



ArtReview

The Exhibitions and Biennials to
See in 2026
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Saodat Ismailova
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Our editors choose the moments to mark in your calendars this year. Featuring exhibitions and biennials from around the world, this page will be updated throughout the year as more are announced



Saodat Ismailova, *Amanat*, 2026. Courtesy of the artist.

Saodat Ismailova: *Amanat*

In Saodat Ismailova's new film *Amanat* (2026), commissioned by Swiss Institute and screening there as part of the Uzbek artist's first US solo presentation, figures can be seen dozing on a forest floor, at the bases of gnarly trees, cushioned on beds of fallen leaves or leaning against ancient boulders. They are in Arslanbob, a region of present-day Kyrgyzstan known for producing over 1,000 tonnes of walnuts per year, as well as for being a site of ongoing tension between the country's Kyrgyz majority and Uzbek minority. The Arslanbob forest has been the muse of several of Ismailova's past works, including a film shown at Pirelli HangarBicocca in Milan in 2024 and an immersive performance staged for Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels this past May. SI's exhibition will assemble films, soundscapes and sculptural elements such as kurpacha mattresses into a somatically resonant – even ASMR-like – environment in which real history such as that of the fall of Soviet Union and Central Asian cinema percolates through the realm of alpha waves and fantasies. *Jenny Wu*

Swiss Institute, 21 January–12 April