

NEWS AND NOTES

Lost and Found

Found: The remains of eight Gallic fights and their horses near Clermont-Ferrand in France, believed to date from shortly before the Roman conquest in the first century B.C.

Found: The long-lost source of blue Mayan jade artifacts in Guatemala, in fact, central Guatemala high in the Sierra de las Minas.

Restored: The Marc Chagall painting stolen last year from New York City's Jewish Museum and found in February in a Kansas mailroom went back on display at its home at the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg. The 1914 work "Study for *Over Vitebsk*" valued at \$1 million had been on loan to the Jewish Museum as part of an exhibit when it was stolen sometime after a museum reception on 7 June 2001.

Found: 10 of 17 masterwork paintings stolen last year from the mansion of one of the world's wealthiest women were recovered by Spanish police and the FBI. The 10 works, stolen from marquesa Esther Koplowitz Romero de Joseu, worth about \$50 million, included Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Temptation of St. Anthony*, *The Swing* by Goya, and *View of Eragny* by Pissarro.

Recovered: A Swiss art gallery, the Ernst Beyeler Foundation, will be allowed to keep a Kandinsky painting looted by Nazis after reading an out-of-court settlement with the artist's family. Sophie Lissitzky-Kueppers and the Foundation had a dispute over Kandinsky's "Improvisation Number 10." The painting had been confiscated by Nazi officials on grounds that it was degenerate, and it was later sold to Beyeler.

Going: A beautiful tradition of ornately decorated hot-air balloons, some as large as 150 feet high, during the June Festivals in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, are being considered for illegality since they are a danger to aircraft, electric lines and forests, after only 300 years of a tradition brought over from Portugal. The balloon-makers, called *baloeiros* in Portuguese, have become minor celebrities, a lot like graffiti artists, who are like alchemists, gaining mastery over paper and fire, and most of them are considered "artists".

Found: A large intricate drawing in black chalk on cream paper, 17 inches high and 10 inches wide, was found in April by Sir Timothy Clifford, the director of the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh.

It is a work by Michelangelo, showing an elaborate candelabrum or menorah with a two-part pedestal of monumental grandeur. He found it while sifting through old boxes of drawings of light fixtures at the Cooper-Hewitt design museum in New York City.

Recovered: A Roman marble funerary monument from the reign of Hadrian, which had been on view at the Princeton University Art Museum since 1985, was returned to the Italian government, but the Princeton University museum hopes to get it back on long-term loan, since it has been important for study purposes.

Being restored: The two giant murals (34 ft. long and 3 ft. high) at the National Archives building commemorating the signers of the Declaration of Independent and the U.S. Constitution at the National Archives in Washington, DC. The original cost of the murals was \$36,000 and the restoration is \$2 million.

Lost: A 2,500-year-old Greek statue from a room in the British Museum without a permanent security guard.

Recovered: Rubens 1615 painting, *Head of a Man*, one of 18 stolen paintings from Dublin's Russborough House in a daring 1986 raid that made international headlines, has been recovered in Dublin. It has been returned to the owner, and it will go on display at the Irish National Gallery.

Found: Cambodian workmen have unearthed 27 solid-gold Buddha statuettes, buried for hundreds of years beneath the foundations of a ruined pagoda hidden deep in the jungle. The statues, about 4 inches high and each weighing about 1 pound, came to light over the weekend when builders started restoration work on the 200-year-old pagoda destroyed by the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. Four statues made of silver and bronze were also found.

Potential resurrection: The gigantic statue of the Buddha at Bamiyan in Afghanistan, which was one of two that the Taliban blew up last year, may come back to life in digital form. Experts at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich have never finished making a detailed three-dimensional computer model based on high-resolution pictures taken back in 1970. While such a model could, in principle, be used to rebuild the statue, it's likely that the 55-meter-tall

statue will remain only in electronic form for the foreseeable future.

<http://www.photogrammetry.ethz.ch/research/bamiyan>

Found: A major fresco cycle found beneath the crypt of the Duomo of Siena is in very good state of preservation. There are scenes from the Bible, and experts have said they are from about 1270.

Restored: Max Neuhaus' sound piece on the busy corner intersection of Times Square. Helped by Christine Burgin, dealer and collector, as well as the Sulzberger family, DIA, and near Si Newhouse's headquarters of his publishing empire.

MUSEUMS

Dia Foundation will be opening a \$20 million museum in an abandoned paper factory an hour from Manhattan, in the town of Beacon on the Hudson River, highlighting Dan Flavin, Joseph Beuys, Richard Serra, and Donald Judd. The museum will have 200,000 sq. ft. of gallery space. David A. Ross will be the executive director of the Beacon Cultural Project.

The Art Institute of Chicago is the recipient of 41 drawings, watercolors and other works on paper by the Post-Impressionist Paul Gauguin, given to them by the Chicago collectors Jean and Steven Goldman.

MOMA's closing on West 53rd and opening of its temporary quarters in Long Island City, Queens, was celebrated with a procession modeled after a traditional saint's day procession. Featuring a 12-piece Peruvian brass band and a dozen uniformed participants carrying banners, strewing rose petals and holding reproductions of icons from the museum's collection, the procession ended at 33rd St. and Queens Blvd., the creation of Francis Alys, an artist born in Antwerp, Belgium, who lives in Mexico City. He documented the event with a video that will be on view in Queens, along with his sketches for the procession.

Istanbul has a new museum, the Sakip Sabanci Museum, the family villa transformed into a state-of-the art home for Mr. Sabanci's renowned calligraphy collection along with furniture and decorative arts, besides a 15,000 sq. ft. glass-walled pavilion for temporary exhibition of contemporary art.

• **New museums** have been established such as the Eva Peron Museum in Buenos Aires, the International Museum of Spying in

Washington, DC. The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art in Santa Fe, NM, the new Imperial War Museum North by Daniel Libeskind in Manchester, England.

There is also a new Museum of Sex in New York scheduled to open on 23 September with an exhibition entitled: NYC Sex: How New York City Transformed Sex in America. Chief Curator, Grady Turner, has put together a book for the show that is scheduled to be published this month.

Another museum is the Museum of Mourning Arts, devoted to the representation of grief in American and European culture. Anita Shorsch, head of the museum located in Drexel, PA, has collected many items involving human hair, an instruction book on how to get into heaven, jewelry adorned with tiny pictures of skeletons, angels, and people long dead. The museum is actually located in Arlington Cemetery in Drexel, PA.

The Tate Gallery has paid \$35,000 for the canned excrement of Piero Manzoni, one of Italy's most controversial artists, at a sale at Sotheby's. Can 004 is one of an "edition" of 90 tins of merda d'artista created by Manzoni in 1961 as a statement about the art market. Each can contained 30 grams of his excrement, and Manzoni sold it for the same price as if it were gold. But the price paid by the Tate for its merda —\$1,170 per gram—exceeds the \$365 that the contents of the tin would cost if it were made of 24-carat gold.

The Mak (Museum of Applied Arts) in Frankfurt has created a new department, Digital craft, to store significant digital artefacts, such as computer games, website designs, on-line communities. The museum believes that these should be objects of contemplation, study, and scholarship. Their first exhibition, I Love You, asks us to consider the relationship between computer viruses, computing languages, poetry and art, and somewhat incidentally, gets involved in a discussion about the ethics of hackers. Virus art is part of the exhibition along with various poems written in computing language.

The DINNER PARTY

Judy Chicago's *Dinner Party* has been seen by more than a million people in six countries on three continents since it was first shown at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1979. It has now found a home at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, given to them by the Elkizabath A. Sackler Foundation, to be on temporary view on the museum's fifth floor from 20 September to 9 February and then permanently installed on the building's fourth floor in 2004.

The piece includes hand-painted china sculptured in three-dimensional forms suggestive of flowers or female genitalia. It also has ceramic flatware, napkins with embroidered gold edges and embroidered runners executed in various forms of needlework.

TIBETAN BOOKS

There must be something in Cambridge, Massachusetts besides Harvard to make people save books. Yiddish books are certainly being saved in Massachusetts in Northampton, while Tibetan books are being saved in Cambridge by E. Gene Smith, who got the bug in 1965, when he first went to India and found work in the Library of Congress office in New Delhi. Refugees brought the books as they carried them over the Himalayas in their flight from the invading Chinese.

As a result, Smith founded the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center, a nonprofit organization which he directs from his home, trying to have every one of the hundreds of millions of pages scanned onto a computer to make them accessible on a Web site (tbrc.org). It should take about 5 years. One of the earliest is the funeral rites of Kublai Khan, printed something between 1294 and 1304 as one of the earliest Tibetan wood blocks. Smith got a deferment as a student for learning obscure languages, and found a Tibetan lama, or scholar, who guided him and taught him Buddhism to which he turned as a guide. He then found books to be published through the Library of Congress and became the first Tibet expert.

Soon he will move to New York City with all the books where the Rubin Cultural Trust has promised to provide him offices. (New York Times)

COPY ART

Roth Horowitz in Manhattan had an exhibition of some 40 artists who do Copy Art, such as Leon Golub, David Hockney, Dieter Roth and Sarah Lucas, among others taking it from the early 1960s through the advent of color and laser copying.

DOGS IN NEW YORK

300 life-size dog statues will be in public spaces throughout New York City primarily in front of police stations, firehouses, and in city parks. This will be take place from August through November, meant to celebrate the heroic efforts of the nation's canine teams that assisted in search and rescue efforts at ground zero. The dogs will be decorated with many themes. Artists have submitted more than 200 designs. See Dogny.org

PHOTOGRAPHY

The U.S. Postal Service has published a new series of stamps for the new 37-cent rate covering 130 years of photography, including James VanDerZee to Man Ray, from Ansel Adams to Edward Weston, from Dorothea Lange to Garry Winogrand. The selection was guided by Peter Bunnell, considered the country's leading scholar of American photography.

•The Getty Conservation Institute has finally solved the chemical secrets of Niepce's first photography, done in 1827. They say that the plate is made of pewter, and its chemical coating consists of an asphalt-like substance called bitumen. They found that Niepce washed the plate using oil of lavender to expose the finished image. The title of the heliograph, entitled "View from the Window at Le Gras."

IRRADIATION AT THE USPS

The mail in Washington, DC has been zapped because of the anthrax scare and since then irradiation has melted photographs, videotapes, audiotapes, burning even letters beyond recognition. Cooking the mail has been deleterious mostly to the material sent to the Library of Congress destined for collections or submitted for a copyright. Paper has yellowed and been embrittled even for new journals and serials.

ACCIDENTS AS ART

Robert Hughes, Time Magazine's art critic, was issued an arrest warrant in Perth, Australia, for failing to appear in court to face charges of dangerous driving. The charges arose from a 1999 crash in which Hughes was nearly killed. His rental car collided with another vehicle in western Australia, leaving him in a coma for five weeks. Three occupants of the other car were also hurt, one seriously.

Hughes said he couldn't travel because his injuries were still serious and prevented him from making the long trip.

In January, Danus Kesminas exhibited some of the wreckage of Mr. Hughes' rented red Nissan, which he had compacted into a 150-pound cubic yard of crushed metal, called "Hughbris." Kesminas considered Mr. Hughes' reaction that Australia could be towed out to sea and sunk as a "metaphor for a cultural collision between an intellectual expatriate and outback Australia." Kesminas intended to add clippings and photo images from the news media coverage which the sculpture had attracted in Australia.

NEA

The National Endowment for the Arts beginning in the new fiscal year on 1

October will get an increase of \$10 million or \$126 million for the fiscal year 2002-03. The NEH will get a \$5 million boost to \$131 million.

FLUXUS

A Long Tale with Many Knots - Fluxus in Germany 1962 - 1994. An exhibition by the German Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), organised by German Consulate General and Shanghai Art Museum, co-organised and sponsored by Goethe Institute Fluxus "was the idea for an "International Magazine of the Newest Art, Anti-art, Music, Anti-music, Poetry, Anti-poetry, etc" in Germany in the early 60s. Although the magazine was never published, this term has been used for describing a wealth of the most varied artistic activities from the 60s until today. It served a tireless organizer under this name for many concerts and events, manifestos and editions. Its activities were concerned primarily with happenings and combined with various art forms, such as visual arts, music, literature and popular entertainment. Activities could be found developed in New York and in the German cities of Darmstadt, Duesseldorf, Cologne, Wuppertal, Wiesbaden and Berlin. Connections developed with Japan, Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, London, Stockholm, Prague and Madrid.

"Fluxus" has been considered as the first and foremost many-dimensional web of encounters, performances, idea and objects that extended to many countries over along period of time. It is also a field phenomenon with indistinct borders that is difficult to determine. As in a free translation of Lewis Carroll, it is a long tale with many knots. Characteristic of the history of Fluxus in Germany is that artists like John Cage, Nam June Paik, George Maciunas, La Monte Young and Emmett Williams met with a lively scene there in the late 50s and early 60s in the area of concrete poetry and new music.

This first comprehensive Fluxus exhibition in Shanghai provides a ground for the public to learn about this important art movement. It influences not only visual art, but also music composing, happenings and literature until today. The exhibition features over 300 works by Fluxus artists including Joseph Beuys (Germany), John Cage (USA), Nam June Paik (Korea). Exhibits include original works from the artists, photo documentation of various concerts and festivals and Flux-films and records made by the artists to present the long history of the Fluxus movement.

Apart from the exhibition, a seminar will be held on the topic "Fluxus". The speaker is Ms. Dr. Gabriele Knapstein, one of the curators of the exhibition and now free-lance curator working for the National Gallery at Hamburger Bahnhof and for the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa). This was

held from 30 April - 28 May in the Shanghai Art Museum.

ART IN CYBERSPACE

Eyestorm.com, an online art gallery that was established to sell exclusive artwork to the Internet masses, has been declared insolvent and is now itself for sale. David A. Ross, Eyestorm's chairman since last October, has already been named to a new position with a new project.

An Internet-based artwork in an exhibition at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in May was taken offline because the work was conducting surveillance of outside computers. No one knows who is responsible for the blacking out—the artists, the museum or its Internet service provider—but the action illuminates the work's central theme: the tension between public and private control of the Internet.

The work is "Minds of Concern: Breaking News," created by Knowbotic Research, a group of digital artists in Switzerland. The piece is part of "Open Source Art Hack," an exhibition at the New Museum that ran through 30 June. The work is either an installation in the Museum itself or online at newmuseum.org.

Eryk Salvaggio, an internet artist, has created a powerful digital artwork called "September 11th, 2001" which he put online in June in the Net-art section of his nonsensically titled Website, www.salsabomb.com

The artwork is based on a sequence of 20 still frames taken from a video of the United Airlines jet flying into the World Trade Center's south tower. Ironically, each frame consists not of tiny dots of color, but of names culled from a list of 2,800 dead and missing victims of the New York attacks. For each video frame, the screen is striped with 55 horizontal rows of 10 names, and Salvaggio used computer software to color segments of individual letters, recreating each scene.

Salvaggio, 23, waited until May to begin to produce the work at his home in Gouquet, Maine rather than start on 12 September appearing to trivialize the images. Salvaggio, by the way, is a frequent contributor to the discussion group on the Fluxlist. (NY Times, 8 July 2002)

Hard Place, produced by Jenny Polak, a British artist living in New York, gives images of immigration service detention centers in the U.S. (10 sites, only, because immigrant-rights groups solicited to send e-mail to the families of detainees for this information, are frightened to share this information, even after a year). The project is

well described in Arts Online by Matthew Mirapaul on 10 June 2002 in the New York Times. Trained as an architect, she used computer design software. Trained as an architect who now works as a graphic artist, Ms. Polak did nothing more than use the software to put her bleak houses in order.

NEW LIBRARIES

Brooklyn Public Library has chosen an amazing design for its new library, the winning proposal by Enrique Norten of ten Arquitectos in Mexico City. Ground will not be broken until 2005. The design calls for six or seven levels and 150,000 sq. ft. of space, shaped like a skewed V when seen from above. At the apex, the side of the building would taper inward like a ship's prow. It is really and virtually transparent, allowing a view of the activities inside. It is the cornerstone of a new cultural district envisioned in Fort Greene by the Brooklyn Academy of Music Local Development Corporation.

• The Tate Research Centre opened on 1 May, bringing together the library and archive in new purpose-built facilities. Funded with a large grant from the Kreitman Foundation, the centre now holds a huge archive of artists' letters, notebooks, photos and ephemera. It had been set up in 1969 in a separate building on the north of Tate Britain. There are over 600 collections with over a million items.

• A big debate is going on, because the Villa of the Papyri in Herculaneum in Southern Italy's excavations should be resumed, because of a warning that flooding now poses a "grave danger" to the site and its precious library of ancient manuscripts. As many of you know, the Getty Museum (original) in Malibu is based on the 18th-century's notion of the appearance of the Villa.

PUBLIC ART IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS

The Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in Brooklyn has more than 700 works of art, including works by Romare Bearden, Luis Hernandez Cruz, a mural by Keith Haring, other works by Helen Frankenthaler, Robert Motherwell, Charles White and many more, displayed in hospital rooms and hallways. The collection is the result of a purchasing plan to incorporate art into the fabric of everyday life in the New York City area with a percentage of funds for each capital project to buy art, focusing particularly on emerging artists.

PERFORMANCE

In Chile, a 17-year-old performance artist known as Baby Vamp has been strolling

down Santiago streets wearing only sunglasses and a backpack. "Basically, we are playing with people's prejudices," Lucia Fernanda Flores said in a TV interview. "I think Childe needs to deal with these issues."

- In Cali, Colombia, French performance artist Pierre Pinoncelli chopped off his little finger with an axe to protest the kidnapping of presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt.

- In Brooklyn, NY, performance artist Anissa Mack set up a miniature cottage on the steps of the public library. For four hours a day, she made apple pies, which she left on the cottage windowsill to be stolen by passersby.

- In Austin, TX, the Living Tarot performance group invites audience members to select three cards from a tarot pack, while asking a question about their lives. A performer then answers the individual's question through an improvised song and dance. "I hope audience members will go away feeling more connected with their higher power of their higher source."

- In London, during the jubilee celebrations, performance artist Mark McGowan stood outside Camberwell College of Arts, dressed as the Queen, and allowed onlookers to whip him with sticks while patriotic music played.

- **William Pope.L** became notorious earlier this year when the National Endowment for the Arts canceled a \$42,000 grant for a Pope.L show it had earlier approved. The Bates College professor's provocative work includes performances in which he crawls through city streets. Then there was the event in Boston's Financial District, for which he sat on a throne of Wall Street Journals. The Pope.L exhibition the NEA was to have funded is going ahead anyway, with money from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, LEF Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. "William Pope.L: eRacism" is at the Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art in Portland from 26 July through 17 October. www.mcca.edu

PUBLIC ART

"Stone River" by Andy Goldsworthy is a 320-foot wall outside the Stanford University art museum, formed of sandstones that came off campus buildings during the quakes of '06 and '89. Finished last year, it has now reached its potential as the stone blends with the weeds that have grown up around it and turned gold with summer.

It looks like a "Snake in the Grass," and that is part of its mystique and power. Carved into the earth and hidden from the fans of outdoor sculpture who cluster by the Rodins around the corner, this sculpture first rises above ground, then it gradually sinks to where the wall is 3 or 4 feet tall but still at grade level. One can touch it, climb on it or lean against it. There is no sign of mortar, either. The wall was put together by master stonemasons from England and Scotland. They worked 11 hours a day, six days a week for 3½ weeks.

Roy Lichtenstein's design for a mural at the Times Square subway station in New York City will be unveiled on 5 September after having been completed in 1994, three years before the artist's death. Because of renovations to Times Square, the mural, a 6-foot tall, 53-foot-long porcelain-enamel futuristic vision of New York, was put into storage until this year.

Donkeys and Elephants in Washington, DC. Complaints abound about 100 donkeys and 100 elephants called "Party Animals", each 4 ½ feet tall and weighing 800 pounds. The Green Party says they are an affront to all other political parties. Well, there first were Chicago's Cows on Parade, then pigs in Peoria, lizards in Orlando, and those horrible angels in Los Angeles.

- Springfield, MA has opened up a sculpture garden dedicated to favorite son, Theodor Geisel known as Dr. Seuss. Sculptor Lark Grey Dimon-Cates, Geisel's stepdaughter, created a sculpture of Geisel depicted at his drawing board, with the Cat in the Hat peering over his shoulder. She spent 7 years translating her stepfather's drawings into bronze, life-sized and large enough so children could climb on them.

- **Jeff Sundhelm**, a Brooklyn-based artist, opened a show of Grocery Art at the Gourmet Garage, a specialty grocery in SoHo, New York This is the first Window Show, called "Art by the Pound" which closes on 30 September. The sculpture is based on fruit and produce, offered for sale by weight.

Sundhelm has collected a wide range of materials for use in his art - many of them gathered during his travels as an advertising and media executive. The show includes works like *Gariguetto*, created from a strawberry crate the artist found on the streets of Paris during an early morning run.

"Gourmet Garage started as a warehouse catering to artists in Soho, and the passion for both fine food and fine art is part of what makes our stores so unique," said Gourmet Garage's Lalic. Gourmet Garage's SoHo location is at 453 Broome Street, at Mercer Street. There is wooden corn, asparagus made of blackrods and other sculptured inedibles.

Sundhelm will also have a solo exhibition

this fall at the C.R. Smith Museum in Dallas, Texas, American Airlines' museum of commercial aviation. Titled **Onboard Art**, the show will feature more than 30 collages that Sundheim created on flights from materials found on board commercial aircraft. For more information about this show or about Gourmet Garage, visit our webpage: www.gourmetgarage.com or write to us (Gourmet Garage Office, 412 Greenwich Street, NYC 10013, attention: Steve Davis).

Art in Macabre Meltdown

A sculpture made with the artist's frozen blood and owned by London's Saatchi Gallery, may have thawed in a gory meltdown. There were conflicting reports about the fate of *Self*, artist **Marc Quinn's** cast of his own head in nine pints of his own frozen blood. Rumors had it that it had been stored in the home freeze of **Charles Saatchi**, and that builders working on the kitchen had unplugged the appliance. Another rumor said that the builders shut off the freeze when they saw a pool of what appeared to be blood found when they moved the freezer away from the wall.

Still another take on this was that the builders had accidentally switched off the "refrigerated unit" where the cast is kept at Saatchi's home. The going price on the open market for the sculpture could have been \$2.3 million.

LIBRARIES IN THE NEWS

According to the Art Newspaper, Iraq is about to launch a campaign to "revive" the Ashurbanipal Library, the earliest systematically collected and cataloged library in the ancient world. Excavated in the mid 19th century, the 25,000 cuneiform tablets assembled by the King are almost all now in the British Museum. Copies would be made by the BM to allow the reconstructed library to resurrect itself.

DATELINE: Santiago, Chile

A Chilean art exhibition featuring dead dogs picked off the highway has stirred controversy in this South American nation, particularly over the use of government funds to promote the event.

The painter and sculptor behind the exhibit, Antonio Becerra, scoured the streets of the capital collecting about a dozen corpses of dogs that had been hit by cars. He then embalmed the mutilated cadavers and painted on their bodies, inserting pins and spikes into their preserved flesh. Animal lovers and politicians are outraged by the *Oils on Dogs* exhibition, made possible by a \$7,800 government grant. Becerra says his work is a reflection on violence and cruelty in society.