

FINANCIAL TIMES

Venice Biennale: Okwui Enwezor curates spectacular exhibitions

by Jackie Wullschlager

May 2015



Adrian Ghenie's, *Charles Darwin as a Young Man*, 2014, from the Romanian pavilion.

Jackie Wullschlager applauds the vision of the event's curator, Okwui Enwezor

Top five national pavilions

Romania: "Darwin's Room", Adrian Ghenie

Ghenie questions the texture of history through the texture of paint, sometimes fluid, pushed into abstract distortion, sometimes slathered and into grotesquerie to depict monsters, such as Hitler in "Turning Blue". The disquieting "Darwin" canvases turn on the nature of knowledge; "Persian Miniature" depicting with miniaturist finesse at large scale a half-hidden figure in a snowy forest, addresses anxieties about our encounter with the other. Ghenie is one of Europe's most promising young painters.