

NEWS & NOTES

Wine & Art Don't Mix in Colorado

The State Liquor Enforcement Division in Colorado said recently it is notifying art galleries from Aspen to Cherry Creek that serving wine and other alcoholic beverages at public showings is illegal. Galleries are open to the public, and therefore must have a license to sell alcoholic beverages. Alcohol can be served when the galleries hold private, invitation-only showings. The law has been on the books for years, but only now enforced. Someone snitched and a state inspector came out. Since the Liquor division has a shortage of retail investigators, they have been lax and overlooked any of this before.

Wild Art Shows

Boise State University and St. Edward's University in Austin, TX cohosted a beautiful and curious exhibition at the Hemingway Western Studies Center at BSU, Boise, Idaho from June - August 1995.

Sack Art includes selections from 30 World War I oil paintings done by Belgian artists who, deprived of canvas, made use of linen sacks for their art. These sacks originally contained American flour sent as war aid. Paintings include landscapes, portraits, and still lifes.

The Belgian works are joined by 15 beautiful Idaho burlap potato sacks, including Route 26, Viking, Minidoka Princess, and Yellow Rose brands. Idaho sack art is also represented by Marilyn Monroe, shown wearing a Twin Falls, Idaho fresh shipper's potato sack fashioned into a form-fitting swimsuit for a publicity photograph early in the movie star's career.

The Hemingway Center Galleries will be open daily and weekends and admission will be free.

Tablecloth Games (Jeux de Nappes) which appeared at the Pavillon des Arts in the Paris district of Les Halles included 179 restaurant drawings by Picasso, Max Ernst, Alexander Calder, Jean Cocteau, Paul Valery, Paul Eluard and Balthus, among many more, who doodled and "fooled around" the restaurant tables between 1944

and 1952. Many used the stains of spilled wine or coffee translating them into instant images, often of exotic-looking animals, with color and contrast added by anything in reach--dampened cigarette ash and coffee beans, dabs of mustard, lipstick, ink and even tomato ketchup. Most of these were done at a little Left Bank bistro called Le Catalan, where Georges Hugnet, painter, poet, bookbinder and the first person to translate Gertrude Stein into French, ate daily and it was around his table that many of the artistic lights of the period would gather. The exhibition closed on 30 April.

Subway Art: Putting a new twist on the adage that one man's task is another man's treasure, Christian Boltanski, the french artist, turned Grand Central subway terminal into a gallery by putting more than 5,000 objects from its lost and found department on display. Along with the ubiquitous raincoats and briefcases left behind on the commuter trains, there was a pornographic video, musical keyboard, football helmet, ready-to-paint clay figurines, bicycle, coffee grinder, Swahili dictionary, scuba mask and Bibles. The items, on exhibit, were set on shelves and surrounded by an eight-foot chain link fence. After one month on display, they were donated to charity. Boltanski said the items "evoke the absence of those who have lost them, of those who have lost themselves."

The Intermedia Society, the first "artist-run center" in Canada, was celebrated by Art Metropole in Toronto from 25 March - 25 April 1995. The aim was to honor the roots of the Canada artist-run system, to remember the original intentions and methods of working, and to reflect on the current position of stasis. Most of the objects in the show were a byproduct of performances and process and were not valued at the time: from posters and newsletters to instructions for conceptual works. Founders were Jack Sahdbolt, Iain Baxter of the N.E. Thing Company and architect Arthur Erickson. Other artists were Bill Bissett, Don Druick, Glenn Lewis, Michael Morris, David

Rimmer, etc. The exhibition was curated by AA Bronson, one of the three artists of General Idea and a founding member of Art Metropole.

Poésie Sonnée, a Sound Poetry exhibition/performance at elac, espace lyonnais d'art in Lyon, France, from 2 April - 7 May 1995 with the participation of Stephane Berard, Julien Blaine, Jean-Francois Bory, Charles Dreyfus, Jean Dupuy, Manon Anne Gillis, Pierre Giouse, Joel Hubaut, Joe Jones, Arnaud LaBelle-Rojoux, Anne-Marie Lager Favre, Jean-Jacques Lebel, Rosario Mineo, Baudoin Ossterlynck, Philippe Perrin, Serge Pey, Patrick Ravella and Bernard Fort, Gilles Richard, Pierre Tilman.

Ben pour ou contre, une rétrospective is taking place at MAC, the contemporary galleries of the Museums of Marseille, from 14 July through 1 October 1995.

Art in the Air, a new art gallery show at the Tower Air terminal at Kennedy International Airport in New York includes work by Peter Halley, Jeff Koons and Keith Haring, Frank Stella and Robert Rauschenberg. All the works have been borrowed from well-known New York galleries by private art dealer, Jeffrey Deitch, and are all for sale from \$1,500 to \$400,000.

new periodicals

IGT (Box 299, Prince St. Station, New York, NY 10012, \$20/4 issues, \$5.50 copy) documents graffiti artists (writers) who find recognition by producing public art that is free from the commodity marketplace. There are interviews, articles, and a stunning visual record in each issue. This also is an archive of graffiti work, and complete back issues are still available. So every art library should have this title, documenting one small part of a complex total of visual history.

memorials

"There's Nothing More Exciting than Something You Don't Know About": a Celebration of the Life of Eric Mottram: Poems-Music-Tapes held in the Great Hall at King's College, The Strand, London on 3 March 1995 to celebrate the life of

Eric Mottram (1928-1995) with the participation of sound poets and writers such as Jerome Rothenberg, Paula Claire, Thomas A. Clark, Mort Sahl, Bob Cobbin and John Whiting, Jeff Nuttall and more.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: The Morse code--the Coast Guard has abandoned this system of communication which was sent first in 1844 by Samuel F.B. Morse. As every schoolchild once had to learn, that message was, "What hath God wrought."

Found: A pair of Fra Angelico panels which have been lost for well over a century have appeared in London, depicting the Blessed and the Damned. The central panel of the triptych has been missing since the 19th century and probably was The Last Judgment.

Found: 74 long lost French paintings on show at the Hermitage Museum in Russia. Catalog published by Harry N. Abrams for \$20.62 in Russian and \$51.55 in English. Paintings belong to German collectors, but the Russians hid these paintings until now. Oscar Krebs once owned 56 of the 74 paintings on exhibit. Russia feels that Germany lost the war after looting many thousands of art treasures from the Soviet Union, which won the war and looted in return. Russia would like to exchange stolen cultural treasures, but a lot of what the Nazis took is now in private hands. The exhibition is called "Hidden Treasures Revealed."

Lost: The Harbourfront Centre arts and recreational complex in Toronto will close on 15 September, and the land and buildings will be handed back to the federal government. The Ottawa-based federal government cut its contribution for upkeep, killing the program. 4,000 events a year from the International Festival of Authors to concerts for children will be cancelled. But the greatest loss for us is the Power Plant contemporary art gallery, which will be closed.

Restored: Attempts to keep the Leaning Tower of Pisa from tipping over included pouring liquid

nitrogen into 178 holes around the 12th-century tower to freeze the ground, helping to prevent vibrations as they begin removing the meter-deep layer of cement and mortar under its base.

Floundering: The American Center in Paris's finances are threatening the center's survival because the private donations needed to run it have not come through. Rumors have it that they may sell the Frank Gehry new building and rent it from the owners.

Mutilated: A collection of photographs including autographed pictures of Miles Davis, Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker, borrowed by the University of California, Santa Cruz library for Black History Month commemorative display from Mick Gannon has been cut, cropped and taped over to make a large collage. Some autographs, some addressed to Mr. Gannon, had been cut, and the pianist Horace Silver's band was trimmed away. The librarian said the "cutting was a mistake."

Removed: Henry Moore's Draped reclining figure, Ben Nicholson's painting, Spirit of Architecture, a Geoffrey Clarke sculpture and a clock by the Ironside Brothers were removed after legal action was attempted to prevent Time-Life in London from removing those works of art from its former office building in London's New Bond Street. As a result, Time-Life is free to sell the works. An appeal has been initiated by the Westminster City Council.

Lost: After 80 years, the Canadian Army has decided that sending artists to cover wars is like hiring a calligrapher to do the office photocopying. This will be the end of the Canadian war-art program, which has produced over 11,000 works for the Canadian War Museum, including paintings from the two most recent major commissions--Somalia and the Persian Gulf war.

Trying to Recover: For decades, the Italian government had a list of artworks looted by the Nazis in Italy during World War II, locked away at the Foreign Ministry. The

catalog of 2,356 objects was allowed to fade from prominence in the 1980s in deference to keeping good relations with West Germany.

Now Italy is emboldened to retrieve these objects, since united Germany's recent claims against Russia for the return of German artworks seized in Nazi Germany by Soviet troops have made the headlines. Italy suspects one-fifth of Italy's lost art might have landed in Russia. After languishing after former policeman and art collector, Rodolfo Siviero, had headed an art-recovery agency under the Foreign Ministry, this year the catalog which is updated will be published in Italian, English and German. In addition to works by Michelangelo, Tintoretto and Titian, it lists many paintings by 14th-century artists like Simone Maritni and Pietro Lorenzetti, works of Roman sculpture, Etruscan and Hellenistic jewelry and medieval art like a 13th-century baptismal font.

Beheaded: Two figures of a Henry Moore sculpture were found beheaded recently at an outdoor gallery on a Scottish estate. Police were looking for the missing heads of the "King and Queen," a bronze of a man and woman sitting on a bench, which was described as one of the late sculptor's most important works. Detectives said that the decapitation was probably vandalism but they did not rule out political activism as a possibility.

Lost & Found Again: Two gold artifacts stolen from a National Geographic Society museum were recovered from a Washington, DC pawnshop, one day after they were taken and just hours after a \$20,000 reward was offered for their return. The two king vultures were among three pre-Columbian gold artifacts stolen from the society's Explorers Hall Museum, dating from about 1400.

Preserved: The archives of the works of Gordon Park, including photographs, music, papers, films, recordings and drawings, have been acquired by the Library of Congress as a gift from the artist, who "wanted it all stored under one roof and a roof that I could respect."

MUSEUMS

A 17th-century Carmelite convent has become Rome's newest museum, the **Modern and Contemporary Municipal Art Gallery**. Opened in January, the collection comprises more than 4,500 works dating from 1883 to 1943. Address is 24 Via Francesco Crispi. Open Tuesday to Sunday.

The Bata Show Museum opened in Toronto, Canada on 6 May with Edward Maeder, formerly the costume curator of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, its new director. The whole philosophy of the museum is that footwear holds the key to human identity--social status, climate, religion, sex and profession of the wearer. The study of shoes can chart a country's technological development and mark even the subtlest shifts in attitudes, values and fashion.

The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas will be building a new 185,000-square-foot building desired by Spanish architect, Rafael Moneo. The building will break ground in 1996 and be finished in 1999. An underground gallery will link this new building to the 1924 building and two additions, desired by Mies van der Rohe in 1958 and 1974.

Kobe's disaster relief from the earthquake on January 17 came in the form of assistance from American museum experts, such as the conservators at the J. Paul Getty Museum, who traveled to Kobe with others to assess the damage at the **Otani Memorial Museum**, the **Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Modern Art**, the **Kobe Municipal Museum** and private facilities. Many of the museums benefited a lot from "fate", said the experts, since several large galleries happened to be empty during the quake. Most of the damage to artworks is repairable, but it could have been prevented. Although Japanese conservators were aware of measures that have been successfully used by the Getty to mitigate earthquake damage, Kobe museums--like institutions in seismic areas in many other countries--had not implemented those methods. The Internet will be

the link between Japanese conservators and foreign colleagues, with a larger meeting between Japanese conservators and their American counterparts in the near future.

The **Prado** museum in Madrid, after the embarrassment of a leaking roof and talk of rats in the basement, has at last been promised the money and additional space to justify its place as the crown jewel of Spanish culture. An international architectural competition to find the best design has begun. It will involve the neighboring Palacio del Buen Retiro with two buildings being added to incorporate the ruins of the cloisters of the Jeronimos Church, immediately behind the Prado's headquarters, and the other, on vacant land adjoining the main museum building. These new buildings will incorporate offices, restaurant, cloakrooms, shop and library.

Not only the infrastructure, but the design will be a challenge. In addition, with such a large collection of 7,679 paintings, 907 statues, 6,068 drawings and 2,186 engravings in its collection, it wants 25 curators but can afford only 10.

A one and only stop **Monet** exhibition, **Claude Monet: 1840-1946**, curated by Charles Stuckey, Curator of Twentieth Century Art at the **Art Institute of Chicago** will take place from 22 July to 26 November 1995. To order tickets within the US, phone (800)929-5800, or from abroad 0101-708-889-9800. There will be 156 oil paintings and five works on paper. This is the largest show ever of Monet's work.

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo's Koto Ward opened on 18 March and displays some 3,500 paintings and sculptures that formerly were shown at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum.

The Guggenheim Museum is planning to open three new museum sites in Venice, with Venice's city government covering most of the costs. Two of the 41 national pavilions in the Castello Gardens, the site of the Venice Biennale, would be converted into year-round

art spaces. The Italian Pavilion would become a Museum of Contemporary Art, and the American Pavilion, already owned by the Guggenheim, would exhibit works by contemporary artists. A third site, a 16th-century salt factory on the Giudecca Canal, would be transformed into the Guggenheim Museum Venice, also featuring contemporary works. The Guggenheim already owns and operates the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni on Venice's Grand Canal.

The Cooper-Hewitt, the National Design Museum that is part of the Washington-based Smithsonian Institution, his about to embark on a \$20 million renovation that will force the museum to close for a year, beginning on 21 August. This is the first time the home of Andrew Carnegie will be expanded for better climate control and more efficient study and storage areas, as well as more of the museum will be open to the public.

The International Museum of Cartoon Art to open in January 1996 in Boca Raton, Florida, will contain the largest collection of cartoon and comic strip art in the world--an eclectic array of editorial cartoons, caricatures, comic strips and comic books, magazine and book illustrations, advertising art, greeting cards and animated films.. The museum will host animation festivals, cartoonists' conventions, and other special events, estimating 1 million visitors a year.

PERFORMANCE ART

Artpool in Budapest is celebrating Performance in 1995 with nine days of performance videos from around the world through July 1995. All materials are stored in the video-archives of Artpool for researchers and other people interested to see them. There are works by 300 artists from 20 countries.

In the Fall of 1995, Artpool is planning to organize further screenings of the performance videos of the Artpool Archives in Budapest, from 25 September to 6 October. A catalog for both performance events will be published in September.. For more

information, write to Artpool, H-1277, Budapest 23, pf.52, Hungary.

The founders of Artpool, Gyorgy Galantai and Julia Klaniczay Galantai were in Quebec from 20 April - 7 May at Le Lieu with a performance and lecture and an exhibition of the Hands Project for the first time, as well as a conference-Performance at Articule in Montreal.

Brazilian performance artist, Jonas dos Santos, known for his sculpture and performances that emphasize recycled materials, has been living in Newark, New York since Earth Day, 22 April, and enlisted the help of community members in making his sculptures and costumes. Their "art materials" consist of string, cloth and plastic from Goodwill Industries, and old newspapers donated by the local newspaper.

They have used about 100 bundles of the newspaper, or approximately a ton for his residency, which ended 8 July. The piece is called "Eco Artreach", including all participants wearing headdresses and outfits made from the newspaper "vines", sculpted into abstract flower and gourd shapes. Others will be wearing tunics made of foam shoulder pads, overlapping like plates of armor.

ARTISTS IN MOVIES

Robert Longo, David Salle and now Julian Schnabel! Where will it all end? At any rate, it is now known that Julian Schnabel is making a film, called "Build a Fort, Set it on Fire" about the life of Jean-Michel Basquiat. The film, budgeted at just under \$3 million and to be made in a lightning-fast 30 days, has David Bowie playing

Andy Warhol, Dennis Hopper playing the Swiss dealer Bruno Bischofberger, and early supporter of Basquiat's. Michael Chow, the restaurateur, appears as himself; Parker Posey appears as Mary Boone; and Basquiat is played by Jeffrey Wright. Basquiat is the young painter who came up from being a graffiti artist to the darling of the art world, who overdosed at the age of 27. Gary Oldman plays an older artist, a composite of Schnabel et al.

CENSORSHIP

The censorship case in Canada, which tested Canada's tough child pornography law, seems to have been resolved with the return of works to a Toronto artist that the police removed from an art gallery's walls. Eli Langer's 5 paintings and 35 sketches, which portrayed children and adults in sexual acts, stirred bitter controversy over police powers and freedom of expression. The judge finally decided the case upon the "uncontradicted evidence of the art experts that in the view of the artistic community, Mr. Langer's work has artistic merit." The tug of war between aesthetics and the child pornography law, which makes it a crime to own, make, exhibit or sell anything that depicts a sexual act by anyone under 18, will come to a head when Mercer Union gallery will exhibit the works again in September for the public to decide. It took 18 months out of the life of the artist, Eli Langer.

Carlo Pittore, longtime mail artist, catalyst, and painter from Bowdoin, Maine, was asked to remove 7 paintings of nudes from an exhibit

of 13 paintings scheduled to be shown in the lobby of the Portland Stage (Maine) for one week during the current run of a play, called *Sight Unseen*. Pittore refused, and withdrew the entire exhibit. His comment: "Our society evidently has difficulty in dealing with paintings of naked people."

Young Art in Germany after Beuys, an exhibition sponsored by Goethe Institute in Hong Kong, was censored by the authorities in Hong Kong, and the title exhibit was removed after officials declared it illegal. A government team turned up to confiscate the installation *Die Hoerhner* by the late artist, Joseph Beuys. They claimed that the Goethe Institute had no license to display the two rhino horns connected by blood-filled tubing, and that under the terms of the Animals and Plants (Protection of Endangered Species) Ordinance, the piece had to be taken to their laboratories for investigation. A diplomatic incident was only narrowly avoided when, after intervention by the German Consulate-General, the officers allowed the work to remain in the Arts Centre as long as it was taken down. The work was insured for \$10 million.

A cardboard fig leaf has been used to cover the distinguishing features of a bronze sculpture, *New Man*, by Dame Elisabeth Frink on display in Central Hong Kong, considered as indecent because it depicts a nude lifesize male.

