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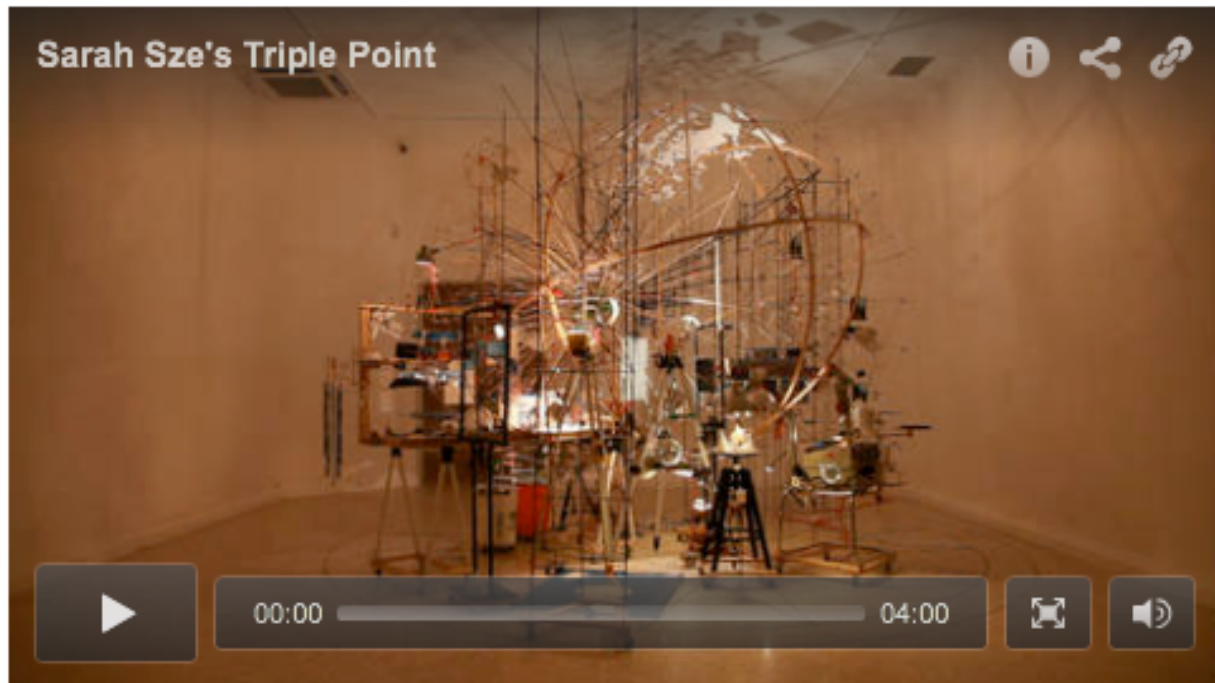
Arts Beat

The Culture at Large

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Sarah Sze: The Stones of Venice

By CAROL VOGEL



VENICE — Everyone is anxiously waiting to get into the [Biennale](#), which opens to the art world here on Wednesday and to the public on Saturday. But those who have already arrived can take an early peek at the work of one artist.

Perched on balconies and roof tops around the city; shop windows and even on the shelf of a gelato stand, are beautifully fashioned rocks.

Convincingly real, these stones are the creation of Sarah Sze (pronounced ZEE), the artist who is representing the United States at the Biennale this year and whose installation fills this country's pavilion. "I wanted the installation to bleed out into the environment," she said on Monday as

she led a group of visitors around the Via Garibaldi. “So I asked people if they would be willing to put them in stores or on balconies and everyone said yes.”

Ms. Sze photographed real rocks, took the images and printed them on Tyvek, a strong synthetic material. She then covered aluminum structures with her rock pictures.

The local recipients are enjoying their artworks. Jacobo Chiozzoto has a boulder on the roof of his newsstand. “When people ask what it is I give different answers depending on who wants to know,” he said with a laugh. “Sometimes I say it’s to hold down the roof; other times I tell people it’s an asteroid.”

In this video, we look at some of those rocks and hear about Ms. Sze’s process. We also get an early look inside the United States pavilion, a series of rooms with carefully constructed assemblages, including a planetarium-like space, a room with sinking desks and a setting that resembles an artist’s studio.