

10 pavilions to see at the 56th Venice Biennale

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Art Radar selects 10 national highlights from the Venice Biennale 2015.

The 56th Venice Biennale has opened with an intense programme of events and the enthusiastic participation of international art world figures. We select 10 pavilions that stand out from Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Middle East.



Heri Dono, "Voyage—Trokomod", installation view during the opening of the Indonesia Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale, 2015, Arsenale, Venice. Photo by C. A. Xuan Mai Ardia for Art Radar.

6. Indonesia

"**Voyage—Trokomod**" is a site-specific installation by **Heri Dono** (b. 1960, Jakarta), curated by **Carla Bianpoen** and Restu Imansari Kusumaningrum. The pavilion prompts a rethinking of the relationship between globalisation and local culture from historical, social and political points of view. By intertwining history, myth and legend, Dono provides "an entry point to understand Indonesia's current position". The installation comprises *Trokomod*, a Trojan horse – a recurrent figure in his work – in the shape of a Komodo dragon, and a number of flying anthropomorphic traditional vessels hanging from the ceiling.



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The mythical hybrids ironically challenge and subvert the traditional Western view of the East, while at the same time explore Indonesia's and the artist's place in the world. The interior of the beast is decorated with batik and rattan and covered with symbols of world religions, suggesting the hope for a peaceful religious co-existence and pluralism.

Through the cannons on the side of the lizard, small assemblages of artefacts and images of cultural significance in the West are visible, while inside the periscope is a video streaming images of the past, present and future.

C. A. Xuan Mai Ardia