



Here art grows on trees, Simryn Gill at the Venice Biennale

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Every two years over 300,000 visitors flock to the Venice Biennale to look at art by the world's leading artists. It's commonly known as the art Olympics - as much for the endurance required to get around the 89 exhibitions and 47 satellite events, as its historical focus on national representation.

Australia has been sending artists to the Venice Biennale, the oldest, largest and most prestigious international art exhibition of its kind, since the 1950s. And this year Sydney-based artist Simryn Gill has been chosen to exhibit in the Australian Pavilion, which is soon to undergo a \$6million makeover funded by the Government and private philanthropists, including Andrew Upton and Cate Blanchett, Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull and the Nelson Meers Foundation.

In Venice, the Singapore-born artist has removed half the roof of the Pavilion and installed photographs, drawings and sculpture inspired by images of

Australia's pit mines, dams, lakes and waterholes. The exhibition, which opens to the public on June 1, references Gill's visual research into how global business interests are impacting Australia's natural environment.

ABC Arts' producer Carlo Zeccola spoke with Simryn Gill and the organisers of the Australian Pavilion in Venice.

Producer: Carlo Zeccola
Assistant: Ash Keating

Link to view video:

<http://www.abc.net.au/arts/stories/s3770944.htm>