

## THE ART NEWSPAPER

# Artists strike a chord as music fills the Venice Biennale Audio installations and sound sculptures take centre-stage at the 57th International Art Exhibition

by Javier Pes, Gareth Harris  
May 11, 2017

The Venice Biennale opens to the public this weekend (13 May-26 November), but the 57th edition includes so many sound works and sculptures it feels as though the city's Biennale of Music later in the year (29 September-8 October) has been given a head start—as invited guests discovered this week. Visitors to the French pavilion encounter professional musicians and sound technicians rather than paintings and sculptures as the artist Xavier Veilhan's Studio Venezia has turned the space into a working recording studio.

Percussive sound, of a loud, clashing, rock music sort, stops visitors in their tracks at the very start of Viva Arte Viva in the Giardini's Central pavilion, when the US artist Dawn Kasper feels in the mood. Under an ornate dome, a garage band studio seems to have popped up, where Kasper performs on an array of instruments. Her work *The Sun, The Moon, and the Stars* (2017) is part of her Nomadic Studio Project, which she has moved to Venice for the duration of Macel's main show. This means the first Pavilion of Artists and Books is rarely a hushed, library or traditional museum-like space. More of Kasper's favourite music, live and recorded, is guaranteed.