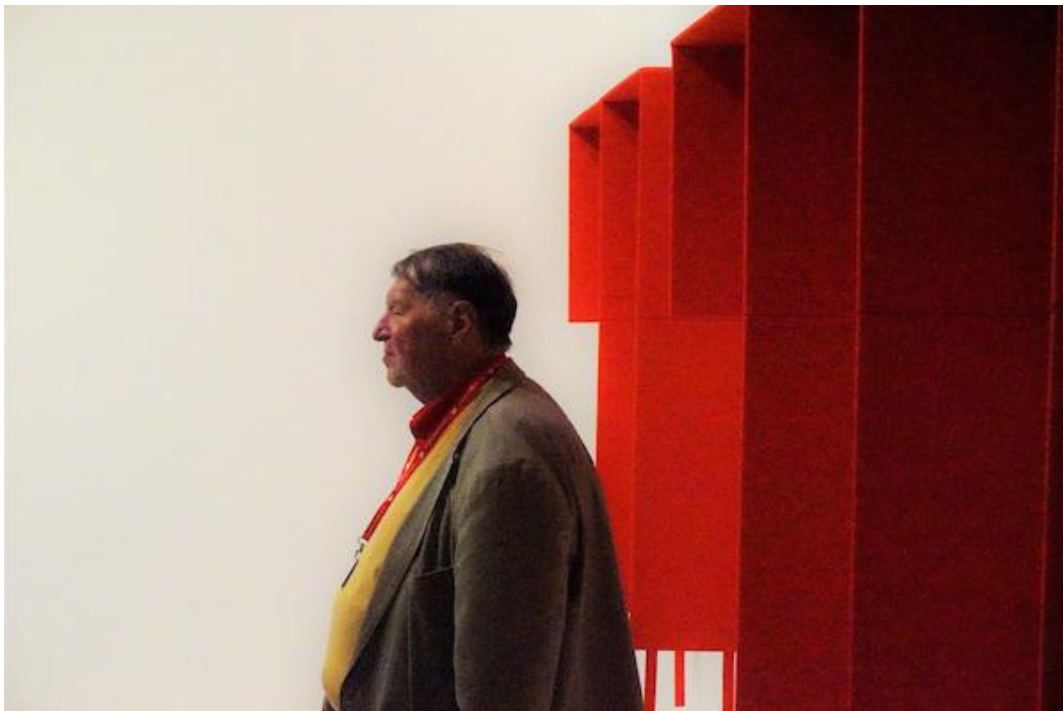


Artlyst

Australian Artist Martin Brown Picks 10 Artists At The 57th Venice Biennale

1 July 2017 / Words and Photos by Martin Brown 2017



Franz Erhard Walther

b. 1939 Germany

These monumental arrangements of large coloured felt wall sculptures also grabbed my attention. They sit somewhere in-between painting and sculpture, they divide up the space and work with the negative spaces of the wall as well as the forward projection relief sculptural space. Made from weighty felt, they have echoes of Joseph Beuys, with the use of felt, but with a play and lyricism reminiscent of painting through the use of vibrant colour. Serious, monumental, mature, work pleasantly lacking in the anxious self-consciousness of Beuys but instead engaged in a lyrical formalism with echoes of Modernism. These works are intended to be interacted with in performance, however, in a static installation, they were just as effective.

For an Artist who says his work needs to be completed by the presence of the body, I found it ironic that while I was photographing these works, I noticed a rather colourfully dressed man wearing what appeared to be matching attire for the artwork. He was being photographed in

front of one of the artworks. As it turned out he was the artist. He was also asking the staff to correct some minor installation issues between being photographed. I decided to interrupt to compliment him on his artwork, I also asked if I could take his picture, he was very polite, thanked me for my comments and obliged with a big smile. What I hadn't realised was that he was about to be honoured as the recipient of the Golden Lion for best Artist at the Biennale, hence the photo shoot. A much-deserved artist.



Franz Erhard Walther

