

VENICE IS KNOWN FOR ITS VAPORETTOS, SIDEWALKS THAT END WITHOUT WARNING, 117 SMALL ISLANDS, 150 CANALS AND 409 BRIDGES.

— RON SHIPMON

In June boatloads of Vuitton-wearing, Goyard bag-carrying media and artworld cognoscenti will descend upon Venice for the widely anticipated grand dame of all contemporary art and

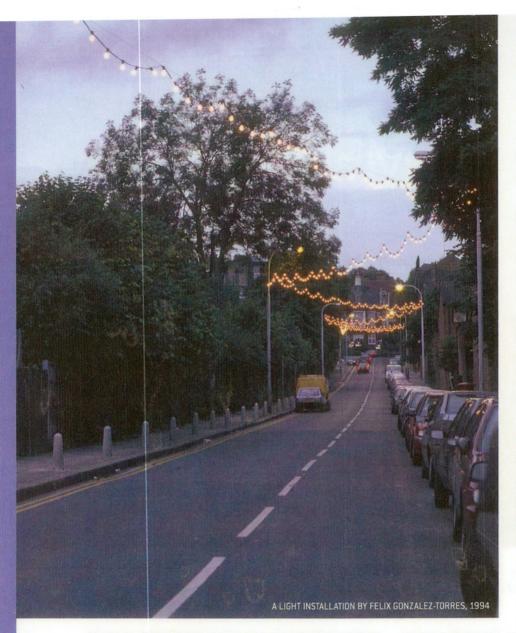
multimedia events, La Biennale di Venezia, or, more commonly, the 52nd Venice Biennale.

This international exhibition, which takes place once every two years, makes art accessible by providing it as theater and entertainment.

Established in 1895 to celebrate the silver anniversary of King Umberto and Queen Margherita of La Casa di Savola (the House of Savoy), the Biennale has been in the avantgarde, promoting new artistic trends and international events in contemporary arts with a multi-disciplinary focus.

For 150 days from June 10 through November 21, 2007, 70 countries will take up residence in 30 international pavilions at the Giardini, an area of parkland created by Napoleon Bonaparte. Napoleon drained an area of marshland in order to create this public garden on





the banks of the Bacino di San Marco from St. Mark's Square and the Doge's Palace.

Representing the United States Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale is an exhibition of the work by Felix Gonzalez-Torres, the Cuban-born American artist, who died of AIDS-related complications in 1996. Gonzalez-Torres is one of only two artists ever chosen posthumously to represent the United States at the Biennale.

Gonzalez-Torres was known for his quiet, minimal installations and sculptures. Using materials such as strings of lightbulbs, clocks, stacks of paper and hard candies, he allowed the viewer to enter his work and become a participant in the art. These compelling works encourage reflection on change and experience of life and are meditations on love and loss.

Many of his installations invite the viewer to take a piece of the work with them: A series of works allow viewers to take wrapped candies from a pile, while another series is comprised of endless copies of offset print on paper, also free for the viewer to take. These installations may or may not be replenished by the exhibitor as they diminish, thereby creating a work which is ever chang-

ing. The US Pavilion will feature a new work based on the artist's drawings but not completed during his lifetime.

In addition to the world-class visual art, the Biennale includes, music, dance, dramatic arts, as well as an ultra-elite celebrity-driven film festival which makes Sundance seem like a Saturday night at Loews Cineplex.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007

5th International Festival of	
	39th International Theatre
Contemporary Dance	
June 14 – 30, 2007	July 18 – 29, 2007
MUSIC	For ticket information to all events
51st International Festival of	contact http://www.labiennale.org
Contemporary Music	
October 4 – 13, 2007	
	June 14 – 30, 2007 MUSIC 51st International Festival of Contemporary Music