

NEWS & NOTES

LOST & FOUND

Lost: A thief stole a \$1.3 million painting by Camille Corot from a room without TV surveillance at the Louvre in Paris in May. The theft--the second this year at the Paris landmark--caused officials to question security at a world-class art museum. A lack of funding prevented the Louvre from putting TV cameras in every room. Is "Winged Victory" next?

Recovered: Ellsworth Kelly's *Sculpture for a Large Wall, 1957* which was in the Transportation Building in downtown Philadelphia was rescued by Matthew Marks from demolition and was on exhibit at his gallery in Chelsea through mid-June.

Rushing to Recover: The Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi. The Lower Church is visited by tourists, the upper church, well, they're aiming for the year 2000, a jubilee year, but gone are Giotto's major frescoes, another damaged fresco by Jacopo Torriti A Cimabue is gone too, but buy the Abrams book which was published just before the earthquake to see what you will have missed! Mother Nature really dominates us all.

Found & restored: A mural by Philip Guston and Reuben Kadish at the City of Hope Hospital in Duarte, California. The mural is now at the City of Hope's new visitors center, with the restored mural as its centerpiece. Executed in 1935 - 36, the mural depicts more than 30 figures and a sweeping progression of life in a T-shape around the central portal.

Stolen and Recovered: Three gunmen stole two Van Goghs and a Cezanne from the National Gallery of Art in Rome in May. *Le Jardinier* by Van Gogh and *L'Arlesienne* were Italy's only oils by the painter. *Le Cabanon de Jourdan* was the country's only important Cezanne.

The thieves apparently hid in the museum after closing time, and then burst into the basement security room, where they tied up two guards and forced a third to deactivate the alarms. Flash! Just before going to press, the three paintings were recovered and 8 suspects were arrested, including a museum guard.

Lost: Randolph Street Gallery in Chicago, one of the city's most innovative artist-run organizations.

Found: A 16th century painting of Christ has been found in a Portuguese bank vault. The *Kwer'ata Re'esu* (The Striking of the Head) is believed to have been stolen 130 years ago by Richard Holmes, who later became British Queen Victoria's librarian.

Known as the most important icon of the Ethiopian Imperial dynasty for three centuries, the painting was looted by a British expeditionary force sent to punish Ethiopia in 1868 and then it vanished.

Found: A Greek Satyr, most likely from 3d or 4th c. B.C., probably representing a Dionysian satyr in mid-dance has been found in Mazzara del Vallo, Sicily by fishermen working about 50 miles off Sicily.

Rediscovered: Portrait of Dorothy, Lady Dacre, thought to be a worthless prop and used in many films, has been identified as the work of Van Dyck.

Returned: Armenia handed back to Germany hundreds of precious books, dating back as far as the 11th century, which had been taken away by Soviet forces in the aftermath of World War II. Most originally came from Bremen, Hamburg and Luebeck libraries, but were stored underground in the east of what was then German territory to protect them from bombing raids. The return was made in early May.

Found: The face of John F. Kennedy in the Hirshhorn Museum's Willem de Kooning painting "Reclining Man", corroborated by de Kooning's partner at the time (1963), a kind of personal response to a national tragedy.

Damaged: Three important paintings, including Frederic Church's "The Icebergs" (1861), were vandalized in March at the Dallas Museum of Art, and few clues were left. A key was used to make a 40 inch scratch on the 64.5 inch by 112.5 inch Church oil painting, valued at \$10 million..

Found: Hundreds of Inuit artifacts have been discovered in the Smithsonian Institution's storage facility, which were purchased, bartered and collected by Smithsonian Institution's meteorologist Lucien Turner in 1881 during weather experiments at Fort Chimo, near Ungava Bay. Included are sleds, paddles, tools, bows, spears, toys and clothing, making up the world's largest collection of original artifacts from Labrador and Northern Quebec.

CENSORSHIP

A pair of quilts on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library have been removed after a handful of visitors complained that one depicted scenes too violent for such a wholesome medium in such an upright museum, and that the other glorified Nazism with a swastika shape stitched together in the colors of the Stars and Stripes. The quilts were returned to their owners.

One quilt made by 20 seamstresses from Lawrence, KS, depicts a character named

Sunbonnet Sue meeting her end in a number of ways, such as squashed by an elephant. In another, she is portrayed as a Heaven's Gate cultist, lying on a bed and wearing black Nike sneakers with a purple sheet pulled over her body. One even shows her a victim of a drive-by shooting. The women thought it was funny, but some people just overreacted.

The other quilt, set aside for 60 years, depicted Charles Lindbergh's 1927 transatlantic solo flight. The quilter just wasn't satisfied with a propeller fashioned from red, white and blue fabrics, because of the propeller's swastika shape. Fear on the part of the administration of the library that what people might think could affect their mission of informing and educating people perhaps reflects the bias of the President after whom the Library is named.

Spokane - A federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit by two artists who said the city of Pasco violated their free speech rights by banning their work from City Hall.

The rights of offended city employees should be considered above the "sensibilities of rejected artists," said the judge. Kennewick artist Sharon Rupp's work --a bronze wall panel depicting a woman's naked buttocks--was removed after several city employees complained in 1996. Soon after, city officials refused to display Janette Hopper's prints. One of her pieces featured full-frontal male nudity. The two contended their free speech rights had been violated.

MUSEUM NEWS

Betsy Cushing Roosevelt Whitney, the New York socialite and philanthropist who with her husband created one of the nation's great private art collections, bequeathed 15 major works by Picasso, van Gogh, Matisse, Toulouse-Lautrec and other masters to the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The gifts are estimated to be worth about \$300 million.

Sara Lee Corporation is donating about 40 Impressionist paintings worth about \$100 million to various museums, such as the Art Institute of Chicago, Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel, Miss. and the Dixon Gallery in Memphis, the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, LACMA in Los Angeles, Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and many more.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City will receive 85 works by Picasso, Matisse, Braque, Balthus, Modigliani and two dozen other masters from

the late honorary trustee Natasha Gelman, who died in early May at the age of 86. El Niño wrecked havoc on California this past winter, but the **Cloisters** in New York City is suffering major leaks in its 800-year-old walls. Each block is treated as an individual work of art, so that the major patching that most construction teams do cannot be done here. The cost of fixing all the leaks so far is \$400,00 and still growing. It has to spend a great deal more to fix the medieval walls and roof!

Mona Lisa will be getting her own gallery by 2001 at the Louvre in Paris. The \$4.2 million gallery will be paid for by a private Japanese network, Nippon Television. The large gallery would increase security and provide better crowd control.

The Whitney Museum of American Art has canceled "The Great American Nude", an exhibition featuring the visual and performance art of **Karen Finley** that had been scheduled to open in December. According to the Whitney, the decision had nothing to do with the content of Ms. Finley's contribution or any other part of the exhibition. Nor was it related to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in late June against Ms. Finley and three other performance artists. The public will miss "Go Figure", an installation of a class in life drawing. And Finley, herself, would have been one of the artists' models.

The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, one of the foremost museums of its kind in the world, will finally build the additional wing envisioned in the 1895 plan by architect Wilson Eyre Jr. A fund drive to raise the money from public and private philanthropies will create a wing with five floors, four above ground to help house more than 1 million cultural objects, especially the most delicate artifacts.

The Getty Museum is suffering from popularity. Museum as Spectacle in Los Angeles has produced record-breaking attendance of 1,000,000 people to the new Getty Museum in its first six months! But try to find a bathroom. Anyway, it's also lost two curators: David A. Jaffe, its paintings curator, is leaving at the end of the summer to become senior curator at the National Gallery of Art in London, while Nicholas Turner, the Getty's drawings curator, who is on leave, has also resigned, effective 1 September.

Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, England becomes world-class contemporary art showcase. The opening show included work by Nancy Spero and young British artist, Georgina Starr.

170 museums, members of the Association of Art Museum Directors, will launch an immediate review of their collections to determine if they unwittingly acquired artworks plundered by the Nazis during World War II.

WARHOL GIFT FOR ISRAEL

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, an international group of donors has given the institution Warhol's *10 Portraits of Jews in the 20th Century* (1980) consisting of silk-screen portraits of Sarah Bernhardt, Louis Brandeis, Martin Buber, Albert Einstein, Sigmund Freud, George Gershwin, Franz Kafka, the Marx Brothers, Golda Meir and Gertrude Stein.

PERFORMANCE

Kenneth Goldsmith performed 3 events under the rubric called *FIDGET*, the first at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris on 16 June where accompanied by an electric bass and sewing machine, Theo Bleckmann performed a vocal-visual interpretation of Kenneth Goldsmith's new book which records every movement Goldsmith made on 16 June (Bloomsday) in 1997. Goldsmith performed *Fidget* at Printed Matter on 11 June, and *Fidget* is Online at Stadium Projects, an interactive Java Applet written by Clem Paulsen based on Goldsmith's *Fidget*: www.stadiumweb.com The book and CD is forthcoming this fall from the Maryland Institute of Art.

ARCHIVES

News has it that Alan Kaprow's archives are going to the Getty Research Institute, that Pierre Matisse's archives are going to the Morgan Library, and that Freud's archive, the largest in the world, in part will be seen in a politically correct exhibition at the Library of Congress.

FLUXUS NEWS

The death of Wolf Vostell in early April. The death of Dieter Roth in May.

Alison Knowles: Hand and Foot-works was exhibited at the Frauen Museum in Bonn from 24 May - 26 July 1998.

DATELINE: Berlin

Richard Serra, the American sculptor who had joined with American architect Peter Eisenmann to design a massive and much-debated Holocaust memorial in Berlin, has walked out of the project. The project has been dogged by philosophical and political battles. According to Eisenmann, the project is full steam ahead with or without Serra.

DATELINE: New York City

Radio City Music Hall will be closed for six months in 1999 in order to be restored not

only for live theater, but also will become a production center for television specials. Even the blocklong marquee, with its six miles of red-and-blue neon tubing, and the legendary backstage hydraulic system will be restored as well as seats, carpets, wallpaper and curtains. The idea is to take the building back to 1932, but bring its infrastructure forward past the year 2000.

• Mayor Giuliani of New York City has proposed cutting the library budget by \$15 million—even while trumpeting the \$2 billion budget surplus—and has asked the libraries to make up some of the shortfall through private fund-raising. If he thinks the library system is like the semi-public New York Public Library, then someone should sit him down and teach him a lesson. Since he supports the public school's new literacy initiative, the libraries are vitally important in this regard, to immigrants who learn how to read, to get a driver's license and how to study for college entrance exams. Shame on New York City's mayor! The citizens deserve better!

DATELINE: Denver

The only known work of 4th century B.C. sculptor Lysippus, purchased by the Getty Museum for more than \$3 million, is on display in a Denver museum to avoid California "use" taxes.

• At the Denver International Airport, deep in the underground train tunnels, one can see New York artist Leni Schwendinger's *Deep Time/Deep Space*, a \$350,000 light and sculpture piece as part of the \$7.7 million in public art at the new airport. Projectors flash words and phrases on the wall. Words such as "mine" or "I have a dream" or "Silent Friend" appear on the walls.

DATELINE: Guernica

On 24 April 1998, a declaration was adopted by the German Parliament recognizing the role of "German pilots of the Condor Legion in the destruction of the town" and says it "endorses the apology" sent by President Roman Herzog a year ago. But the people of Guernica have a nagging problem with getting the truth out of Madrid about Franco's non admission that his forces, with the help of Nazi & Italian pilots, destroyed the Basque town. Was it Franco or the Nazi? And then there is Picasso's "Guernica". The town wants to borrow the painting from the Reina Sofia Art Center in Madrid, because people in Guernica see the painting not as the world-famous portrait of catastrophe but as their very own emblem. Not even the Guggenheim Bilbao could borrow it for their opening. So the problems endures.

DATELINE: Frankfurt

Frankfurt is broke, the great "city of the Euro" is \$4.5 billion in debt. Because Frankfurt is not the capital of Hessia, but Wiesbaden is, Frankfurt's cultural institutions are

municipal rather than state. The heydays of 10 years ago where Frankfurt overspent, where 12.5 per cent of the annual budget went to support the arts.

Meanwhile, the German Federal Government is spending \$33 million on contemporary works by artists worldwide for Berlin, the new German capital. Ellsworth Kelly is working on a \$1 million mural for the main facade and an exterior side of a Bundestag office building. Other works by Jenny Holzer, Richard Serra, Dani Karavan from Israel, Dan Graham, Tadashi Kawamata of Japan and Piet Trantel, and the list increases. Wow!

DATELINE: San Marino, CA

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino has received a major collection of some 450 books and 1,000 artifacts that document the teaching of art in American since the 1870s, given to them by Diana Korzenik, prominent art educator who recently retired as professor and chairwoman of the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, and a former teacher of the history of art education at Harvard University.

DATELINE: Irvine, CA

Taco Bell Corp. began selling most of its collection of contemporary American art, including 200 paintings, sculptures, photographs and other works by artists who include Berenice Abbott, Larry Bell, Morris Graves, Elizabeth Murray, Carlos Almaraz, and Joel Shapiro.

DATELINE: Paris

France is celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Eugene Delacroix with a major exhibition of 154 paintings and drawings that opened on 10 April at the Grand Palais. Co-produced by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, *Delacroix, the Final Years: 1850-1863* is the most ambitious of the many shows. The exhibition will come to Philadelphia in September.

DATELINE: Rome

Well, Rome isn't burning, but Rome is crumbling. Many sculptures in Rome have been vandalized into artistic mortality. And many sculptures are now missing fingers and toes, heads and limbs. As a result, Carla Benocci is now in charge of imitating art. She commissions fake statues, especially those of the most beautiful statues in Rome's public gardens. The tormented originals are preserved for safekeeping but the gardens have the synthetic recreations. It is painstaking work to make the copies, but it is necessary to preserve the originals under the best environmental conditions. The public for the most part enjoys the copies, and even steal the copies!

DATELINE: Britain

Art experts have been shocked to discovered the extent of the damage caused by spiders at St. Botolph's Church in Hardham, West Sussex. The artwork dating from 1100 is regarded as the most complete scheme of medieval painting in Britain. The cobwebs are pulling flakes of paint from the walls and the creatures are dislocating fragile sections by scurrying over them and depositing their draglines. According to the Courtauld Institute of Art's report, there are 19 species of spiders in the church, including the common house spider. The report recommends extermination.

The British Library unveiled a new computer system allowing visitors to electronically "turn the pages" of precious manuscripts. The interactive device, created by an in-house team of software developers, was presented to the public at the opening of the library's three new exhibition galleries. It uses animation and high quality digitized images to simulate the actual turning of pages or the unrolling of a scroll on the screen. Presently they are showing images from the Sforza Hours, the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Diamond Sutra (the world's earliest printed book) and Codex Arundel, a Leonardo da Vinci notebook. By touching and dragging your finger across the screen, visitors can look through the manuscripts, magnify areas of the books, read on-screen text or listen to the audio commentary. There is a special "mirror" button reversing Leonardo da Vinci's characteristic "secret" writing, which is read from right to left.

London - The Rhinebeck Panorama, a bird's-eye view of London at the start of the Napoleonic Wars, has been bought for the Museum of London for 199,500 pounds. The 9-foot-wide view consists of four watercolor panels. Discovered 40 years ago in a barrel of pistols in the attic of a house in Rhinebeck, New York, it is thought to date from 1806 - 1810. It gives an extraordinary view of London in the early 19th century.

Liverpool - The oldest time machine in the world destined to suffer from the millennium bug has been found in a museum in Liverpool in northwest England. The 400-year-old instrument, which predicts the position of the planets, will stop working at the dawn of the new millennium, unable to accept the date of 1 January 2000.

DATELINE: Washington, DC

A White House dinner in late May celebrated the Friends of Art & Preservation in the Embassies. (FAPE). The "Gift to the Nation" project involves putting 200 American works of art in U.S. chanceries and ambassadorial residences, to be chosen by a board headed by Riva Castleman, former MOMA curator.

Chuck Close donated 150 prints of a portrait of Roy Lichtenstein to be distributed among U.S. embassies "because I'd like to see pictures of artists in our federal buildings instead of just officials."

DATELINE: Houston

Ultralounge: The Return of Social Space (with cocktails) at DiverseWorks in Houston, TX through 20 June, curated by Dave Hickey, was an exhibiton of young artists who live in Southern Nevada and Southern California "who work hard, have skills, hang out and can find their way home." The artists wants to design a show that would reference social space--a space in which people might want to gather in public, and be happy that they did, to redeem the lounge, to intensify "loungeiness" rather than critique it.

PUBLIC ART

M. T. Liggett's imagination has run wild on K-154 highway in Topeka, Kansas. Each piece of his rusty metal pieces carries a story or message, some controversial. One dedicated to the United Nations reads: "Kick the bums out." Another advocates repealing the 19th Amendment, "the one that gives women the right to vote." Hundreds of figures in an array of colors and displays adorn the edge of his pasture just west of town.

•Steubenville, Ohio is covered with 31 murals, each one different, but all on historic themes. One has also been painted of Dean Martin, who came from the town.

•Israelis are having a big problem with residents who do not like the public art pieces their artists have placed in public places. Some citizens are really irate, others enough to remove and dismantle controversial pieces.

•In June in Houston, painter Bernard Brunon applied 1,000 coats of paint to an Absolut Vodka bottle on a billboard, which is the artistic endeavor of conceptual artists Jack Massing and Michael Gilbeath, known as the Art Guys. The paint was applied at the rate of 8 coats a day until 1,000 coats were painted on the bottle and letters.

CULTURE MEETINGS

The Canadian Heritage Minister has launched a campaign to have ministers of culture from around the world begin to meet annually. Questions of discussion include television partnerships, the creation of a new international TV service, a lending program for culture and development by the World Bank, a world meeting on culture and violence to be held in Canada, an international project to build a network of cultural Web sites, etc.

POSTMODERNISM GENERATOR

If you haven't heard about the software that writes those incredibly repetitive letters in magazines like Penthouse, well, here's a nice twist: a program that generates endless articles on Postmodernism:

<http://www.cs.monash.edu.au/cgi-bin/postmodern>

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESSES

Index of Christian Art with over 26,000 possible subject terms is now available:

<http://www.princeton.edu/~ica/database.html>

ISCA (International Society of Copy Artists) has a new Home Page:

<http://members.aol.com/isca4art2b/1.S.C.A.Home Page.html>

ArtNet Italia newsletter can be reached at <http://www.thru.com/art/>

New York Public Library's Digital Library Collections

Web site is

<http://www.digital.nypl.org>

The site includes 56 texts and 400 images relating to 19th- and 20th-century African-American history and culture if you click on Digital Schomburg. In addition there is a collection of images of New York City taken by Berenice Abbott for the Federal Art Project, taken during the Depression.

U-Turn E-Zine: An electronic art journal administered by James Hugunin including art history, theory, and criticism plus artists' portfolios, and external links. <http://www.uturn.org>

Escher98 Centennial Congress will have work by Victor Acevedo and 11 other artists inspired by Escher, as well as 12 pieces by M.C. Escher himself, all from Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporanea in Rome. <http://www.mat.uniroma1.it/escher98>

Beyond Interface, a kind of office samizdat: antibureaucratic, technophobic, and ripe for the confiscating (according to the New Yorker). Check it out at

<http://www.archimuse.com/mw98/beyondinterface/>

OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

Edo: Art in Japan 1615-1868 will be a blockbuster exhibition with nearly 300 works of art in the first comprehensive American survey of art from the Edo period from 15 November - 15 February 1999 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. This exhibition has been 5 years in the making with Robert T. Singer, curator of Japanese art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art as the curator. The show has been organized by the gallery with Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs and the Japan Foundation.

The Visual Artist Information Hotline, sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) in New York City, is a toll-free information service for visual artists operating in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Artists speak directly with the Hotline staff between 2 and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, or they can leave a voice mail message at anytime. Information is usually sent by mail the same day in response to each call. Information on organizations which support individual visual artists, emergency funding, group health and fine art insurance, studio space, residencies, international opportunities, proposal writing, public art programs, etc. can be gleaned from asking questions to **1-800-232-2789**.

A Copyright Primer for Artists is in the new issue of **ARTS.COMMUNITY** is by **Antonio Borrelli**, on the NEA website -<http://arts.endow.gov>.

Sonya Rapoport's **ARBOR ERECTA** which is

<http://users.lanminds.com/~sonyrap/ap/arborerecta/arbtor.html>

is an adaptation of the story of the transsexual change of James Green from female to male. Exploring gender issues, evoking gender identification responses, **ARBOR ERECTA** intertwines Green's story with Papua New Guinea tribal initiation rites in which bonding with a Pandanus tree cements

masculine identity. The viewer moves from drawings, photographs, and botanical information about the Pandanus tree; to quotes from Gilbert Flutes' *Guardians of the Flutes*; to photographs and quotations of James Green's progress from baby to girl, woman to man.

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in San Diego has a new website at <http://www.mcasandiego.org> which is bilingual English/Spanish site featuring interactive collection and exhibitions, Virtual Tours of Museum, News and Events, Electronic Postcards, etc.

RESOURCES

Artists Experiencing Serious Illness, Crisis or Bereavement. Send SASE: Artists Fellowship Inc., Emergency Aid, c/o Salmagundi Club, 47 5th Ave., New York, NY 10003.

Banff Centre for the Arts offers Residencies in a Variety of Media. Write them at Box 1020, Station 28, 107 Tunnel Mountain Dr., Banff, AB, Canada T0L 0C0. Fax (403)762-6345.

Archives on Women Artists. The Library and Research Center of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC maintains files on women artists who have had at least one solo exhibition in a museum or gallery. (Not applicable to women of previous centuries or book artists). The artists' files are available to museum professionals, scholars, and students for research. They may include resume, artist's statement, clippings of newspaper or magazine articles, exhibition catalogs and brochures, reproductions of work (max. 20 slides, transparencies or photographs). To establish a file, they charge a fee of \$10.00 which covers the cost of archival materials necessary to insure the proper preservation of documents for use by scholars and students. However, for those who cannot afford this expense, the fee may be waived. Details on submission are available at <http://www.nmwa.org/library/archives/archglns.htm>

