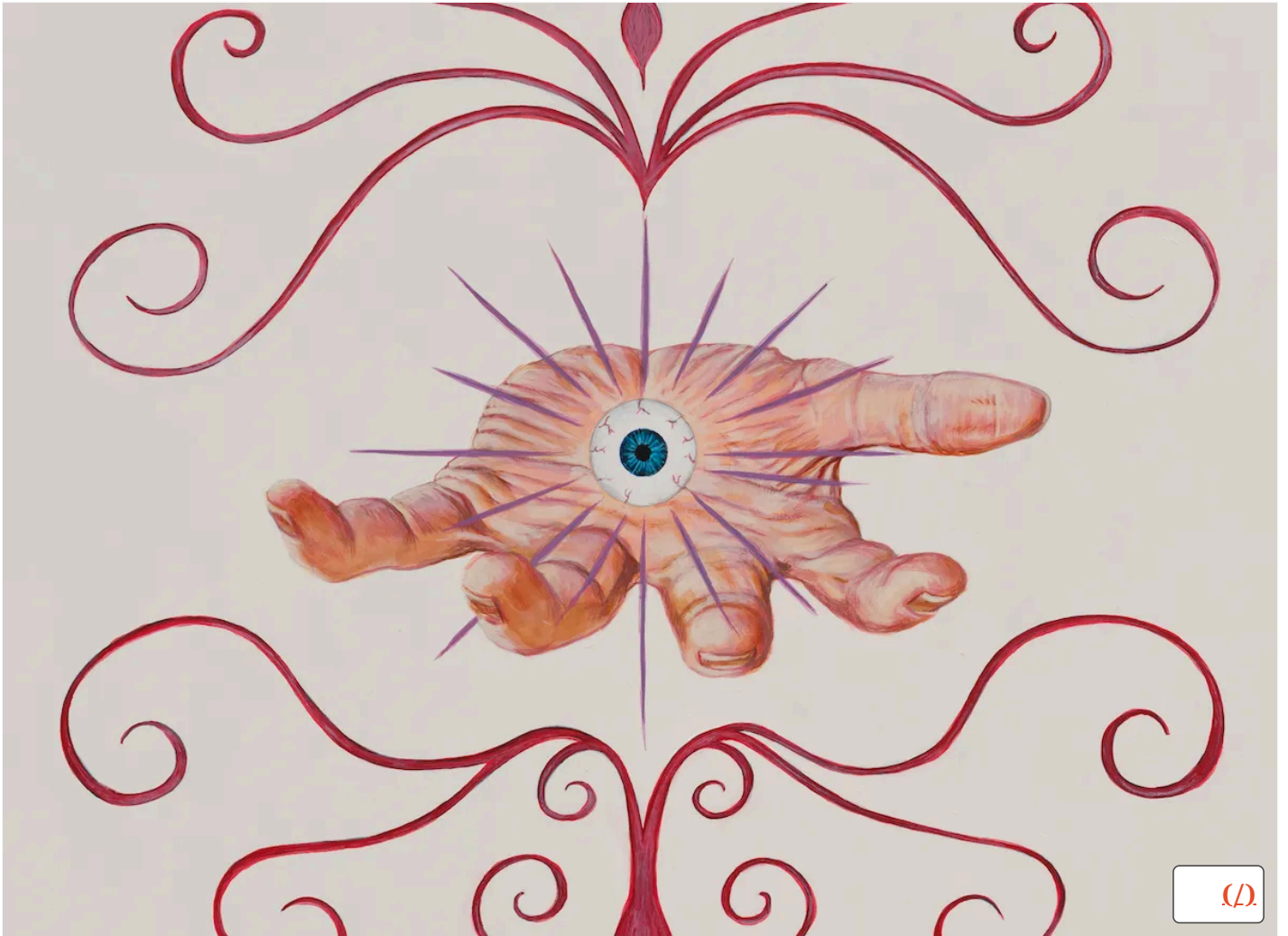
Enter the phenomenon known as the "collateral event," or a show that is technically mounted outside the confines of the Biennale but has been given the official stamp of approval by the Biennale's foundation. Most collateral events are, to be sure, pay-to-play affairs. They are underwritten by major galleries or foundations, typically, and are lent authority by branding themselves with the Biennale's logo.

For that reason, most collateral events are no more notable than the average gallery show. Yet every so often, one comes along that is worth seeing. And that's not to mention the institutional shows that are being staged by museums and foundations across the city.

ARTnews has collected 10 shows to see during the Biennale.

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## **“Janus” at Palazzo Diedo**



Work by Jim Shaw.

Photo : Photo Jeff McLane

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Venice’s newest art space is the Palazzo Diedo, a site operated by collector Nicolas Berggruen that has the aspiration of becoming one of the city’s must-see venues. The lineup for its first exhibition, “Janus,” suggests that the space is already on its way to achieving that goal. Featured here will be 11 commissions by a range of celebrated artists, from well-known figures, like Sterling Ruby and Lee Ufan, to up-and-comers such as the London-based Rhea Dillon, who will show a new sculpture featuring a mahogany cross that is set to leak water onto the floor of the building. It’s one of the many ways that the artists will engage the history of the palazzo, an 18th-century structure that was once the property of an aristocratic family.

*Fondamenta Diedo, 30121; Closest vaporetto stop: S. Marcuola Casino*

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