



14 Artists You'll Be Talking about Long after the Venice Biennale

May 12, 2017

By Alexa Gotthardt and Scott Indrisek

Art

14 Artists You'll Be Talking about Long after the Venice Biennale

Artsy Editorial

May 12, 2017 7:09PM



The Venice Biennale's centerpiece exhibition, "Viva Arte Viva," may altogether falter in the breadth of its curatorial framework. But, in its central ambition, as a celebration of artists, there is a wealth of work to celebrate, ponder, and discuss. Here are a few of the projects and presentations the art world will remember long after this epic show closes.

Achraf Touloub

B. 1986, Casablanca, Morocco • Lives and works in Paris



Installation view of work by Achraf Touloub in "Viva Arte Viva" at the 57th Venice Biennale, 2017. Photo by Casey Kelbaugh for Artsy.

This young Moroccan artist, based in Paris, is showing a trio of mixed-media assemblages and accompanying drawings. The wall-hung sculptures pair stitched and painted expanses of nylon—resembling lumpy sleeping bags—from whose bottom edges are affixed lengths of heavy chain, like flaccid tentacles dangling from the larger body. Inset within the textiles are ink drawings, looping abstract tracks. The end result is both seductive and gross, or perhaps grossly seductive. The freedom of the stitched and drawn elements jars against the implications of the chainlink, as if the sculpture is just waiting to wrap and bind its own energy. —SI

—Alexa Gotthardt and Scott Indrisek ■

Artsy Editorial

[Source](#)