

ARTSY

5 Names You'll Know after the Venice Biennale

ARTSY EDITORIAL
MAY 7TH, 2015 1:19 PM



Work by Newell Harry; The Propeller Group. Photos by Alex John Beck for Artsy.

Certainly one reason many flock to the Venice Biennale is to discover new talent. Sure, the national pavilions beam with the stars of today, and those that receive such an honor are secured a place within art (and often market) history. But what about the young'ns, the underdogs, and the unexpected? When Okwui Enwezor took the curator's torch for this year's edition, the swanky-but-serious Nigerian stoked the fires in a welcome way, by including a much more demographically diverse range of practitioners. Enwezor's headlining exhibition, "All the World's Futures," includes heavy doses of artists from Africa, a continent that has fecund and versatile contemporary practices, and which is often largely overlooked—or worse, exoticized—in the West. But a spotlight on Enwezor's continental turf isn't the show's only compelling attribute. Rather, within moments of stepping into the Arsenale, it becomes apparent that this show is a triumph, more broadly, of the bold-faced and the yet-to-be-discovered. Below, find five artists that make an indelible impact.

Tiffany Chung



Photo by Alex John Beck for Artsy.

Maps function as navigational guides, obviously. However, Tiffany Chung subverts the innate identity of cartography in what seem to be maps but are actually highly ornate digital designs that resemble their familiar lines. As cities expand and borders fluctuate, Chung's erasure of the meaningful data contained within commonplace maps cleverly and aesthetically drive the point home that we the people are not only living under new rules of identity, but that we're all anonymous data points. From afar, these colorful creations seem innocuous and downright chipper, though upon closer inspection they reveal just how superficial and abstract contemporary pride-of-place can be. The Ho Chi Minh City-based artist, who won the 2013 Sharjah Biennale Prize, has yet to receive any major solo retrospectives or institutional showings. However, we have a feeling Enwezor's show will put Chung on the map (zing)!

—Julie Baumgardner