

The 10 Best National Pavilions at the 2022 Venice Biennale, Ranked



BY ALEX GREENBERGER  April 21, 2022 4:46pm

Latvia



Photo : Alex Greenberger/ARTnews

The Biennale's big surprise was the Latvian Pavilion, a handsome assortment of too many loopy ceramics to count by the duo **Skuja Braden**. None of the sculptures here are of the dramatic scale typically seen in Biennale pavilions, but all of them impress by virtue of their weirdness. Some appear to be misshapen plates that loll off the side of tables, and others could act as vases; one is even a functional fountain, and another takes the form of a tiled wall. Fish, snails, serpents, Dalmatians, and buxom women appear throughout, as do images of the Buddha, a reference to the artists' Zen faith. The so-bad-it's-good maximalism could easily go awry, but it pays off in spades, offering a rare moment of pure and unfettered visual pleasure.