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**Flash Art #291**  
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# Flash Art

Venice Biennale 2013

AUSTRALIA PAVILION

## AUSTRALIA PAVILION

*Here art grows on trees*

Simryn Gill

Commissioner: Simon Mordant. Deputy Commissioner: Penelope Seidler. Curator: Catherine de Zegher. Venue: Pavilion at Giardini  
[venicebiennale.australiacouncil.gov.au](http://venicebiennale.australiacouncil.gov.au)

**Flash Art:** Tell us about Simryn Gill's work in the pavilion.

**Catherine de Zegher:** Working with ephemeral materials in a domestic environment, with its daily habits and repetitions, Simryn Gill contemplates a lived social reality within the present. Through collections that can seem casually thrown together, her art brings into play her, and our, day-to-day experiences. Once gathered and assembled, her works have the unexpected capacity to momentarily disturb the current systematization of life. This "being in the present," or what is often called "the everyday" is notoriously elusive to objectification, and it is this mobile indeterminacy and openness that gives the quotidian its powerful and radical character. Within our strictly symbolic structures, the semiotic significance, thoughtfulness and modesty of Gill's works can appear to be out of place, or out of time, as can its intensity and poetry. The exhibition project "Here art grows on trees" presents Gill's (photo)graphic works on paper as being of vegetation, "as a cog in the whole system of turning wheels," as just a link in the chain, in the string of gems that the world is offering — a cyclic instead of linear worldview. Originating from pulp made of decayed plants, the works will slowly return to the vegetal in an organic cycle from foliage to folio to foliage. In short, her project is about entropy, the passage through time: paper's passage, the work's passage, the pavilion's passage, the artist's passage...



Simryn Gill  
*Let Go, Lets Go (detail)*, 2013  
 Collage drawings on paper, books, chairs  
 12 panels, 280 cm x 120 cm each, books, chairs

**Flash Art:** *Australia will have a new pavilion built in the Giardini for 2015.*

**Simon Mordant:** Australia is blessed to have one of only 29 Pavilions in the historic Biennale gardens. Our forefathers who had the vision to secure Australia one of the last spaces in the gardens — led by Franco Belgiorno-Nettis — must be acknowledged.

The current Australian Pavilion, designed by Philip Cox, was built in 1988 as a temporary structure. Nearly 25 years after the Australian Pavilion was inaugurated, the time had come to develop a new pavilion to affirm Australia's cultural ambitions at the Venice Biennale for future years.

The new pavilion, designed by Denton Corker Marshall, will be the first 21st-century building in the gardens and will enable us to showcase the best of Australian art and architecture practices. The design presents the core idea of a white box within a black box, and it's envisaged as an object rather than a building. The redevelopment is estimated to cost approximately \$6 million and we close to finalizing the fundraising for the new pavilion.



Simryn Gill, *Untitled*,  
2004. Still from Super 8mm  
film  
Courtesy the artist



Simryn Gill  
Photo by Jamie North