

Here Are the 9 Best Pavilions at the 2022 Venice Biennale, From Some Super Creepy Centaurs to a Vision of Cybernetic Beauty

From Poland's first presentation by a Roma artist to a high-tech creature at the Korea Pavilion, here is our pick of the biennale's best.

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Latvia

Skuja Braden, "Selling Water by the River," curated by Solvita Krese and Andra Silapētere



Latvian pavilion, Skuja Braden, "Selling Water by the River," curated by Solvita Krese and Andra Silapētere, installation view at the Arsenale. Photo courtesy of the Latvia Pavilion.

Ceramics are not typically the flashiest of mediums, but artist duo Skuja Braden has created a show-stopping installation at the Latvian pavilion at the Arsenale. The more than 300 porcelain works make up for their modest scale in sheer volume, with a profusion of lovingly

painted vessels piled up on tables, hanging from the walls, and even scattered across the floor.

The partners Inguna Skuja and Melissa D. Breiden have been a couple for 22 years, but cannot legally marry in Latvia, where homophobia is widespread. They've spoken about facing physical violence, including people throwing bags of excrement at them, making their selection a particularly progressive choice for the nation.

Their advocacy for the LGBTQ community is visible in works with erotic scenes of female lovers and a wall of bottles shaped like large, perky breasts. But there are also skulls, snails, fruits, lily pads, and many other objects represented in works that range from purely decorative to functional plates, adding a welcome element of design to the exhibition.

This is one pavilion that rewards close looking, with a plethora of tiny little details waiting to be discovered.

—*Sarah Cascone*