

# Matthew Wong Foundation

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### **designboom's ultimate guide to the venice art biennale 2026**

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April 27, 2026

The Venice Art Biennale returns for its [61st edition](#) from May 9th to November 22nd, 2026, and designboom is here to guide you through this year's main exhibition, national participations, collateral events, and everything unfolding across the city during the six-month event. Titled In Minor Keys, the 2026 International Art Exhibition was conceived by curator Koyo Kouoh, who developed the project before her passing in May 2025. The exhibition will be realized by the curatorial team she assembled, carrying forward the framework, artists, and exhibition architecture she had already defined. Conceived as an invitation to tune into quieter frequencies of artistic expression, In Minor Keys proposes a shift away from spectacle and toward slower, sensorial encounters with art.

The exhibition unfolds across the Giardini and the Arsenale, with additional projects staged in various locations around Venice. Bringing together 111 invited participants, including artists, collectives, and artist-led organizations from across multiple geographies, Kouoh's project explores resonances and affinities between practices that may emerge from vastly different contexts. Rather than organising the exhibition through rigid thematic sections, In Minor Keys follows a constellation of conceptual motifs that weave across the venues, ranging from shrines and processional assemblies to artist-led 'schools' and spaces of rest that encourage reflection and deep listening. [📖](#)

As every year, designboom's [guide](#) unpacks the key information surrounding the 61st International Art Exhibition, highlighting the main exhibition, national pavilions, and must-see events taking place throughout Venice. Read on to discover the projects and exhibitions shaping this year's Biennale Arte, and follow our [dedicated](#) Venice Biennale coverage for updates from the opening days and beyond.



illustration by Haus of Grace

around venice

### **Matthew Wong: Interiors**

Matthew Wong: Interiors at Palazzo Tiepolo Passi offers a focused look at a key theme in the late painter's practice. Organised by the [Matthew Wong Foundation](#) and curated by John Cheim, the exhibition brings together around 35 rarely seen and previously unexhibited works.

Centered on both physical and psychological interiors, the presentation traces how Matthew Wong constructs intimate, often solitary spaces that blur perception and emotion. Accompanied by a scholarly publication with a text by Nancy Spector, the exhibition offers a deeper reading of Wong's introspective visual language and its place within his broader oeuvre.



Night Moods, 2018. Oil on canvas. 36 x 48 inches, 91.4 x 121.9 centimeters. © 2025 Matthew Wong Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photography by Alex Yudzon.

**what:** Matthew Wong: Interiors

**where:** Palazzo Tiepolo Passi, San Polo, 2774, Venice

**when:** May 6th – November 1st, 2026

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