

# VIA Travel: 2022 European Experience

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Initiatives  
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Artful is delighted to partner with **VIA Art Fund** to offer a unique seven-day European excursion led by VIA Executive Director, Brooke Davis Anderson, spanning three principal art destination cities: **Kassel, Germany; Zurich, Switzerland;** and **Venice, Italy.** This European adventure will include an introduction to **documenta fifteen** in Kassel; a private tour and dinner with **VIA Grantee, Wu Tsang**, in Zurich; and a four-day in depth exploration of the **59th Biennale di Venezia**. VIA partners will enjoy a week full of noteworthy tours and special guests to maximize their art exposure while experiencing premier hospitality, dining, and service. All meals will be included on this trip.



Left: Venice canals, photo by Brandon Sok via Unsplash. Top right: La biennale di venezia teatro piccolo arsenale, Alexandru Ionescu. Via Unsplash. Bottom right: Parthenon of the books, documenta 14 - The art temple at the Friedrichsplatz in Kassel, Germany; Moskwa / Alamy Stock Photo.

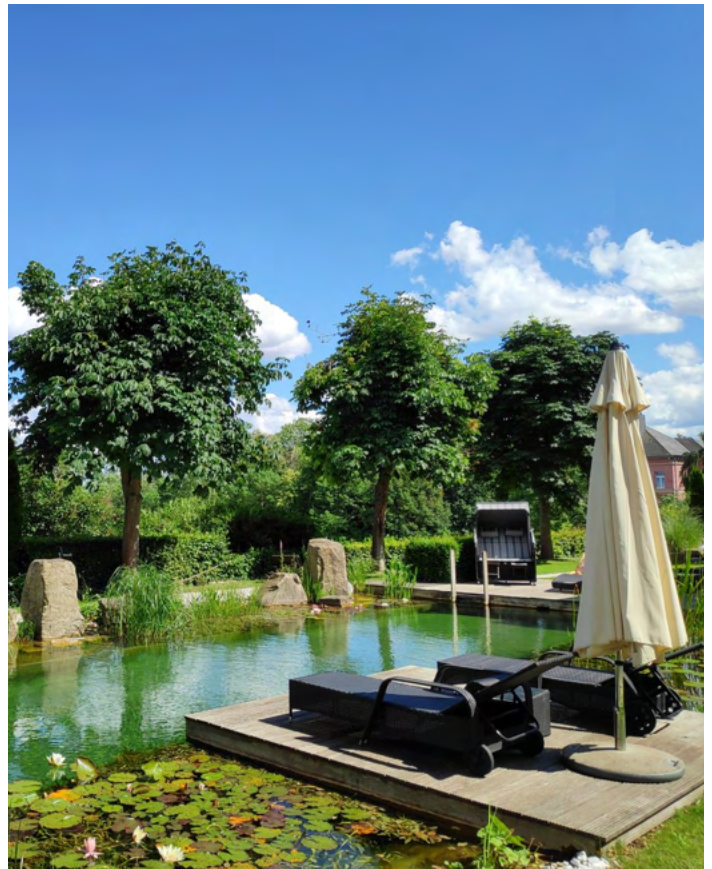
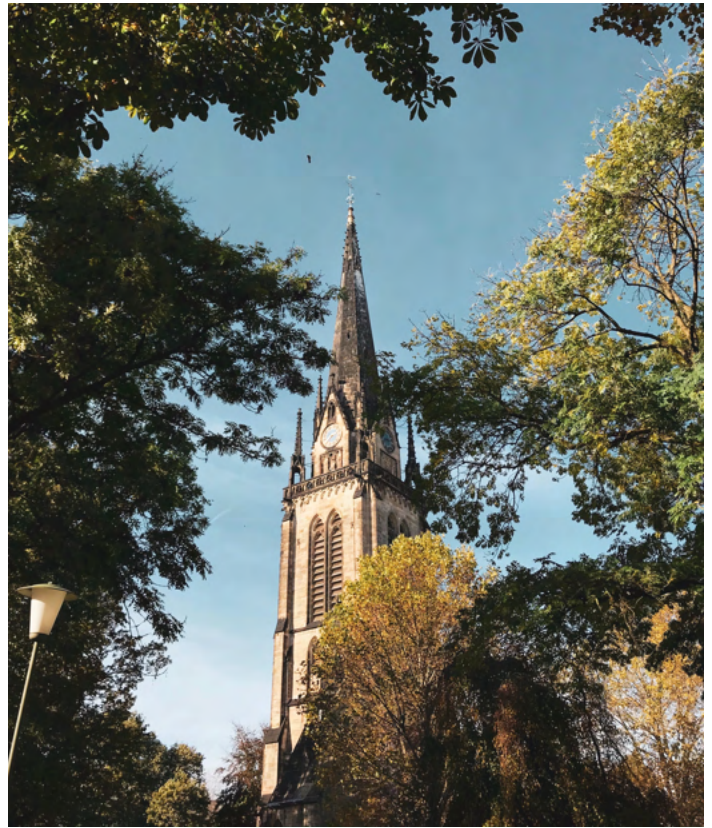
**Saturday, September 17: Arrival in Kassel,  
Germany (depart from US on September 16th)**

**History**

Our trip will begin in Kassel, Germany where partners will spend two nights and attend the international art exhibition -- **documenta15**. Kassel's industrial town may not rival Zurich or Venice, but the art certainly does every five years when the city of Kassel hosts documenta. Documenta was founded by artist, teacher and curator **Arnold Bode** in 1955 as part of a movement to bring Germany up to speed with modern art.

**September 17th and 18th: Documenta  
Tour of Curated Exhibitions**

**Documenta15** will be curated by the Indonesian-based contemporary artists' collective, **Ruangrupa**. Ruangrupa has organized documenta15 around the concept of the **lumbung**, an Indonesian communal rice barn, which promotes principles of collectivity and resource sharing. Ruangrupa hopes to...  
**“create a globally oriented, collaborative and interdisciplinary art and culture platform that will remain effective beyond the 100 days of documenta fifteen.”** Among the participants are Golden Lion winner **Jimmie Durham**, known for sculptures contrasting common media representations of Native Americans; **Black Quantum Futurism**, a queer Black female duo comprising Moor Mother and Rahsheedah Phillips, which promotes a new approach to living by way of the manipulation of space and time in order to envision new possible futures; and Lebanese filmmaker **Marwa Arsanios**, who examines mid-twentieth-century politics through the lens of gender relations and industrialization. In Kassel, we will stay at the charming **Schlosshotel**, an exceptional service focused property located at the foot of Kassel's delightful **Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and close to our daily expeditions in the city center.

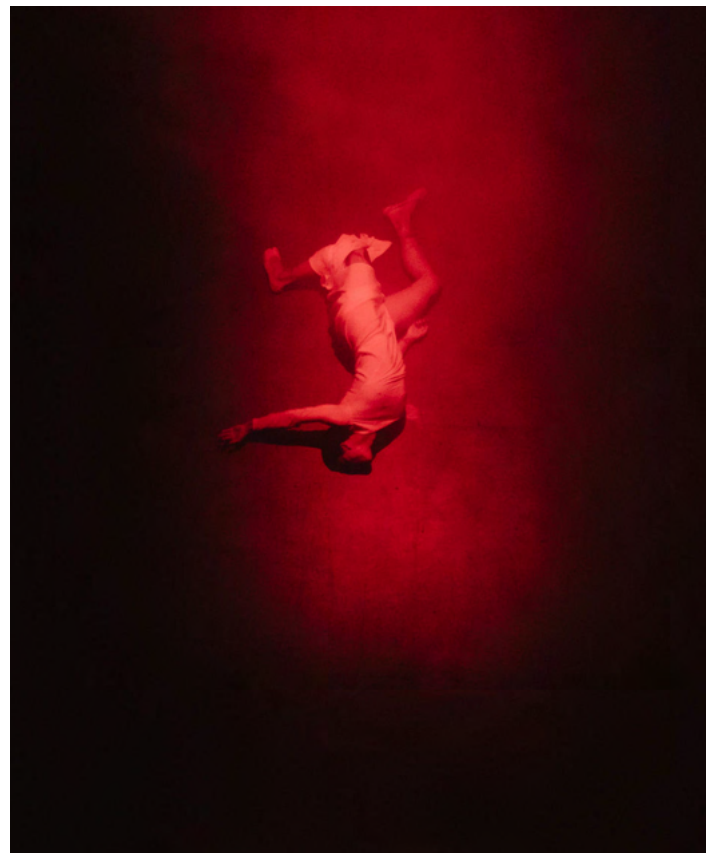




### **Monday, September 19: Arrival in Zurich, Switzerland**

Departing Kassel, VIA will travel by non-stop train to Zurich, Switzerland where partners will spend one night at the exceptional **Baur au Lac** hotel, a Leading Hotel of the World, located in the heart of Zurich. VIA will visit with Fall of 2021 VIA grant recipient, **Wu Tsang**, for an in depth look at her studio and artistic process.

Partners will also visit the **Schauspielhaus**, a traditional Swiss theatre in Zurich, where Wu has received a prestigious residency and acts as artistic director. The visit will finish with dinner with Wu at Zurich's famous **Kronenhalle** restaurant, known for both fine traditional Swiss cuisine and a remarkable comprehensive art collection that adorns the walls. This extended time with Wu at her studio and residency program will help to elevate our understanding of Wu's film and sound installation, *The Extracts*, inspired by Melville's *Moby Dick* and exhibited at this year's Biennale.

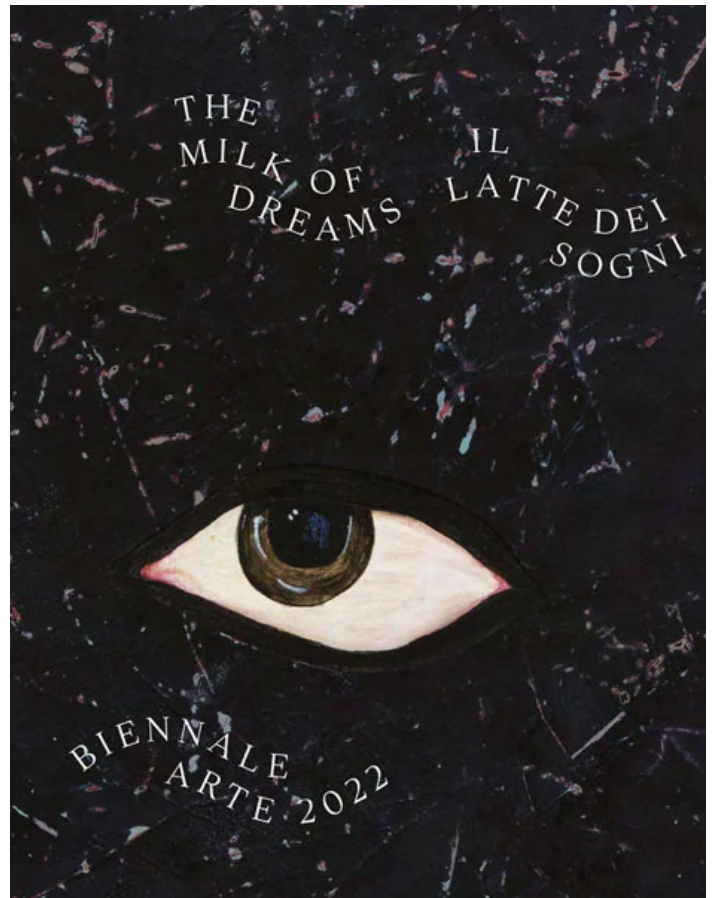


Top left: Wu Tsang. Image Courtesy of VIA Art Fund. Top right: Kronenhalle restaurant, with Joan Miró work, 'Les éclats du soleil blessent l'étoile tardive', from 1951, displayed on the wall. Image via @kronenhalle Instagram account. Bottom right: 2021/22 Production of 'Orpheus' at the Schauspielhaus. Artistic direction & staging by Wu Tsang. © Diana Pfammatter

## September 20th: Arrive in Venice for the Biennale.

### **History:**

The **Venice Biennale** was first held in 1895 making it the longest running biennale, a few months older than the Carnegie International which celebrates its 58th exhibition this fall. Over 127 years the Biennale has evolved from its inaugural art festival to adding music, theater, architecture, and dance. It was not until 1907 that foreign pavilions were built starting with Belgium and over the next five years welcoming Germany, Britain, Hungary, Sweden and France. The one constant has been its role of both capturing trends in the art world, but also the geopolitical environment. The 59th Venice Biennale, curated by **Cecilia Alemani** and titled ***The Milk of Dreams***, will be no exception. The title based on Leonora Carrington's book reimagines a world where everyone can change. It cites a world **"set free and brimming with possibilities"**, according to Alemani. Cecilia Alemani has already received much press for selecting a majority of female artists as well as gender non-confirming artists and to a lesser degree artists participating for the first time.



## September 20th – 23rd: Explore the Venice Biennale, Peggy Guggenheim, Pinault and More...

After a morning in Zurich, partners will take a one-hour flight to Venice to immerse themselves in what is arguably one of the most magical art experiences that takes place every two years – the Venice Biennale. The romance of Venice translates perfectly to this biennale which takes place principally at two sites – the **Arsenale** and the **Giardini**. Our five-star hotel, the **Danieli**, is located on the picturesque Venice Lagoon and is just a short walk from both the Arsenale and Giardini as well as San Marco square.

The **2022 Venice Biennale** curated by Alemani and titled *The Milk of Dreams* focuses on three themes in particular: “the representation of bodies and their metamorphoses; the relationships between individuals and technologies; [and] the connection between bodies and the earth.”

While touring the Biennale, VIA partners will visit **VIA-supported projects**, including exhibits by **Wu Tsang** and **Simone Leigh**. The 2021 VIA Grantee, **Simone Leigh**, is this year's artist representative at the U.S. Pavilion. Partners will tour and investigate Simone's series of grand sculptures, made with bronze and her signature ceramic and raffia. According to VIA Curator, Katherine Rochester, Simone's sculptures are inspired by leading Black intellectuals and **"address an 'incomplete archive' of Black feminist thought."** In a recent New Yorker profile, Simone, summarized her choice as the US artist representative best when she stated, "I feel like I'm in my prime, so far as work is concerned. I've had thirty years to make a ton of mistakes. Now I feel ready, and for some reason I'm not intimidated."

Similarly, partners will experience Wu's sound and film installation at the Gaggiandre near the Arsenale. This site-specific work will according to Katherine, "poetically evoke the ocean and the mythology of the leviathan...explor[ing] a central question in Moby Dick: what does it feel like to be inside a whale."



As a special treat, we will visit the private **collection of Peggy Guggenheim**, whose art collection is legendary and equal only to the view from her balcony overlooking the canal. We will aim to visit the legendary contemporary art collection of **Francois Pinault**, housed in two separate locations – the Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana. Additional Biennale highlights may encompass visits to special exhibitions featuring Stanley Whitney's acclaimed *The Italian paintings*, Anish Kapoor, Anselm Kiefer, Joseph Beuys, Isamu Noguchi, and Park Seo-Bo. Brooke will add visits based on importance after all venues have been announced and evaluated.

### **September 24th: Depart Venice at your leisure.**

*Our European experience is priced at \$10,725 per person (and \$6900 for a plus one) and includes all transportation, lodging, and meals during your trip. This trip is limited to 20 guests and your booking is requested May 25th, 2022. There is no minimum of guests required to operate this trip, but the price may increase if there are under ten partners. Artful's cancellation policy: 50% deposit is required to register with a final deposit taken sixty days prior to the trip. Cancellations before 60 days will receive a full refund minus a \$500 administrative fee. **Cancel for any reason (CFAR) trip insurance is recommended and offered during the booking process.***

*Please contact Denise Bafti at Artful if you would like to extend your stay in Venice or for any other questions. Denise can be reached at [Denise@artfuljaunts.com](mailto:Denise@artfuljaunts.com)*