
NEWS & NOTES

MUSEUM NEWS

The new Seattle Art Museum opened in early December. Designed by Robert Venturi, the Philadelphia architect, the limestone-covered rectangle with a streak of tile and terra cotta around its outside, takes up a city block in downtown Seattle.

Museums in 1991 and early 1992 are shoveling gifts in this biggest gift-giving rollercoaster, since the government has permitted donors of valuable objects to deduct their full market value on income-tax returns. This window, now extended for the first six months of 1992, will produce a remarkable wave of gifts unmatched in the past decade!

A \$1 million reward was announced in the New York Times in March for any information leading to the successful recovering of art stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Buckminster Fuller's round Dymaxion House, which was created in only two prototypes, has been given to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. Because Fuller couldn't get money for tooling, even though there were 30,000 requests, the design was never mass-produced.

Chris Hardman is exhibiting "Etiquette of the Undercaste", an interactive journey in the world of the poor. a graphic, at times chilling, portray of poverty and homelessness, at the Smithsonian Museum's Experimental Gallery. In the midst of Congress' attack on the National Endowment for the Arts, the exhibition could be considered "risky", but still gives people the experience of poverty on a deeply personal level. From a trip to heaven, where, after getting up from the morgue slab, you wait with other cooing babies to be reborn. After a spin of a roulette wheel, you slide down into a tenement and look up at your mom, who's high on crack. This is a 30-minute tour through a 7000 sq. foot maze, giving the visitor

a disoriented and isolated feeling through the use of a Walkman. Included are real-life interviews from the streets of Northern California to create a soundtrack that is by turns a jarring cacophony and an almost hypnotic layering of voices. The exhibition closes in mid-April.

Musée Americain Giverny, a museum devoted to the works of American impressionist artists who studied and painted in Giverny, has opened this spring, a next-door neighbor to Monet's famous house and gardens in Giverny. Wouldn't you know that Daniel J. Terra, the chemical manufacturer, financier, U.S. Ambassador-at-large for cultural affairs during the Reagan regime and an art collector who financed the \$35 million Terra Museum of American Art in Chicago five years ago, bought the property in 1987. The Claude Monet Foundation isn't upset about it, breathing a sigh of relief that the land didn't go to build a cheap housing development, but the residents of Giverny are concerned, because there is already so much traffic in the village. More than 500,000 tourists visit Giverny each year.

The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York is losing two of its branches, the Equitable branch and the downtown branch on Maiden Lane.

The La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art changed its name two years ago to the **San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art**. Now two years later, with budget cutbacks, staff reductions and a fund-raising effort slowed by the recession, the museum is spending tens of thousands of dollars as payment to Pentagram, an internationally known graphic design firm in London, to develop a new logo for another name change, the **Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego**. No comment.

Watergate: The 20th Anniversary of the Break-In is an performance which took place on 3 April at the Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University in Brookville, NY.

The Tate Gallery in London has been the recipient of a large gift of

paintings from the Saatchi Collection, among which are paintings by Julian Schnabel, Julian Opie, Richard Deacon and others helping round the museum's collection.

NEA NEWS

Not only has the director of the NEA resigned as of 1 May, but both Highways and Franklin Furnace have been denied their grants. Franklin Furnace has subsequently received another grant in another category.

Protests are still being voiced.

Recently, John E. Frohnmayer has attacked Patrick J. Buchanan, presidential candidate using the NEA as a means of battering President Bush on the campaign trail, by calling him "A Frankenstein Monster that George Bush helped to create."

Franklin D. Murphy, chairman of the National Gallery of Art, admonished the nation's artists in March that they cannot expect full freedom to explore explicit and homo-erotic themes in work that is subsidized by public grants. He maintains that the public has a right to play a role in judging the content of work its tax money supports. He defends the requests by those on the right that applications for grants under the NEA be sharply scrutinized for subject matter considered controversial, particularly "homoeroticism."

The NEA denied grants to Franklin Furnace in Los Angeles and Highways in Santa Monica. Luckily, Franklin Furnace, the avant-garde space known for artists' book archive and launching performance artists, the one for Franklin Furnace being a substantial \$25,000 for operating expenses. Saved by the Norton Family Foundation with \$25,000 and a promised \$10,000 grant from the Art Dealers' Association of America, this shows a sign that there are groups and individuals who can come through in time of need in the United States.

WARHOL

The Estate of Andy Warhol has received \$8 million to settle its medical malpractice and wrongful death suit against the New York Hospital. Also, under the terms of that agree-

ment, New York Hospital conceded no wrongdoing. The estate and Warhol's two elderly brothers, John and Paul Warhola of Pittsburgh, will benefit financially from the settlement.

PERIODICALS, LOST & FOUND

Connoisseur magazine, owned by the Hearst Corporation, was killed in early January after 90 years of publication.

Artspace, a periodical formerly located in Albuquerque, has moved to Los Angeles with the support of collector, Frederick R. Weisman, with a plan to turn a 16-year-old regional publication into the high-profile magazine that Los Angeles art community has longed for.

The Journal of Art has gone under, and subscribers are receiving **The Art Newspaper**, a two-year-old British publication with about 5,000 paid subscribers. A U.S. edition printed in the States has started, while the Art Newspaper will include a special section devoted to art news in the United States.

ViewCamera, the Journal of Large Format Photography, published every other month, covers portfolios and interviews, how-to articles, equipment reviews, product reviews and special features. Available from ViewCamera, Editorial Office, Box 18-8166, Sacramento, CA 95818.

Artscribe, which recently had a renaissance after having some problems, is also another victim of the 1990s. It "suspended" publication with its Feb.-Mar. issue, having been relaunched under new ownership. With a circulation of 8,000 subscribers, that "wasn't sufficient to give the publishers enough confidence in the difficult contemporary art market."

Leonardo Music Journal (LMJ) has been launched with Larry Polansky as guest editor, and articles on perspectives of experimental music, with articles by artists as well as theoretical articles. There is also a CD, **Anthology of Music for the 21st Century**, the first in a series. For more information, write to Box 75,

1442A Walnut St., Berkeley, CA 94709 or 8 rue Emile Dunois, 92100 Boulogne sur Serine, France.

LOST & FOUND

Lost & Found: Phoenician antiquities are being bought and sold in Beirut--along with many more archeological artifacts up and down the coastal crossroad of Lebanon. Glassware, coins, statuettes and oil lamps are literally popping to the surface in farmers' fields and rural construction sites, creating a virtual archeological free-for-all. It's Lebanon's loss and some museum's gain at a profit!

FOUND: Hans Holbein's 1528 painting Lady with a Squirrel has been sold to the National Gallery in London for about \$17 million. The Marquess of Cholmondeley had consigned the painting to Christie's London for sale on 15 April, but the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Art Collections Fund pooled resources to save the painting from the auction block and keep it in Britain. Proceeds of the sale will help preserve historic Houghton Hall in Norfolk, built for Robert Walpole, England's first prime minister.

FOUND: a permanent location for the Robert Arneson sculpture of slain Mayor George Moscone, a multicolored, 1000-pound ceramic smiling head atop a pedestal marked with dark images and words relating to the mayor's 1978 murder. The M.H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park is the site as of April.

LOST: There is a new meaning to "art walk" in Sweden, when an art gallery visitor walked off with a painting valued at \$600,000 recently. The heist occurred while the gallery owner was busy talking on the telephone. A man unhooked the landscape painting, "Sandhamn" by Anders Zorn, and carried it out of a gallery in Uppsala, 60 miles north of Stockholm. Zorn was a prominent turn-of-the-century artist in Sweden.

Lost: 42 historic Croatian cities, 235 churches and monasteries, 163 palaces and mansions, 63 museums and libraries and 14 archeological

sites, as of January 1992, in the Yugoslavian civil war.

Saved: The Arts Foundation in Great Britain has given Ian Hamilton Finlay's landscape garden, **Little Sparta**, a grant for conservation.

Lost: A collection of 18th- and 19th-century drawings and manuscripts in the Dzhanshavia Museum of Georgia and two major repositories for Georgia contemporary art, the House of Georgian Artists and the Picture Gallery, were also destroyed, along with their contents, by fire in the two-week civil war that broke out in late December in Soviet Georgia.

WAR ARTIST

John Keane, artist commissioned by the Imperial War Museum in London to depict the Gulf War, portrayed "Mickey Mouse at the Front" and other paintings. Spending a month in the war zone taking pictures, sketching and talking with soldiers and journalists, Keane defends his response to what he witnessed when he was there, finding it a profoundly disturbing experience. He has been criticized by many as being "depraved" in his portrayals of the war. The Mickey Mouse painting was recently purchased by the Imperial War Museum.

PHOTOGRAPHY

An ambitious program to photograph 200 of the world's cultural and natural wonders and to make the images instantly available worldwide through digital transmission was recently announced at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO. The desire to accumulate a collection of "quality images" documenting such famous sites as Angkor Wat in Cambodia, El Dorado (pre-Columbian ruins) in Peru, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Colombia. Backed by the Caixa Foundation in Barcelona and implemented by the Gamma photographic agency in Paris, Kodak will provide the digital expertise and France Telecom, the French national telephone and communications corporation, will handle transmission of the project's images by satellite and digital telephone lines.

Selected by three experts from a growing list of new sites (some of which have already been completed), the sites will be photographed by Gamma-chosen photographers.

Brett Weston's burning of his negatives in mid-December sent shock waves through the world of photography. All but 12 of his negatives were destroyed, as per a pledge he made 10 years ago. Many of our readers recall the photograph of Mr. Weston, son of modernist photographer Edward Weston, sitting in front of his fireplace, throwing in 75 of his negatives, one by one, and watching as they caught fire, curl up and burn. Brett Weston, however, knew exactly what he was doing. He just didn't want someone else to print his photographs, since he was the only one to know the way he intended to have them printed.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art announced the formation of a separate photography department headed by Dr. Maria Morris Hambourg, while the Whitney Museum of American Art will begin to acquire photographs for its permanent collection.

FORGERIES

Since Diego Giacometti's death in 1985 at the age of 82, he has been flattered beyond anyone's belief when a coterie of 25 people, including several Paris art dealers, have been found guilty of selling 378 bronzes attributed to Diego Giacometti from 1986 to 1990, 260 of which have been designated fakes. The fakes alone brought around \$33 million. The police came upon the fraud while investigating another criminal market in steroids.

J.S.G. Boggs, renowned practitioner of currency art, also has as his claim to fame the Secret Service's confiscation of some of his notes. They still have them, in fact. But an exhibition of some pieces still outside the Secret Service collection were on display at the Baghoomian Gallery in New York City in February. Boggs, a professor of art and ethics at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, hand-draws an original of

his Boggs bill and then reproduces that note in editions of 10. Some of these he uses to obtain goods and services. Items such as Yamaha Virago motorcycle, a bathrobe and itemized bill from a Washington hotel. The difference between Boggs' money and other forgeries, is that Boggs explains how his money is different from U.S. currency, and for another, the back of the bill has no design.

Ted Robertson, a former Calistoga, California gallery owner, is being investigated by U.S. and international authorities in connection with a multimillion-dollar international art forgery ring, involving storage lockers in Santa Rosa full of forged prints of Picasso, Chagall and other 20th-century masters.

VIDEO LIBRARY

At the Videothèque de Paris, the world's first automated video library, you can view Paris through a variety of perspectives and time periods. 4,000 documentaries, feature films, TV programs, commercials, newsreels and experimental films are included in the archive, with 200 to 300 new videos added a year. It is located at Porte St.-Eustache, 2 Grand Galerie, 75001 Paris in the Forum des Halles.

GEORGIA O'KEEFFE FOUNDATION

The Foundation has decided to publish a four-volume catalogue raisonné of the artist's work published and produced with the National Gallery of Art in Washington. It is also planning an international exhibition, its curator to be Charles Eldredge, a professor of art history at the University of Kansas, who is also on the foundation's board. The exhibition is to include 70 works from American museums, private collections and the foundation's holdings. The exhibition is to open in the spring of 1993 at the Hayward Gallery in London, and then will travel to the Yokohama Museum in Japan and the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City.

In addition, the Foundation is transferring the artist's private letters and papers to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. And it is renovating

O'Keeffe's adobe house in Abiquiu, NM, where the foundation is headquartered. The foundation cannot make decisions about the substantial art collection, because there is a bitter dispute between Juan Hamilton, O'Keeffe's companion, and her heirs over O'Keeffe's estate. Although the case was settled 5 years ago, the Internal Revenue Service has still not determined the market value of the foundation's art holdings.

WALTER BENJAMIN REMEMBERED

The Visual Arts in a Technological Age, a Centennial Rereading of Walter Benjamin, was celebrated at Wayne State University on 4 April 1992, in an all-day symposium.

FLUXUS ARTISTS

Alison Knowles had an exhibition, entitled Um-Laut, works on fiber and paper, 17 January - 22 February 1992 at Galerie Schuppenhauer, Cologne, Germany.

She also had an exhibition entitled "Bread and Water" at the Emily Harvey Gallery from 13 March - 18 April 1992, involving cyanotype and palladium prints, as well as baked loaves of bread.

Philip Corner: Pieces of Reality was exhibited at Emily Harvey Gallery, New York City, 31 January - 29 February 1992.

Edizioni Conz, Verona sponsored an exhibition of **Dick Higgins, Jackson Mac Low, Emmett Williams** and **Gerhard Ruhm** in Vienna on 7 December 1991 through 31 December.

Music for Eye & Ear including a myriad of Fluxus artists was held from 13 December 1991 - 25 January 1992 at the Emily Harvey Gallery, New York City.

Ben Vautier, widely known simply as "Ben", an Italian-born Swiss citizen living in Nice, conceived a recent exhibition in Paris in the Forum, which is in the lobby of the Pompidou Center in Paris. A giant black-and-white electronic screen displayed, at regular intervals, a series of pronouncements on the nature of art. He had

sent out a request to artists, historians, writers, philosophers, ethnologists, and museum officials to send in their quotations about art and culture. 200 were selected.

The screen was blanked by 12 panels, each painted with some basic metaphysical questions on art, such as "Why Art", "What is Art?" and "Where is Art going?"

GETTY CENTER ACQUISITION

An important addition to the Getty Center has been the recent purchase of the archive of Cologne's Galerie Paul Maenz, one of the leading avant-garde galleries in Europe from 1970 until its closing in January 1990. It includes the gallery's correspondence, library, photo documentation and a portion of its financial records. The archive will eventually be transferred to an electronic database and made accessible to researchers. Most of the art included Conceptual art and Arte Povera, showing artists like Joseph Kosuth, Hanne Darboven, Victor Burgin, Hans Haacke and Giulio Paolini. Then the 1980s included Cucchi, Clemente, Fetting and Kiefer.

COPY ART

Reproductions is a wonderful cooperative publication from the Ringling School of Art. Created in 1987, and published twice a year, it asked everyone to contribute original copy art on a theme, and the product is an amazing portfolio of original art from many places. From 1987 through 1990, you can find wonderful copy art from around the U.S. For only \$5.00 for each issue, write to Yve Morse, Library, Ringling School of Art, 2700 Tamiami Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234.

NEW ART

Bay Area artists have been invited to create works of art from simple canvas bags. Artists will weave, dye, paint, print and sculpt applied canvas bags, encouraging the conservation of resources and celebrates the creative spirit of its artists. Some of the artists are Nance O'Banion, Roberta Loach, Barbara Parsons, E.Z. Smith and Inez Storer, among others. The exhibition will open on 17 May and will continue through 12 July. The

finished bags will be auctioned on 21 June 1992.

Smog Art Collectors, a Southern California Work in Progress by Kim Abeles, and sponsored by the California Bureau of Automotive Repair, Department of Consumer Affairs, is a travelling show. Abeles, an L.A. sculptor, collects particle pollution and after 40 days, the work materializes into poignant images that reveal Southern California's most troubling legacy.

Solar Artwork, Secrets of the Sun: Millennial Meditations, I by Los Angeles artist Peter Erskine was installed in the ancient chambers of Trajan's Markets in Rome. The \$300,000 project, designed to show the beauty and the danger of sunlight, was funded by the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation. This exhibition (through 10 May) is the first in a series of contemporary art exhibitions planned for the historic site.

EROTICA

In 1993, when the British Library will be moving to new premises, at which time their large storerooms of erotica will be put on the shelves with the ordinary stock. From Playboy magazine, a study of paintings by Degas, Alex Comfort's *Joy of Sex*, translations of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* lots more. Instead of concerning itself with the morals of its readers, it is now only concerned with the physical preservation of its books. The 2,000 books in the Private Case were only cataloged in 1983 and are now available for reading at a special table in the North Library, where they can be closely watched by the staff.

HONEYMOON PROJECT

Having been born in Spain, Antoni Miralda always had a sense of procession and ritual, parade and cultural differences. This was an important factor in his orchestration of the marriage of the Statue of Liberty and the Statue of Columbus in Barcelona, the wedding being the culmination of a long series of events leading to the Las Vegas ceremony on 14 February 1992, Valentine's Day. What this event did is bring communities and cultures together.

The engagement gown was presented at the Javits Convention Center, New York City in 1986, weighing 1000 pounds and measuring 100 feet. The TV engagement ring was made of recycled coke cans released for the anniversary of the statue by the Coca Cola Company and the diamond was the video monitor encrusted with pearls. The trousseau gifts came from around the world and were sewn by the very women who sew in large fabric factories in Terrassa, Spain where the artist was born.

The nightgown weighed 800 pounds and was 96 feet tall and was shown in Miami. Columbus' wedding costume was shown at Seibu Department Store in Japan.

In Barcelona, there was a love letters contest, exhibiting the words from Columbus to his bride, the Statue of Liberty. The wedding cake was made by hundreds of pastry chefs in Paris and was presented during the 100th anniversary of the Eiffel Tower. There was something from many other countries, making this the ultimate collaboration.

The wedding rings contained sea water from Spain and America, the bridal veil and bridal bouquet were exhibited at the Miro Foundation in Barcelona, and the wedding in Las Vegas brought the Old World together with the New America creating a bridge and a harmonious event. The Nuptial Bedspreed was carried by 100 people in the Columbus Day Parade in New York City, whereas the Liberty Bell Cape was created by 35 Mummies groups in Philadelphia in 1990, creating new meaning to symbols.

At the Las Vegas ceremony, done outdoors in Red Rock Canyon Park under a clear sky and with a sliver of a moon, there were slides projected across the rocks with the Statue of Liberty and the Statue of Columbus finally saying "I Do", the words on the rocks. The Wedding gown was hanging high from the top of the rocks, and the rings were brought in. White stretch limousines were set in a circle and their trunks were opened with exhibits of foods that were brought either from North America to Europe or vice-versa, in a fantastically aesthetic exhibition. It was the wedding of weddings.