

Monocle Weekend

Edition:Saturday

Get your kicks

Some searing **footwear-focused reportage from Venice**, where even the nonnas at the Biennale are wearing tricky treads. And can a **maverick ad campaign** convince flyers that Britain is great, despite the government? Plus, **Martha's Vineyard's august local newspaper**. But first Monocle's editor-in-chief on what lies beneath the surface.

CULTURE / VENICE BIENNALE SPECIAL

Unknown pleasures

Venice's Biennale Arte opens to the public this weekend – and the footwear isn't the only story (*see The Look*). Beyond the pavilions in the Arsenale and Giardini, the city is bursting with other shows. Here's our pick of the bunch.

'Penumbra'. While many exhibitions in Venice seek to make the most of the spectacular palazzos in which they're housed, *Penumbra*, organised by the Fondazione In Between Art Film, shrouds the impressive Complesso dell'Ospedaletto in semi-darkness. The effect is to give the space even more charm. Eight video works are shown in what feels like eight separate cinemas; Karimah Ashadu's film about tin miners in Nigeria and He Xiangyu's subdued video of everyday life in Berlin are standouts.

'Ugo Rondinone: Burn Shine Fly'. All three verbs in the show's title are represented by different works in Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone's compact show at the Scuola Grande San Giovanni Evangelista but most impressive is the "flying" part. Here, seven human-sized casts of dancers, painted the colour of the sky, hang from the ceiling of an ornate church, looking as though they have somersaulted out of the walls. It's a modern, utopian version of the angels sculpted into the city's ancient altars and vaults.

Danh Võ, Isamu Noguchi and Park Seo-bo at Fondazione Querini Stampalia. As well as showing his own work, Vietnamese artist Danh Võ has co-curated this exhibition. Contemporary pieces by Võ, South Korean painter Park Seo-bo and Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi are displayed among 18th-century paintings across the ornate floors of the palazzo, as well as on the lower floor, which was redesigned in the 1950s by Venetian architect Carlo Scarpa. Võ's delicate pictures of flowers and Noguchi's mesmerising lanterns make for a striking combination with this modernist space.