

# The Telegraph

## The seven must-see art exhibitions of summer 2017

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This summer sees the once-in-a-decade alignment of three of contemporary art's most long-running and highly regarded events: the Venice Biennale, Documenta in Kassel and Sculpture Project Munster – and a great deal more artistic treats on offer besides. Here is a highly selective guide to the very best on offer during the holiday months.



Marta Minujín, *The Parthenon of Books*, 2017, steel, books, and plastic sheeting, Friedrichsplatz, Kassel, documenta 14, CREDIT: ROMAN MÄRZ

### ***Documenta 14, various venues, Kassel***

The most prestigious of contemporary art shows, Documenta only takes place every five years and forms a crucial indicator of current concerns; artistic and beyond. Under the directorship of Polish writer and curator Adam Szymczyk, this edition is a hardcore affair occupying 30-plus sites throughout the city, and with much of the work on show attempting to grapple with the plethora of issues that beset our troubled times.

In Friedrichsplatz, Argentinean artist Marta Minujín has recreated a life-sized Parthenon out of banned books, while in the city's former underground train station Nikhil Chopra's film and

painted panorama records the vicissitudes of his recent overland odyssey from Athens (where Documenta had another incarnation earlier this year) to Kassel.

Among the works in the cavernous disused Brutalist post office is Maret Anne Sara's fragile curtain of reindeer skulls, signaling the threatened lifestyle of the Sami people of Northern Norway. Aboriginal artist Gordon Hookey has created a giant, angry and bitterly funny painting featuring a crowd of very pissed-off radioactive kangaroos.

Ghanian artist Ibrahim Mahama has swathed two of Kassel's most historic buildings in an abject patchwork of jute sacks, and in Konigsplatz Nigerian born Olu Oguibe sends a clarion call to governments worldwide with his concrete obelisk Monument to Strangers and Refugees. It bears the line from the Gospel of St Matthew, "I was a stranger and You Took me in," here inscribed in German, English, Turkish and Arabic. *Until 17 September; documenta14.de*