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## Pacita Abad, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Alfredo Esquillo and more: Filipino artists in the spotlight in Venice this 2024

By Franz Sorilla IV Apr 24, 2024



COVER Anna Bautista's 'From Here, to There', which can be seen at DF Art Agency's European Cultural Centre-sponsored exhibition 'Textures and Interstices' at Palazzo Mora for the 2024 Venice Biennial Personal Structures exhibition (Photo: Courtesy of DF Art Agency)



Praise and clamour for Filipino artistry are received once again as the Philippines participate at the 60th International **Exhibition of Venice Art Biennale and the 2024 Venice Biennial Personal Structures** exhibit

t's the time of the year again for the much-anticipated event in the global art scene. Art enthusiasts, critics, gallerists, collectors, and more gathered last April 20 for the grand opening of the 60th International Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, also known as Venice Art Biennale. What made it more exciting was the mounting of another

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exhibition at Palazzo Mora, the 2024 Venice Biennial Personal Structures exhibition. This all-out participation of several Filipino artists showcases to the international community the artistry and craftsmanship Filipinos are known for.

The Philippine Pavilion of the Venice Art Biennale is at the Arsenale. It features the cerebral work of Mark Salvatus, one of the most sought-after contemporary artists today. Curated by Carlos Quijon Jr, the exhibition, Behind the curtain of this age, introduces the natural elements Mt Banahaw has been cradling for generations and the mysticism that envisages the historic mountain.

Read more: Mark Salvatus unveils the ethno-ecologies of Mt Banahaw and Lucban for the Philippine Pavilion at the 60th Venice Art Biennale



**ABOVE** The Philippine Pavilion at the Arsenale in this year's Venice Art Biennale features Mark Salvatus's exhibition titled, 'Kabilang-tabing ng panahong ito' (Behind the curtain of this age) (Photo: Andrea D'Altoe / Courtesy of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts - Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale)

At the Arsenale's main exhibition, Manila and New York-based contemporary art gallery Silverlens features the works of Pacita Abad. Moreover, visitors may also catch the ethereal performances of Joshua Serafin. This main exhibition was curated by Adriano Pedrosa and was titled *Stranieri Ovunque* (Foreigners Everywhere).

Serafin is a Filipino Brussels-based multi-disciplinary artist who combines dance, performance, visual arts, and choreography. Belgium's vibrant art centre, Viernulvier, houses this artist for the season 2023-2027.

In their Instagram post, Serafin said: "Such a complex feeling after this beautiful opening week of the Biennale. I can't describe how it feels in one word. So much feelings, and so much complexity but beyond everything. I am deeply grateful to be part of this beautiful show. Meeting all the beautiful works and artist has been such a gift and meeting all friends from different places and lifetime."

Meanwhile, the Venice Art Biennale happily showcases the works of Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Nena Saguil, and Maria Taniguchi at the Central Pavilion (Giardini). The 2024 Venice Biennale runs through November 24.

Read more: Silverlens marks two decades with a special exhibition and anniversary bash

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