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## The Magic of Fall Fashion at the Venice Biennale

The romanticism of the city—and the vibrant tradition of artistic imagination at the Biennale—is the perfect backdrop for season's most daring looks

By Thomas Gebremedhin  
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The city of Venice has acted as a catalyst for artists for centuries, energizing an array of talents—from Titian to Henry James, Palladio to Luchino Visconti—and resulting in some of their most enduring work. Here they discovered inspiration in the winding alleys of the floating city and in the glow of gothic palazzi washed in sunlight. That vibrant tradition of imagination is nowhere more evident than at the Venice Biennale, whose 57th edition runs through November, gathering artists and visionaries from around the world to share their unique practices and ideas. Here, the leading lights of today's artistic firmament open up about their careers, in La Serenissima and beyond, as we get swept away by the romanticism of the city—the perfect backdrop for fall's most daring looks.



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### Sam Gilliam

"I only work in the afternoons. I sleep in! I deserve it! I used to teach an 8 [a.m.] class. I'd go home after [class], sleep, wake up and put in about three to four hours. The summer was really wonderful. There were three movie theaters. I'd paint and then go see a Bruce Lee film. It kept my spirit up. When I got started, I was quite interested in Pollock and Mondrian. Then I got to Washington [D.C.] and met the color-field painters. They were a great group. Into jazz and hanging out. We used to take over this bar, until the Hell's Angels came. Then we moved across the street." —Gilliam is a painter based in Washington, D.C. He is part of the Venice Biennale's curated group show *Viva Arte Viva*.