VENICE BIENNALE 2017: WHAT TO SEE AT THE ARSENALE

All the must-see artists and works, pavilion by pavilion, during the Biennale Arte

Venice Biennale 2017 Viva Arte Viva, curated by Christine Macel, is not a single all-encompassing exhibition: between the Central pavilion at the Giardini and the Arsenale runs a long narration going through art in all its variants. Before revealing what to see at the Arsenale during this Venice Biennale, we’ll tell you how the Biennale Arte 2017 was conceived.

Macel divided the international exhibition into nine inter-connected trans-pavilions – two in the Central Pavilion and seven in the Arsenale – with no walls or style change between them: as visitors follow the route, they are intended to feel stirred, to experience a crescendo of emotions, among colours, installations, videos, oversize sculptures, performances, and innovative materials. Macel’s message is a wish of long life to a kind of art that can only be understood through the lives of the artists themselves.

The Pavilion of Colours

The Pavilion of Colours was conceived by Christine Macel as the summary of all previous pavilions, before the last chapter. The Pavilion of Colours is an explosion of light, a firework – as Macel herself described it; the oversize sculpture in natural and synthetic fibres Scalata al di là dei terreni cromatici / Escalade Beyond Chromatic Lands by the American Sheila Hicks dominates the scene: a protean assembly with vivid colours illuminates the Corderie, inviting visitors to touch the fabrics, to lean, and to interact with one another. The work by Hicks is a mix of design, architecture, art, and spontaneous performance produced by voluminous hanks expressing an “impartial weaving”, to quote Hicks, capable to activate, just because of its being imperfect, our inner child.