

# NEWS & NOTES

## ARCHIVES

**F. Scott Fitzgerald's Archives** organized by Matthew J. Bruccoli, Prof. of English at the University of South Carolina, and appraised at \$2 million, goes to the University.

**Louis Armstrong: A Cultural Legacy**, an exhibition at the Queens Museum of Art, includes archival material including paintings, illustrations, cartoons, photography, scrapbook collages, etc.

**The Rothschilds**, an exhibited subtitled "A European Family" at Frankfurt's Jewish Museum in December-January, is an exhibition of documentation, including lithographs, paintings, family treasures, a wealth of correspondence which became a prototype fax and computer system--a network of information agents throughout Britain and the Continent, and carrier pigeons.

Moving from Frankfurt after 1849 when the mother of the five sons died at the age of 96, the family concentrated its interests in Britain and France. The Nazis managed to wipe out most traces of the Rothschilds in Frankfurt, but at least one monument remains--the weekend villa of Mayer Carl Rothschild, grandson of patriarch Meyer Amschel--which now houses the city's Jewish Museum and its latest exhibit on the Rothschilds.

## LOST & FOUND

**Found:** A cave covered in 300 Stone Age paintings of animals, apparently untouched for about 20,000 years, has been discovered in the Ardeche, about 260 miles south of Paris, by Jean-Marie Chauvet, a Culture Ministry official monitoring prehistoric remains in the area. The animals are bison, reindeer, rhinoceros (of a type long extinct), mammoth, hyenas, bears, lions, horses and wild oxen. They are either in black or red. The future will produce video, CD-ROM or other multimedia techniques in order to keep people away from the cave for preservation purposes. The treasure can be dated from 20,000 BC to 17,000 BC.

**Found:** An oil painting that gathered dust in an attic for decades after its owner bought it at a French flea market has been identified as a previously unknown still life by Vincent Van Gogh. The painting of a vibrant autumn bouquet in a blue vase stayed on exhibit at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam through 31 December. After that, the owner, who apparently did not recognize

the artist's signature, was expected to sell the work.

**Found:** Three works of art stolen from Stockholm's Modern Museum in 1993--including Picasso's 1921 oil painting "La Source"--have been recovered. Swedish police said the works were found in good condition in the western city of Gothenburg. All but one painting has now been recovered from the 8 Picasso and Braque works stolen from the museum in 1993.

**Found:** A chapter of "The Trial" by Franz Kafka has recently been found, stored in the Schiller National Museum in southern Germany, which gave permission to Stroemfeld Verlag to feed it carefully, page by page, into a computer scanner. One can see how Kafka changed his manuscript, etc. So this is a work in progress, instead of a linear story with a beginning and an end.

**Found:** A bronze figure of Cleopatra, which was exhibited at Sotheby's in Beverly Hills as part of the "Cyril Humphris Collection" was identified by a Santa Barbara expert as being a model executed by 16th-century Florentine sculptor, Benvenuto Cellini, whose known surviving sculptures number fewer than 15. The work was later auctioned by Sotheby's in New York

**Found:** Along the banks of the Coa River in northern Portugal, a prehistoric art gallery has been discovered on the rock face, with images of more than 60 animals, like bison, horses, ibexes and deer, probably chiseled into the rock face with sharp stone tools 20,000 years ago. A proposed dam may make this a short-lived discovery. A worldwide protest has been having repercussions.

**Found or Freud:** British institutions have until 1 February to raise about \$805,000 to prevent an early painting by Lucian Freud from going out of the country. It is the first work by a contemporary artist to be subject to a British export license. "The Painter's Room," a 1943 painting brought by an anonymous collector at Sotheby's in June, depicts a stuffed zebra head, a shabby sofa and a wilting potted palm.

**Lost or Missing:** 200,000 museum objects, two million books including two Gutenberg Bibles and stacks of valuable archival material are now being detained in Russian museums and secret depots, seized in Germany by the Red Army in

1945, its very existence a state secret even in the Gorbachev era and still a source of friction and embarrassment for the Yeltsin Government.

Much of this was discussed at a conference on "The Spoils of War" organized by the Bard Graduate Center on Decorative Arts and held in New York City. In New York, a Russian librarian spoke up bravely to urge the return of rare books to Germany as a good-faith start toward a reciprocal settlement.

Meanwhile, the Hermitage Museum will be showing 74 long-unseen Impressionist and Post-Impressionist canvases by Degas, van Gogh, Gauguin, including 15 Renoirs, six Monets, canvases by Picasso, Matisse and Corot, as well as Vuillards, Delacroix, a Matisse and seven Cezannes. This is part of the vast hoard of valuables looted from private Germany collections by Red Army soldiers nearly 50 years ago. The exhibition called "Hidden Treasures Revealed" opens on 30 March.

With almost 2,000 German works in its collection, the Hermitage does not intend to return any of them to Germany. And there is still no complete list.

**Found, almost:** "Off Gloucester Harbor", an 1880 Winslow Homer watercolor stolen in 1969, was returned to its owner on 14 February 1995. The watercolor was one of four Homer works--2 watercolors and 2 drawings--stolen from the home of Ellen Jennings and her late husband, Frederic, from their home in Ipswich, Mass. Two smaller sailboats had been added on the left of the watercolor and sea gulls in the sky, apparently to disguise the work as a painting other than the one that had been stolen. Being that the work is a delicate watercolor rather than an opaque oil painting, it is nearly impossible to remove all traces of the phantom additions.

**Found:** Four long-lost Walt Whitman notebooks have been rediscovered after disappearing during World War II, Sotheby's auction house said recently. Not only were the notebooks recovered, but also a small paper butterfly that Whitman used as a prop in one of the most famous photographs of an American author ever taken, the frontispiece accompanying an 1881 edition of his collection "Leaves of Grass." He had placed the butterfly so that it appeared to have landed on his ring finger. 14 notebooks and the butterfly had been missing from the

late father's effect, and wondered what they were and if they were valuable. As soon as he learned they were from the Library of Congress, he demanded that they be returned there. The notebooks dated from 1847 - 1863.

**Returned:** 3 drawings from a large collection of German art that disappeared in the final days of World War II (a Tibaldi, a La Fage, and a St. George & the Dragon attributed to Poussin) were handed over to the German Consul General in New York by the FBI, after having been seized from a Russian immigrant who was offering them to dealers in New York City. The works were returned to the Bremen Kunsthalle collection, where they were originally hidden by the Germans in what became the Soviet zone of occupation.

**Lost & Found:** A robbery of manuscripts from the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg took place on a scale unprecedented in the Library's entire history. 89 ancient manuscripts from Eastern and Western Europe, representing an enormous historical and material value, were taken, including an eighth-century parchment version of the Koran; an Indian album of drawings on palm leaves from the 8th century; some of Jami's writings from the ninth century, as well as other Persian, Mongol and Tibetan manuscripts. Value was set at \$100 to \$200 million.

The books were kept in a closed room with iron bars on the windows. Neither of the two modern security alarms, however, was operational. Only members of the library's staff were allowed to enter. As soon as a 10 million rouble (\$2,500) reward for information leading to the books' recovery was announced, the St. Petersburg police found them on 16 December. 3 people were arrested by the St. Petersburg police, while the books had already left Moscow. They are now in the safes of the Federal Security Committee and will be used as evidence in the forthcoming trial. If found guilty, the thieves can expect five to fifteen years in prison. On 20 December, however, a leading Russian lawyer was arrested as the fourth person. The lawyer had already been involved in a well-publicized scandal which required him to flee Russia, but has returned and has been reinstated into high Russian society. Now there is much speculation if he is involved at a top level in international smuggling of works of art out of Russia.

**Threatened:** 20,000 year-old rock engravings hewn in what may prove to be the world's largest outdoor gallery of prehistoric art by a new dam in the valley

of the Coa River in northern Portugal. The dam will drown the valley under 300 feet of water once the dam is complete in about four years. 200 large hammered engravings are now visible, with a possibility of finding 30 or 40 finely incised figures which are hard to see. If saved, Portugal will have to protect them from thieves and vandals and to be displayed in some compelling way for visitors.

**Charged:** Four Norwegians were charged in January in the theft of Edvard Munch's masterpiece, "The Scream", Norway's best-known painting. The men have been suspects since the 1893 painting, estimated to be worth \$55 million, was recovered undamaged in May, 1994. Two were charged with grand theft and two with receiving stolen property, crimes punishable by up to six years in prison. The painting was stolen from the National Art Museum in Oslo during a 50-second break-in on 12 February 1994.

**Vandalized:** 25 paintings by neo-Expressionist Arnulf Ranier were totally ruined when they were painted over with black paint, and another 10 had yellow accents worked into them. The paintings were stored in Ranier's studio at Vienna's Academy of Fine Arts, where the artist is a professor. He was on vacation at the time. The damage is estimated at \$2.5 million. Some of the works had been included in the artist's retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum in New York in 1989. The artist's master class in restoration may try to salvage the works.

#### CARTOONS

Cartoons are quite an addition to this post-literate society which is shaping up for the new millennium. Even the New York Times included a page of cartoons on their Op-Ed page for 31 December 1994.

#### ART & LAW

Pablo Picasso's heirs are suing a Greenwich Village (New York city) restaurant that offers Picasso pizza with red peppers and grilled zucchini. They also object to the use of the artist's name by the Cafe Picasso and others.

The restaurant's owner said he believed Picasso had become a common term for masterpiece. But the estate objects to imitations of Picasso's art throughout the restaurant on Bleeker St., including art on its menu and business cards. The Picasso family wishes to protect more than 100,000 paintings, drawings, printed graphics, ceramics and sculptures created by Picasso, who died in 1973.

**The I.R.S. (Internal Revenue Service)** of the U.S. government is proposing a new deal: For \$3,000 it will tell you before you file your income tax return exactly how big a tax deduction you can take for donating valuable works of art. Up to 10 paintings, manuscripts or other works of art can be appraised. Each piece must be worth at least \$50,000 and already donated to a museum or other charity.

#### MONDRIAN

A major exhibition of more than 160 paintings and drawings from all over the world at The Hague Municipal Museum on the 50th anniversary of the death of Dutch artist, Piet Mondrian. The focus of the exhibition is on Mondrian's method of working in series that led to his most famous "Boogie Woogie" abstract paintings. The exhibition runs through 30 April, later coming to New York City and Washington, DC. For information, contact the Netherlands Board of Tourism, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 326, Chicago, IL 60601.

#### ART & THE FUTURE

Robert Rauschenberg has created 21 limited edition artworks dealing with global peace, social justice and environmental concerns as part of Tribute 21, his new art program aiming to improve conditions for the 21st Century. The editions will be sold worldwide to fund future Tribute 21 programs, and 21 sets will be donated to museums and other institutions. As a centerpiece of the program, 21 individuals "whose lifetime contributions will greatly impact and positively affect" the next century will be honored at Rauschenberg's New York studio on Friday. Among the honorees, filmmaker Steven Spielberg, performance artist Rachel Rosenthal, communications mogul Ted Turner, art collector Dominique de Menil, the Dalai Lama, and statesmen Al Gore, Mikhail Gorbachev and Nelson Mandela. Honored posthumously will be actress Audrey Hepburn, composer John Cage and Muppets creator Jim Henson.

#### MUSEUM NEWS

Two Swiss architects were selected in January to turn an unused London power station into the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, an annex to Britain's esteemed Tate Gallery. The architects, Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, beat out five other bidders, including a British group, despite being little known outside their own country. They intend to leave intact the exterior of the stark, brick-built Bankside power station. A giant turbine hall, stripped of its machinery, and the building's chimney will also be left

untouched. The project, costing \$160-million, across the River Thames from St. Paul's Cathedral, will be the first national gallery to be built in Britain since the 19th century. Expected opening: 2000.

**The Czech National Gallery** will open in the fall in the former Veletržní Palace, a classic of 1920s architecture in Prague, having stood empty for lack of the idea that will best suit it. Built between 1925 and 1928, the Veletržní Palace was the masterpiece of constructivist architecture in Prague at that time. Included in the collection are paintings by Delacroix, Corot, Courbet, Daumier, Pissarro, Renoir, Monet, Sisley, Degas, Seurat, van Gogh, Cezanne, Gauguin, Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri Rousseau, Picasso and Derain.

**The Getty Museum** has recently acquired two Rembrandts, "Abduction of Europa", a mythological landscape painted in 1632 and "Daniel and Cyrus before the Idol Bel", a 1633 interpretation of an Old Testament story, both purchased from private hands and major paintings.

**Pierre Rosenberg**, the new director of the Louvre in Paris, has inherited a security problem, which he will deal with as a first priority to improve "the efficient systems" which they have. Two minor works of art were stolen in early January, alarming the museum staff and especially its new director. The museum, one of the largest in the world, employs 950 security guards, with 240 on the job at any given time.

**The Severin Wunderman Museum**, located in Irvine, California, closed its doors on 6 February and will donate its multimillion-dollar collection of works by the French artist and filmmaker, Jean Cocteau, to another institution.

**The Bata Shoe Museum**, consisting of some 24,000 square feet of footwear--including shoes worn by Queen Victoria, Elton John and Winston Churchill--will be displayed in Toronto in the museum building to open in early May. Located at 327 Bloor St. West, the project headed by Sonja Bata, a director of Bata Ltd., the headquarters of a group of international shoe manufacturing and retail companies. With 5 floors of exhibit space, the museum's first exhibits will include 19th century shoes, Inuit boots and illustrations from contemporary children's books about shoes.

**Naomi Vine** has been named the new director of the Laguna Art Museum.

Currently the manager of New York's Parsons Dance Company, Vine was described by board president Teri Kennady as having "the skills, the talents, the savvy, the sophistication, the knowledge, to be the leader who will take us into the future." Her appointment is effective 1 March.

**E.V. Thaw** has owned a collection of drawings, which he started over 40 years ago, including works from Mantegna to Matisse. Showing some 100 of his finest possessions at the Piermont Morgan Library, which recently ended its run, gave the collection to the Library before they ever returned to his home. From Blake to Goya, Picasso to Tintoretto, the collection is a gift to the library. What an art dealer! "What greater cause is there than the absolute majestic survival of our whole civilization?"

**Jesse does it again!** Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina effectively delayed an amendment that would have created a National African American Museum. The bill will have to be reintroduced in the 1995 Congress. The amendment had strong support from both parties, but Helms objected to the cost of the museum and had fears that extremist groups (such as the National of Islam) might be permitted to use the federal facility. If approved, the museum would fall under the auspices of the Smithsonian and be housed in an existing building on the Mall in Washington, DC.

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art** in New York City exercised an option in January to buy a work that was part of an auction of Old Master paintings from the financially troubled New York Historical Society at Sotheby's. The potential bidder offered to pay \$2.2 million, but under an agreement worked out last fall by the Historical Society, Sotheby's and the New York State Attorney General, state institutions had the right to match any offer made on the 183 Old Master paintings within seven days of the January 12 sale.

**The Menil Collection Museum** opened a new Cy Twombly Gallery across the street, designed by Renzo Piano. This \$5 million annex will contain Cy Twombly's work permanently. Included are 7 major paintings and works on paper from the Dia Foundation. Included are 32 works, including assemblage sculptures and works on paper and canvas representing four decades. Two "blackboard" paintings are masterpieces. And in a room of their own are the untitled "green paintings" a magical nine-canvas series dated 1988, seen for the first time since they were unveiled at the Venice Biennale that year.

**The Canadian Museums Association** (2000 strong) has recently urged the federal government in Canada to refrain from buildings more museums and art galleries. There is too little money for all the extant institutions to divide further to keep the existing institutions open. Because of cuts in funding, many of these institutions are now relying on volunteers and on private-sector fund raising. The CMA has asked for money to renovate or upgrade existing projects.

**The International Museum of Cartoon Art**, a 52,000-square-foot facility that will host the world's largest collection of animation art, is being constructed in Boca Raton, FL. Phase I of the museum, which will house 130,000 drawings, 10,000 books and 1,000 hours of film and videotape, will open in January 1996. The city of Boca Raton donated the 1.5-acre site valued at \$2 million for the attraction. Founded by "Beetle Bailey" creator Mort Walker, the museum will have more than 30 galleries.

#### SAMIZDAT ART

In 1984, when the hand of government censorship lay heavy on art in Czechoslovakia, Joska Skalnik, a graphic designer and longtime troublemaker, came up with a very Czech idea: If unofficial artists could not exhibit, why not create an unofficial salon? So he invited each of about 300 artists to accept delivery of a lidless wooden box 6 inches square and 2 inches deep. The assignment was to create a work of art within the box. The completed work was to be returned to Mr. Skalnik. In all, 244 artists took part in what Skalnik called the Minisalon. The boxes were collected, then hidden in a shed outside Prague. There they remained until 1989, when the velvet revolution brought down the Communist regime.

The boxes were exhibited in downtown Manhattan at the World Financial Center in November, then traveling to Chicago, Indianapolis; Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Albuquerque, NM and St. Petersburg and Fort Myers, FL. Startling variety abounded within the confines of the box. Several of the artists since emigrated to the U.S. and saw their work for the first time.

After the 1989 revolution, Skalnik became a cultural adviser to Vaclav Havel, the President of the Czech Republic, but he soon withdrew from politics and resumed his work as a graphic designer. Official approval continues to pursue him, however. In 1993, the Czech Government proclaimed the Minisalon boxes a national treasure, the often whimsical documentary record of a grim era. (New York Times, 11/18/94).

**Dada and Bojan Hadzihalilovic** designed a series of postcards called "Greetings from Sarajevo" accompanying a credit of these artists: "Because of completely siege of concentration camp called Sarajevo and because of no possibility of any communication with Outside World, we decided to print out postcards and in that way to reach The World. It would be our way of lifting a multiple blockade in which we are living."

Dada, 27, is a Muslim; her husband, Bojan, 29, is a Serbo-Jew—a typical Bosnian-blend household. They still sign their work, "Trio Sarajevo," but work as a duo because their college from the Academy of Fine Arts, Leila Mulabegovic, left before the shelling started there in April, 1992.

They had wanted to submit their work to the International Biennale of Posters in Warsaw last spring, but lack of large-format paper reduced their posters to postcards, and the siege kept them from leaving the town or sending the portfolio out. Shortages of ink limited their palette to red and occasionally blue or green, but they recall, without much modesty, Picasso's blue period.

They call the postcards a "nonprofit project." To survive they are art directors for several Sarajevo weeklies and design identity cards and uniforms for the Bosnian army, the police and the railways in exchange for booze, cigarettes, sugar, feta cheese and peas.

#### **WILD ART**

**Cuban rafts**, used by 40,000 people setting sail from Cuba during the last quarter of 1994 are now being displayed in South Florida art galleries. Increasingly viewed as a mix of art and artifact, the rafts have become valuable. Private collectors have rushed in. One man has collected over 500 in order to build a raft museum.

Others have collected a boat as a tribute to the Cuban Diaspora—a reminder that this should never happen again.

**On the Courthouse Steps: Art, Spectacle and Commerce at the Simpson Trial**, the working title of an exhibition to be held at the California State University Northridge art gallery, curated by art history professor Kenon Breazeale, which will showcase works of art but also put them in the context of their setting. There are T-shirts and other knickknacks being sold, citing Chicago Juan, a vendor who hand-paints baseball caps with O.J.-related slogans, some of which will be displayed in her show. There is also guerrilla theater pieces staged by anti-domestic violence groups, which is "classic L.A. performance art".

One participant in the show is Ozell

Roberson, a semi-retired former chauffeur, who at 56 has transformed his 1958 Cadillac into a king of roaming altar to Nicole Brown Simpson. The car is decorated with pictures of Nicole and Ron Goldman, and in place of the Cadillac emblem Roberson has had engraved a dedication that reads: "In Memory of Nicole Brown Simpson, June 12, 1994, Brentwood, CA." At least 3 times a week, Roberson circles the courthouse in the car, while broadcasting recordings of King's speeches over a public address system. The decorated Cadillac itself will be on display outside the gallery space.

#### **NEW PERIODICALS**

**Paper Crafters**, the how-to newsletter for paper crafts enthusiasts, is available quarterly for \$12.00 per year. Sources, how-to articles, calligraphy, conventions, workshops, classes, and much more from Paper Crafters, 6575 SW 86th Ave., Portland, OR 97223.

**Prism, Arts of Pan-Pacific** was recently launched with vol. 1, no. 1 Winter 1995, as a publication of LASCA Gallery, 3630 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010. This is a gallery dedicated to Los Angeles-Seoul Contemporary Arts. The first issue includes a catalog of the **Pacific-Pacific, Four+Four** exhibition curated by Peter Frank, as well as contemporary issues, art reviews, and a book review about three Korean photographers. Brilliantly printed, the journal is not for sale, so librarians can write to the gallery and ask for a copy.

**Vernacular** in its Premier Issue of Winter 1994, dedicated to the Los Angeles scene, featuring a talk with John Baldessari by Amy Gerstler, a photo/text project by Ilene Segalove, a project by Stuart Bender and Angelo Funicelli, Art+Verse by Nancy Buchanan and Terryl Hunter, Comix by Roy Dains, and a report from New York, Berlin, and the Bergamot Station in Santa Monica. \$12.00 for 3 issues per year from P.O. Box 736, Tustin, CA 92681.

The editorial vision may be checked out in a stream-of-consciousness typographical spread on page six: "Good art is where you find it. Start small and build. Art magazines lose money and die young. From polemics to poetics. Intelligence talks, pedantry walks. Straight from the art. Picture a word, read a picture. Individualism is tired, collaboration is wired. Quality matters; the medium less so. Nobody reads anymore. Fragmented, nomadic, transient. "life-like art," not "art-like art." From semiotics to the street. Subtle, sexy, stylish, cinematic. Art theory can be a good read."

**Women in the Arts**, formerly the member newsletter of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, has now received a major grant of \$100,000 from the May Department Stores Company to create a new, full-color publication

#### **AUDIO ART**

**Tellus #27: Mini-Mall** includes new audio works on compact disc from Harvestworks' Artist-in-Residence and Studio PASS Programs, including work of Pauline Oliveros & Fanni Green, Ken Montgomery, Takehisa Kosugi, Ben Neill, Charlie Ahearn and much more. Order from Harvestworks, 596 Broadway, #602, New York, NY 10012.

#### **ART & CYBERSPACE**

Two ways to get wired is to attend electronic cafes. One is the Icon Byte Bar & Grill in San Francisco, where patrons inhabit a "digital forest" made of sculptures and computer-generated paintings as they tap away on a Mac Quadra. At the Red Light Cafe in Atlanta, you can recline in an ergonomically perfect chair as you wend your way through the net.

If you want to find others, you can find the other six electronic cafes at rec.food.drink.coffee, an Internet news group. One of the newest is in Portland, OR, where a few electronic idealists recently opened the Habit, a low-budget dive replete with a ratty couch, six ancient terminals and a techno-geek who gives free Internet lessons. The cafe offers E-mail boxes to patrons at a cost of \$5 a month.

**The San Francisco Digital Media Center** gives courses, as well as holding Joe's Digital Diner twice a month for interactive happy hour, dinner and live new media showcase. Located at 3435 Army St. at Valencia, Suite 222 in San Francisco.

**ArtView**, a new Macintosh-based, on-line network for the electronic sale of artworks, has been developed by New York art dealer, Ken Nahan. This global system, known as ArtView, stores the inventories of member galleries and dealers. Potential buyers--other galleries or individual collectors--can call up a digitized color image of any painting or sculpture on the network. Any certified dealer or gallery logged onto the system can hold, buy or offer for sale artwork from any other location. Besides the image of the work, which can also be seen in a 360-degree view for a piece of sculpture, there is a picture of the artist, a biography, a lecture on the artist's career or a full listing of every showing of an individual artwork. It is hoped that 80 member dealers will sign up, representing about 50,000 images, for an initial rollout in

the first quarter of 1995. By the end of 1995, 160 member gallery/dealers are projected with more than 100,000 digital images.

This system will also be a weapon against theft and fraud, since each work will be assigned an "International Standard Art Number", which can be used by Interpol to track stolen items.

**A Passion for Art: Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse and Dr. Barnes** is getting rave reviews for Bill Gates' other company, Continuum Productions Inc. This CD-ROM title is the first of three or four CD-ROM titles to be released this year by Continuum's Corbis Publishing division, sold in software, book and museum stores. The collection includes more than 330 works of Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings owned by Dr. Albert C. Barnes, a medical doctor turned art collector who made his fortune by inventing Argyrol, an antiseptic compound.

#### THOROUGHLY MODERN MONKS

Religious orders have entered the computer age with record keeping on their minds. Electronic Scriptorium, a private company, employs monks and nuns at six monasteries to do jobs like catalog Johns Hopkins University's medical records and computerize library catalogs. At the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago, for instance, three monks and a nun recently computerized a card catalog of 32,000 volumes. For modern monks, the manuscripts are not necessarily illuminated, but they're surely back-lit.

#### DATELINE NEW ZEALAND

In Hamilton, New Zealand, 41 junked refrigerators have been positioned to crate a latter-day Stonehenge. Graeme Cairns, the mastermind behind Fridgehenge, called it "a comment on how consumerism and appliance acquisition has replaced spirituality."

#### DATELINE JAPAN

The Hyogo Prefecture Governor Toshitami Kihara introduced a plan Jan. 13 that would include moving the official seat of culture from Tokyo to the Kansai area, which encompasses the cities of Osaka, Kobe, Nara and Kyoto. Four days later, the Great Hanshin Earthquake devastated a large chunk of the area.

Kihara's plan has been put on the back burner as the tally begins of quake damage to precious pieces of art, the museums that house them, historical buildings and a number of theaters. Reconstruction could prove difficult and expensive. 124 structures designated as national treasures or

important cultural properties were damaged in the temblor.

A special exhibit of textiles from India recently presented by an art museum in Nishinomiya, the city with the second-highest death toll after Kobe, was forced to close because of quake damage. At an art museum in Osaka, which was running an exhibit on Chinese porcelain and ceramics, several display pieces were broken. The pieces, which were encased but not supported, might force specialists to reconsider a display technique they prefer to shun for cosmetic reasons--holding up fragile display pieces with fishing line. Haven't they ever heard of Quake Wax, perfected by the Getty Center?

A new municipal museum in Takarazuka, Hyogo Prefecture, dedicated to the popular cartoonist Osamu Tezuka saw its video library damaged. Anticipating the 500,000th visitor the week the quake hit, the museum will be forced to close for a while, with an estimated \$150,000 worth of damage.

Japanese museums are now worried about the safety of their precious artifacts. In Osaka at the Museum of Oriental Ceramics, the recent earthquake pushed over a half-dozen objects, rolling them around in their glass cases, but it did not fracture any of the approximately 1,600 earthenware and ceramic artifacts. That's because the epicenter was 30 kilometers away.

Some contemporary prints were destroyed at the Museum of Modern Art in Kobe, including Picasso and Miro. In Osaka, however, the curators at the Ceramics Museum used clear fishing line and lead balls to steady the jars and vases and to weigh them down.

Children in Kobe are being encouraged to draw pictures of what they saw and experienced in the Great Hanshin Earthquake. The children in one evacuee shelter were given markers, pastel crayons and drawing paper, and the pictures show buildings demolished, fires raging and faces twisted in pain. It seems the older children are more traumatized than the younger ones, who find some peace of mind after doing the drawings. But it does reduce mental stress.

#### DATELINE ENGLAND

An exhibition, **After Auschwitz: Responses to the Holocaust in Contemporary Art**, 26 February - 17 April 1995, Royal Festival Hall Galleries, London, along with **After Auschwitz-Installations** at the Imperial War Museum, curated by Monica Bohm Duchon, included the work of 20 artists, of which 3 are Holocaust survivors.

**Worlds in a Box**, a traveling show of art set in box format, appeared at the Whitechapel Gallery in London containing 130 works by 70 artists from Marcel Duchamp to Claes Oldenburg and Yoko Ono. Included are Man Ray, Meret Oppenheim and Eileen Agar, as well as Joseph Cornell, Fluxus, pop artists, as well as contemporary artists such as Roni Horn.

#### DATELINE CAMBODIA

Cambodia has only one set of sacred 100-volume Buddhist Tripitaka sutra--all others were destroyed during the bloody reign of Pol Pot. To restore an important part of Cambodia's religious and cultural heritage, Japanese nongovernment organizations have taken on the mammoth task of reproducing 1,200 copies of the voluminous Tripitaka to present to temples and universities in the country.

From mid-November the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, which has a copy of volumes 1-90 of the sutra, made the volumes available to the project committee for their work. The Tripitaka is a diverse collection of Buddhist writings and commentaries originating from India. Sections were documented in various stages and at many locations throughout Cambodia to form the complete sutra. Texts appear in original Pali, an Indic language used in Buddhist writings, and their Cambodian translation. Although the first volume was published in 1925, it took about 44 years to produce the full set.

Cambodia's sole surviving copy of the Tripitaka was hidden at a Ministry of Religion Buddhism research institute to escape destruction by the Khmer Rouge. Academics say the sutra provides invaluable documentation of Cambodian religious and linguistic history. It is hoped that the sutra will lead to the revival of Cambodia as a country.

Financing has caused many headaches. The committee is redoubling its fundraising efforts in the hope of securing \$13,265 needed to produce and ship 1,200 copies of each volume. So far only enough financial backing has been found for 40 volumes.

#### DATELINE CROATIA

Destruction of art and architecture in the war in Croatia in 1991 was immense, and even more will be lost if remaining treasures are not protected. Expert, Hans Christoph von Imhoff, visited Serbia and inspected art, buildings and museum pieces, including about 10,000 pieces that Serbia carried off during fighting. Of four museums and galleries in pre-war Vukovar that harbored medieval icons, pictures, paintings and a large archeological collection, only one has survived--but it is

full of rubble. Yugoslav troops removed the bulk of Vukovar's treasure while the battles still raged. With 83 historic towns destroyed and 237 damaged, much art work has vanished. Yugoslavia says it took the artifacts only to save them and has indicated that these will be returned to Croatia after an agreement is reached on dividing common assets of the old Yugoslav federation.

#### **DATELINE BERLIN**

Many Russian artists are flocking to Berlin as a base from which to seek an international audience. They have their own hangouts, special events,

#### **DATELINE SAN JOSE, CA**

Since its unveiling in late November, the Quetzalcoat sculpture in Plaza de Cesar Chavez has split the city of San Jose, which paid \$500,000 (\$100,000 of which went for installation) to play a statue in the city's centerpiece park. The artist is Robert Graham, a world renowned artist and one-time San Jose resident. He asked that his drawings and models be kept from the public to the greatest extent possible, and that was granted. On 18 November, the sculpture was unveiled--a plumed serpent described as a 20-25 foot high work, which would include a bronze likeness of Quetzalcoat, a masonry or terra cotta base that visitors could walk into and see the interior of the sculpture and a gilded sphere representing the sun suspended above the serpent. Instead, on 18 November an almost round coiled snake made of gray polymer concrete, which has been the butt of jokes ever since. Graham said that he doesn't take the criticism of his version of Quetzalcoat personally. "Whatever people thought they were going to get, this may or may not have satisfied them. What they did get is my best effort."

#### **ART THEFTS**

Increasing numbers of art thefts are forcing up insurance rates and creating growing security problems for important British and European collections. While the overall insurance market had softened, the rates for collections of old masters were likely to increase because of the thefts.

This statement was voiced shortly after Titian's *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* and two other paintings disappeared from Longleat House in early January, home of the Marquess of Bath. The Titian theft is the latest in a series of similar burglaries in British country houses and museums.

#### **RECYCLED MATERIALS**

Like New York City and Los Angeles, artists in Columbus, Ohio now can take

advantage of "trash" which business donate for recycling into works of art by artists. Artists and educators who join re:ART can take items for free. This one, in Columbus, is sponsored by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio.

#### **NUDE PHOTOS**

The Smithsonian Institution has cut off all public access to a collection of nude photographs taken of generations of college students, some of whom went on to become leaders in American culture and government.

The photos were taken at first to study posture. Later they were made by a researcher examining what he believed to be a relationship between body shape and intelligence. Some of the institutions included Yale freshmen, and freshmen at Mount Holyoke College, Wellesley, Swarthmore, Harvard, Princeton, Vassar, etc. Among those subject to the ritual were First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, ABC-TV's Diane Sawyer, former President George Bush, etc. The photographer has since died. Much of his work was destroyed by various colleges years ago, but an article in January in the New York Times Magazine disclosed that the Smithsonian still had some of the photos. The Smithsonian has not decided whether the pictures should be destroyed. One question is whether the photos have historical merit even though the science behind them is no longer considered valid.

#### **MURAL UPDATE**

Ben Shahn's murals at the Post Office on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx, depicting the glorified representations of labor, have been deteriorating since the 1930s when they were painted with egg tempera. They are now fading, and if nothing is done soon, they will virtually vanish. Ironically, they were restored in 1977, but have deteriorated more quickly since that date than when they were painted in the 1930s.

#### **INTERESTING EXHIBITS**

**Ben Shahn and the Task of Photography in 1930's America**, Art Gallery at Hunter College in Manhattan through 25 March. Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA (8 April - 9 July); Tampa Museum of Art, Florida, 20 August - 15 October.

**Parkett**, created in collaboration with artists who each contribute an original work, is published in the form of a signed limited special edition magazine. It has recently celebrated its tenth anniversary, which was documented in an exhibition at the Peter Blum Gallery, New York City. Included

were multiples and limited special editions created by such artists as Baselitz, Boltanski, Bourgeois, Cucchi, Gilbert & George, Damien Hirst, Rebecca Horn, Koons, Kounellis, Nauman, Polke, Richter, Sherman, Warhol and Whiteread.

#### **NEA**

Jane Alexander told the Senate Appropriation Subcommittee in March that America will lose out if it sacrifices its federal commitment to the arts in the name of leaner budgets. "There is no substitution for national recognition of excellence."

#### **NETWORK NEWS**

##### **Resources on the Internet:**

**DIVA**, Digital Images for the Visual Arts, in Australia. You can connect to DIVA with the URL:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/diva/intro.html>

Here you will find in the section on Australia Art 1985-1990 images of the work of 40 contemporary Australian painters and sculptors. Other sections on Australian architecture, Aboriginal art, Claude Monet's garden.

##### **World Wide Web**

**WWW Virtual Library: Museums** comes from the Oxford University Computing Laboratory home page. Links are provided to an increasing number of museums online from the US, UK, Russia, New Zealand, Italy, Israel and Egypt. Links are also provided to library exhibits and art galleries. Some are the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and the St. Petersburg Picture Gallery, the Whitney Museum and the Smithsonian Institution.

<http://www.comlab.ox.ac.uk/archive/other/museums.html>

##### **Best of the Web 1994**

Le WebLouvre was 1994's winner of the "best of the Web" competition for good design of a WWW server. It can be reached at

<http://mistral.enst.fr/>

Includes Famous Paintings exhibition, medieval art exhibition, or a tour of Paris, along with sound if you have the facilities. No official link with the real Louvre.

**World Art Resources** at Ohio State University attempts to "compile all available arts information available over Mosaic." It provides access to galleries and exhibitions, art publications, commercial arts resources.

<http://www.cgrg.ohio-state.edu/Newark/artres/html>

**ArtWorld Online**, the Multimedia Cultural Information Service at

<http://wimsey.com/anima/>

## ARTWORLDhome.html

also tries to pull together interesting art activity on the network. It provides links to examples of experimental art, digital art, information on performance (Audio Art), video and mass media.

**Art Deadlines** provides a list of competitions and contests in the arts or related fields. It is international in scope and it advertises events which take place over the Internet. To get future editions send the message

**Subscribe Deadlines**

to

rgardner@charon.mit.edu

@art has recently been opened by collaborative group ad319. @art is a virtual internet gallery, committed to exhibiting the best in contemporary electronic art. Individual artists will be showcased on a revolving basis, with each exhibition lasting six to eight weeks. @art gallery is located in a WWW server at the School of Art & Design, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The gallery is designed to be viewed on a Macintosh, utilizing a Mosaic interface. The URL is:

<http://gertrude.art.uiu.c.edu/@art/gallery>

**Book\_ARTS-L** is a discussion list that focuses on all facets of the book arts, including binding, printing, papermaking, decorated papers, typography, graphic design, and collecting. To subscribe, send the following command via e-mail to [listserv@cornell.edu](mailto:listserv@cornell.edu):  
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For additional information, contact list owner Peter Verheyen (rare book conservator, Olin Library, Cornell University) at [pdvl@cornell.edu](mailto:pdvl@cornell.edu).

**The Los Angeles County Museum of Art** is now on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.lacma.org/>

**Bill Gates** tried to buy the Louvre last year but the deal fell through. Olivetti did buy the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and just signed a letter of intent to get rights to the Pope. (Wall St. Journal)

This indicates that the hottest and the oddest new art market in Europe is the licensing of "digital reproduction rights" to the cultural treasures of the Old World. CD-Rom is the answer to create thousands of digitized copies of paintings or photographs. Stored on each art disk are hundreds of images, which can be enlarged, commented upon, or accompanied by music. You can even print the pictures, although the software companies and the museums that

control access to the works of art do not like it very much.

Museums are quite protective, although they cannot make much money from selling CD-Rom rights, compared to a best-selling conventional art book, which can net at the most \$100,000 for a museum.

Of course, Leonardo da Vinci is a red hot property, especially after Mr. Gates purchased the Codex Hammer for \$30.8 million. Seems that Giunti Publishing Group in Italy is closing an agreement with the Gates company on putting all 15,000 pages of Leonardo's surviving manuscripts on CD-ROM--in both scholarly and consumer editions, with the artist's flying machines, water screws and other inventions animated. Giunti has accumulated reproduction rights to all of Leonardo's work and currently sells photocopied sets to libraries at \$60,000 each.

**Interaction of Color** by Josef Albers is now in an interactive CD-Rom edition, created for artists, students and designers. 150 color studies in which one can interact, study, and have one's own studies on Mac from Yale University Press, P.O. Box 209040, New Haven, CT 06520. To order, call 1-800-YUP-READ. \$125.00.

A CD-ROM version of 1994's Canadian contribution to the Bial of Sao Paulo, which featured two projects by conceptual artists Michael Morris and Vincent Trasov, work from the Color Bar Research project, begun in 1969 as a purposely unfinished collective painting. Using hundreds of tinted wooden color bars, the "endless painting" will be turned into an interactive CD ROM format disc, which will enable the viewer to call up the Color Bar Research project on screen and to manipulate and rearrange or "repaint" the components of the work. Morris and Trasov began working together in 1969, when they founded the Image Bank, a method for the collection and exchange of information among artists. They now divide their time between Vancouver and Berlin.

**UMBRELLA'S NEW ADDRESS:**  
P.O. Box 3640  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
Tel/fax: (310)399-1146.  
Please make a note of it!

## LATE NEWS & REVIEW

### REVIEWS

**There's No Place Like Home** by Laura Ratcliffe (1992) is a small softbound book printed on an offset press juxtaposing famous paintings on the left with family photographs on the right. On the left are facsimiles of paintings that seem idyllic and idealistic, while on the right the family photographs are captioned with unhappy comments and negative feelings. It gets under your skin! \$8.00 from Printed Matter.

### ART READER

**Women Artists News** (Vol. 20, 1995) is now a "Book Review", published by Midmarch Arts Press, 300 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10025-5239. Covers books on criticism, art and artists; history, religion and anthropology; women's issues; literature and poetry, and information. \$5.00 per issue at your newsstand or write.

**WhiteWalls #35**, called *a wretch like me*, guest-edited by artist Robert Blanchon, consists of written and visual confessions of private and secret personal experiences, desires, and situations. Contributors include a wide range of artists, designers, writers, critics, educators, zine producers, cult figures, and media personalities such as Jeff Black, Deborah Bright, Jackie Chang, Joanna Frueh, Kulov, Zoe Leonard, Glenn Ligon, Robert C. Morgan, Robin Poldolsky, Connie Samaras, Sam Samore, Carolee Schneemann, Millie Wilson, and others. These contributors were asked to share something about themselves that they had never told anyone (aside from, say, a therapist or soul-mate).

**The Print Collectors' Newsletter** has an article in the March/April issue about Lawrence Weiner as a Culture, a column on "Editions Fuel Publications" on Parkett and A.R.T. Press, two pioneering publishers who link art publications and multiples commissioned and sold by them to help support costs.