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Venice Biennale 2011 Highlights
Thursday 8 September
12.30 – 1.30pm

The 54th Venice Biennale, 'ILLUMInations', Directed by Bice Curiger
Director/curator Bice Curiger states of one of the intentions of ILLUMInations is 'to illustrate one of the characterises of art: to be a unique and illuminating experience'. The Venice Biennale is held across two main physical venues, the Giardini (Venice's large public park and the site of most participating country's individual 'pavilions'), and the Arsenale (the former shipyards, in which a mixed-country curated show is held). But it also spreads out into many offsite venues, some representing particular countries in an official capacity, some occupied by artists independently. Alternating every other year with the Venice Biennale of Architecture, the Venice Biennale is the first and oldest bi-annual art event in the world, and runs from June to November in every odd-numbered year.

It is exciting to see and every visual artist should visit at least once, to witness the spectacle of this blockbuster of contemporary art - and like all recurring events, some Biennale's are better than others. It can also be crazy; the queue to see the James Turrell work pictured here involved over an hour's wait!