European Art Fairs
Grand Tour

Kassel documenta 14
Münster Sculpture Project
Venice Biennale

with Jessica Nicoll ’83
Director and Louise Ines Doyle ’34 Chief Curator
of the Smith College Museum of Art

September 11–20, 2017

Ryūjin I (detail) by Hiroshi Senju, Day Falls/Night Falls at the 2015 Biennale
acrylic and fluorescent pigments on Japanese mulberry paper
Only once each decade do the stars of the contemporary art world align so that three world-class art fairs grace Europe simultaneously.

**Kassel documenta 14**  
**Münster Sculpture Project**  
**Venice Biennale**

In this special collaboration, Smith College Museum of Art and Smith Travel are making the most of the convergence of these three art fairs, with Director Jessica Nicoll leading a journey on both sides of the Alps that has been truly created uniquely for Smith College. Tour great museums, see hidden art wonders, meet noted artists, and get the most out of the art fairs by exploring them with Jessica Nicoll and outstanding local contemporary art experts. Along the way, stay in fine hotels chosen for their charm and perfect art-touring locations and savor a series of gourmet meals in top restaurants and cafés.

**Travel with Director Jessica Nicoll ’83**

Jessica Nicoll ’83 is Director and Louise Ines Doyle ’34 Chief Curator of the Smith College Museum of Art, a position she has held since 2005. She is also the Director of Smith’s Museums Concentration, established in 2009, advising and instructing students in museum history, theory, and practice. From 1992–2005, Nicoll served as the William and Helen Thon Chief Curator and Curator of American Art at the Portland Museum of Art, Maine. A specialist in American art, she has written and lectured on a wide variety of topics ranging from early American portraits and landscape painting to the work of artists including Will Barnet, Winslow Homer, Robert Henri, and Marguerite and William Zorach. She graduated with a degree in Art History and American Studies from Smith College in 1983 and received a Masters degree from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware in 1986.
This custom travel program has been created uniquely for Smith Travel.

Monday, September 11, 2017

Departures
Depart on independent flights for Düsseldorf, Germany.

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Arrivals in Düsseldorf
Upon arrival in Düsseldorf, take independent transfers to the luxurious five-star Hyatt Regency, where all Smith travelers enjoy upgraded water-view rooms. Enjoy a welcome lunch at the hotel. This afternoon, drive to the Rhine riverbank for a guided visit of the Kunst im Tunnel (KIT). Opened in 2007, this spectacular underground exhibition space has become one of Europe’s most important venues for contemporary art. Continue to Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen for a guided tour through this diverse art collection of the north Rhine-Westphalia region. Return to the hotel for a reception with drinks and hors d’oeuvres.

Hyatt Regency, Düsseldorf (L, Rec.)

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Münster
Sculpture Project
After breakfast, take a two-hour drive north to the small, lively city of Münster, home to the Sculpture Project held only once every ten years. During this special event, innovative contemporary sculpture and installations spring up amid the town’s medieval architecture and spacious parks. Discover site-specific works by a range of top international artists who have been invited to participate in the project. Learn about how each artist established a relationship between their art, the public realm, and the urban environment. A relaxing lunch is included in the midst of our explorations in Münster. Return to Düsseldorf late in the afternoon for some time to rest before gathering for a welcome dinner at a popular local restaurant.

Hyatt Regency, Düsseldorf (B, L, D)

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Kassel & documenta 14
Check out of the hotel and travel to the provincial capital of Kassel, famous as the home of documenta, one of the world’s leading exhibitions of contemporary art, held just once every five years. Arriving in Kassel, take an orientation walking tour of the city and view several important installations from past editions of the fair before gathering for lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon, follow an art expert through the main venues of documenta 14, this year’s edition entitled “Learning from Athens.” Later, check in at the four-star, centrally located Best Western Plus Hotel, one of the top hotels in Kassel, and enjoy the evening at leisure.

Best Western Plus Hotel, Kassel (B, L)

Friday, September 15, 2017

Kassel & documenta 14
Begin with a visit to the Fridericianum, one of the oldest public museums in Europe built in 1779 and the central hub for documenta. After free time for lunch, continue with a guided visit through additional documenta exhibitions. Smith College Museum of Art Director Jessica Nicoll will focus on a couple of exhibitions of special interest. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore on your own. Gather in the evening for an elegant dinner at a top-level restaurant near the hotel, where a leading organizer of documenta 14 will join us.

Best Western Plus Hotel, Kassel (B, D)

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Venice’s Artistic Gems
Check out of the hotel in the early morning and depart by private coach for the Düsseldorf airport to board a nonstop flight to Venice. Upon arrival, cross the sparkling lagoon in a beautiful, private boat, with your luggage whisked directly to our hotel via private launch and enjoy time for an independent lunch. In the afternoon, visit hidden artistic gems from the Venetian past—a Bellini altarpiece, a “so-close-you-can-touch-it” Carpaccio fresco cycle, and much more. Check into the elegant four-star
Hotel Bucintoro, where all guest rooms have wide views onto the Venetian Lagoon. The hotel has perhaps the best location in the city for experiencing the Biennale. The day holds one more special treat—with special permission from the sacristan, our group will gain private entree into the lavish, mosaic-covered interior of St. Mark’s Basilica after it closes to the public. Celebrate our arrival in Venice with a delicious meal of local cuisine at a fine restaurant near our hotel.

Hotel Bucintoro, Venice (B, D)

Sunday, September 17, 2017
Venice Biennale: The Giardini

A lovely waterfront walk from our hotel is the traditional campus of the Biennale—the leafy Giardini, where many nations have permanent pavilions and the main exhibition of the fair is usually on display. Our superb, local contemporary art expert will help us get the most out of our morning in the Giardini, focusing on the most appreciated pavilions and exploring the Biennale’s main exhibit curated by Christine Macel, Biennale director and chief curator of the Pompidou Center in Paris. Lunch is on your own at one of the Giardini cafés with some free time to explore independently. In the late afternoon, private boats will carry us up the Grand Canal to the delightful Palazzo Correr della Regina, now the Venetian outpost of Miuccia Prada, whose Prada Foundation always hosts excellent shows during the Biennale. Dinner and the evening are at leisure.

Hotel Bucintoro, Venice (B, D)

Monday, September 18, 2017
Murano Glass, Satellite Shows & Guggenheim

Today we crisscross the lagoon and Venice’s intricate network of canals, hopping from one art treasure to another. Begin on the island of Murano for a look at the studio of a major glass artist who will open his hothouse for us. We return to Venice where our expert guide will take us to the best “satellite shows” that pop up throughout the old city around the Biennale. During this time we will stop for a delightful lunch at a traditional restaurant. To finish the day, discover the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, one of Italy’s very best groupings of modern art still housed in Peggy’s remarkable former home overlooking the Grand Canal. As a reminder that we are still in historic Venice, we enter the soaring 17th-century church of Santa Maria della Salute guarding the entrance to the Grand Canal. Private boats carry us back to the hotel for another free evening.

Hotel Bucintoro, Venice (B, L)
Arsenale Pavilions

Our final full day is once again dedicated to the Biennale, but this time focusing on the Arsenale pavilions, where cutting-edge art now fills the ancient rope factories and shipbuilding warehouses that served the Venetian fleet. The Arsenale, which dates back to the 13th century, was restored and transformed for Biennale exhibitions. Again, our expert guide will show us the very best of the works on view, and we will meet with one of the curators of the shows on view in the Arsenale. Lunch is independent, and the afternoon left free to allow for individual pursuits. At our farewell dinner at the outstanding Corte Sconta restaurant, relive favorite art show moments, works, and surprises with your fellow travelers.

Hotel Bucintoro, Venice (B, D)

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Departures

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and take a group transfer by private chartered boat to the Venice international airport to meet return flights to the United States. (B)
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European Art Fairs

Grand Tour

- Multi-day passes to both documenta 14 and the 57th Venice Biennale of Art
- In-person meetings and discussions with curators and organizers
- Special invitations to satellite shows, private artist studios, and top contemporary collections

Kassel documenta 14
Münster Sculpture Project
Venice Biennale

Trickle Down: The Public Space in the Age of Its Privatization by Andreas Siekmann at Münster Sculpture Project / photo by Lute