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Art

## 10 Highly Anticipated Pavilions at the Venice Biennale 2022

● Allyssia Alleyne Apr 20, 2021 3:49pm



Sonia Boyce, installation view of *For you, only you*, 2007. © Sonia Boyce. All Rights Reserved, DACS/Artimage 2020. Photo by Mike Pollard. Courtesy of the artist.

Even at the time of the 58th Venice Biennale in 2019, its theme, “May You Live in Interesting Times,” evoked an ominous foreshadowing. But two years on, with much of the world still locked down in the face of a global pandemic, it feels like a curse has been realized politically and socially.

Last June, the 2020 Venice Architecture Biennale was pushed to May 2021, while the 59th edition of the Art Biennale, originally intended to open next month, was pushed back to 2022. And today, with one year to go until the so-called Olympics of art, little is known about what the event has in store.



Stan Douglas

*Kung - Fu Fighting, 1975, 2012*

Goodman Gallery

Speaking to *ARTnews* after the postponement was announced, Cecilia Alemani, curator of the Biennale's central exhibition (as well as director and chief curator of New York's *High Line Art* program), made it clear she's "not interested in being remembered for doing 'the coronavirus biennial.'" She added that the artists would still engage with the issues of the day, as they've always done.

Though many countries that will present national pavilions in Venice next year have yet to reveal the artists who will be representing them, we're already seeing a diverse mix of familiar and fresh faces. Here, we share the artists of the 10 national pavilions we're looking forward to seeing at the 59th Venice Biennale next year.



## Sonia Boyce

British pavilion



Sonia Boyce, *Devotional*, 2018. © Sonia Boyce. All Rights Reserved, DACS/Artimage 2020. Photo by Mike Pollard. Courtesy of the artist and Manchester Art Gallery.

Recently featured in The Artsy Vanguard 2020, British-Caribbean artist Sonia Boyce will make history next year as the first Black woman to represent the United Kingdom at the Venice Biennale. Emma Ridgway, chief curator of Modern Art Oxford, will serve as the pavilion's associate curator.

A major figure in the British Black Arts Movement of the 1980s, Boyce is a celebrated photographer, printmaker, and producer of performances. She has repeatedly proven herself a master of reflection, collaboration, and improvisation—qualities that ingratiated her to the British pavilion selection committee.

When the news was announced in early 2020, committee chair Emma Dexter praised Boyce—who has recently shown at the Manchester Gallery of Art and London's Institute of Contemporary Art—as an artist “whose work embodies inclusiveness, generosity, experimentation and the importance of working together.”