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Art in America

The Venice Biennale, all'americana

By Marcia E. Vetrocq, from a longer article

The collateral designation has traditionally been used to welcome a political entity or cultural presence that the Biennale's nation-based structure would otherwise preclude. Accordingly, a group show from Hong Kong is accommodated across from the Arsenale entrance.

Other artists spotlighted in collateral shows are Bill Viola, Jan Fabre and newcomer Stas Polnarev. *Ocean Without a Shore* (2007) finds Viola again using water imagery and the human figure in a work conceived for projection above the three altars of the tiny 15th-century church of San Gallo near San Marco. In seemingly randomized sequences, the projections cycle through footage of some 25 individuals who approach us from "the other side," penetrate a membrane of rushing liquid, regard us dolefully and return to the digital haze whence they came.



Bill Viola, *Ocean Without a Shore*, 2007, Production Still