

## Happening

### Venice International Performance Art Week

**What:** Exponents of "live art" descend on La Serenissima

**When:** December 8-15

**Where:** Palazzo Bembo, Venice

**Details:** Hot on the heels of *A Bigger Splash*, Tate Modern's big winter survey of performance art, comes Venice's first International Performance Art Week, a showcase of 31 international contemporary artists from the "live art" sphere.

Pieces featured in the canal-side Palazzo Bembo space include Yoko Ono's white instructional plaques or "Events Scores" (1959-64), most recently displayed in the *Invisible* exhibition at London's Hayward Gallery this summer; Lee Wen's primal, richly pigmented self-portraits "Journey of a Yellow Man" (1992); and Jill Orr's "The Promised Land" (2012), an other-worldly photographic series exploring ideas of displacement.

The organisers define performance artists as "alchemists turning dirt and tears into gold"; whether the artists whose live performances are showcased each evening succeed or not will be for onlookers to decide, though it will not be for want of trying. Johannes Deimling stages macabre, ash-covered re-enactments of car crashes and bombings in "Blanc #8"; Piotr Wegryzynski's "tranSfera" clothes nude performers in viscous fluids and electronic transmitters; and plastic film, needle and thread are driven through Prem Sarjo's flesh in "Hybrid Body – Poetic Body". Alperoa's "Tattoo for Venice" shows footage of the artist's body being inked with promotional text for the Art Week.

Gentler items include Wanda Moretti's "Far Vuoto", a trapeze act scaling the red-brick walls of the Palazzo.

**[www.veniceperformanceart.org](http://www.veniceperformanceart.org)**

