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## News \_\_\_\_\_

*Washington D.C. - 22/01/2011*  
**House Republicans threaten to end federal arts and humanities agencies and cut aid to public broadcasting**

The Republican House Committee, made up of about 165 Republican members of the US House of Represent...

*New York - 21/01/2011*  
**Koons Ballons**

A lawyer for Jeff Koons has sent cease-and-desist orders on behalf of the contemporary artist after ...

*Leeds - 21/01/2011*  
**Haroon Mirza awarded the Northern Art Prize**

The London-Sheffield based artist Haroon Mirza has won the fourth annual Northern Art Prize. The pri...

*New York - 20/01/2011*  
**A new fair dedicated solely to contemporary video art**

Moving Image, an art fair of contemporary video art conceived by New York gallerists Edward Winklema...

*Venice*

### **Bice Curiger speaks about the Venice Biennale**

Director of the next Venice Biennale, Bice Curiger, has revealed the theme and title of the next edition of the oldest recurring exhibition in the world. The show, scheduled from June 4 through November 27, 2011 (opening June 1, 2 and 3) will be titled "ILLUMInazioni – ILLUMInations" and its subtitle is "Five questions to the artists of the world."

Representatives from participating countries recently met with Curiger and Pablo Baratta, President of the Biennale di Venezia. For the first time in the biennale's history Andorra, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Rwanda have been invited to exhibit in Venice. Congo and India will return to Venice for the biennale's 54th edition for the first time since, respectively, 1968 and 1980.

During the press conference Curiger stated: La Biennale is one of the world's most important forums for the dissemination and "illumination" about the current developments in international art. The title of the 54th Exhibition, ILLUMInations literally draws attention to the importance of such developments in a globalized world. I am particularly interested in the eagerness of many contemporary artists to establish an intense dialogue with the viewer, and to challenge the conventions through which contemporary art is viewed.

The work of Venetian painter Tintoretto will play a prominent role in ILLUMInations. In many contemporary artists (the ones who interest me most), I find the same search for light, both rational and febrile, that animates some of Tintoretto's later works. Tintoretto too was worried about overturning the conventions of his time, through a near reckless approach to composition that overturns the well-defined, classical order of the Renaissance. I am interested in the light in those paintings, which is not rational but ecstatic. Tintoretto's presence will establish an artistic, historical and emotional relationship to the local context.

The term "nations" in ILLUMInations applies metaphorically to recent developments in the arts all over the world, where overlapping groups form collectives of people representing a wide variety of smaller, more local activities and mentalities. In addition, I am in favor of a Biennale with the Pavilions, because they represent an extraordinary opportunity for dialogue among the artists. The Arsenale offers me an opportunity to bring together the works of artists who use the space as a medium through the creation of 'para-Pavilions'.

Sometimes the Pavilions of the Biennale are considered anachronistic; on the contrary, they can be a tool to reflect upon the issue of identity. I wish to reinforce the sense of unity between the International Exhibition and the National Participations, by asking the artists from every country and the artists of ILLUMInations to answer 5 questions regarding this theme.

Where do you feel at home'?

Does the future speak English or another language?

Is the artistic community a nation?

How many nations do you feel inside yourself?

If art was a nation what would be written in its constitution?

[www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)



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New York - 20/01/2011

**FCA Announces 2011  
Grants to Artists**

The directors of the  
Foundation for Contemporary  
Arts have announced the  
beneficiaries of its 2011 g...

## Events \_\_\_\_\_

*Miami*

*Begins: 01/12/2010*

*Finish: 05/12/2010*

**Photo Miami**

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*Miami*

*Begins: 01/12/2010*

*Finish: 05/12/2010*

**Scope Miami**

...

*Miami*

*Begins: 01/12/2010*

*Finish: 05/12/2010*

**Art Miami**

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