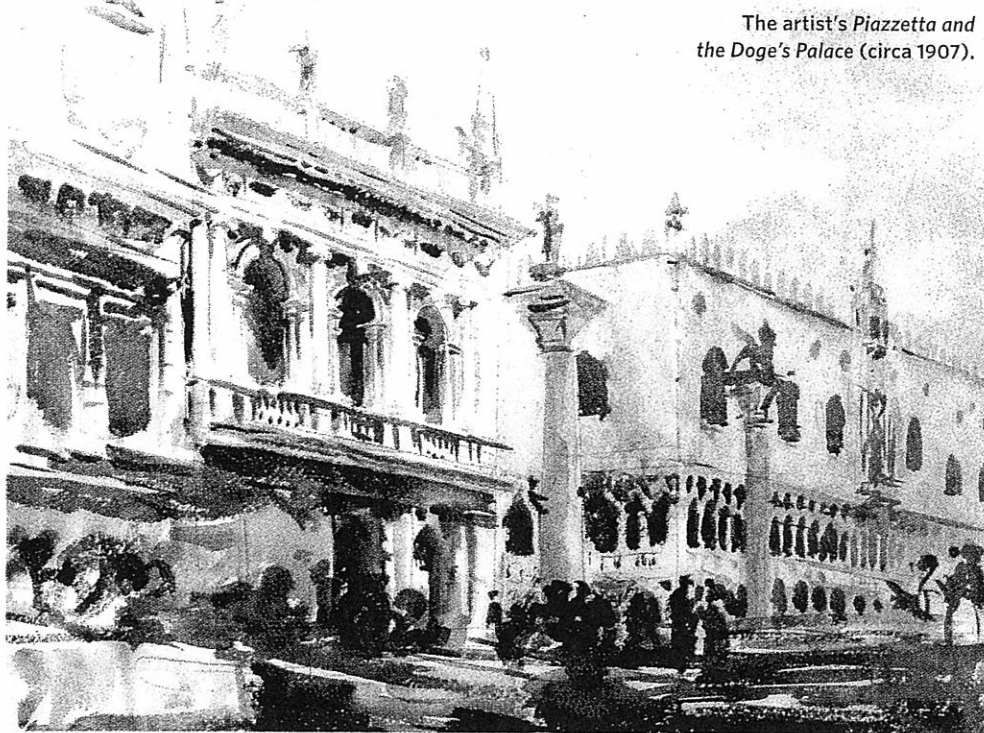


ARTS & CULTURE

The artist's Piazzetta and the Doge's Palace (circa 1907).



SARGENT IN VENICE Painter John Singer Sargent's life reads like a Henry James novel. Born in Florence in 1856 to American parents, he was raised in Italy, studied art in Paris, traveled to the States intermittently and settled in 1886 in London. But it was Venice that entranced him. For proof, check out "Sargent's Venice," organized by Manhattan's Adelson Galleries, where it closes March 3, and on view March 24 to July 22 at the Museo Correr (museicivivicenezziani.it), in Venice. Its sixty-some oil paintings and watercolors, borrowed from major museums and private collections, feature beloved—and little changed—tourist sites along the canals, as well as back alleys and shops frequented only by locals. In both the exhibition—the painter's first solo show in Venice—and the sumptuous book that accompanies it (Yale University Press; \$65), you'll see how ideal this dashing stylist's bravura strokes were for depicting Venice, recording dappled light on its waterways and gleaming marble facades. They're a match made in...where else? **PHYLLIS TUCHMAN**