



In Venice, Plenty to See Beyond the Pavilions

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An exhibition view of "Portable Classic," co-curated by Salvatore Settis and Davide Gasparotto at the Fondazione Prada in Venice. Attilio Maranzano, via Fondazione Prada

The 56th Venice Biennale officially opens on Saturday, but La Serenissima has already been saturated by the international art world for almost a week — previews, parties and canal-navigating ad infinitum. One absolutely ephemeral and unintentional piece of performance art made [headlines](#) when, on Wednesday, *acqua alta* knocked a pontoon-load of well-heeled guests entering the Fondazione Prada into the water (or was it Miuccia's ingenious interpretation of a trap door for gatecrashers?). Don't fret if you missed it; there are plenty of other extra-Biennale highlights scattered throughout the city.

M/L Artspace presents "Please Respond"

This pop-up exhibition, tucked away in a sleepy residential neighborhood beyond the Rialto, is curated by [M/L Artspace](#), a gallery-like outfit run by the artists Lena Henke and Marie Karlberg. The setting is the home of the Venice-born, New York-based curator Marta Fontolan's grandmother, which is filled with works by artists from both sides of the Atlantic, like Stewart Uoo, Merlin Carpenter and Keren Cytter. Although it's tricky to find from the alley, look for the sculpture outside in courtyard by Anna Uddenberg, of a topless humanoid tourist arching its back over a rolling suitcase. The exhibition is on view May 8 and 9 from 12 to 6 p.m. at Santa Croce 2109, near Campo Santa Maria Materdomini.