

NEWS AND NOTES

LOST & FOUND

Found: In 2001 a 29-year-old actor stopped at a garage sale near Los Angeles and bought a painting for \$5. The actor has requested anonymity in part because the painting turned out to be by Joseph Decker worth more than \$1 million. The actor sent it to Richard York Gallery in New York, which then sold it to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, for that price this past February. Titled *Ripening Pears*, it was painted around 1884. The actor was reported to have said, "You watch TV antique programs and you say, 'G-d, wouldn't that be nice?'" When it happens to you, it's so unbelievable!"

Found: Photos of pea pickers and cotton pickers, caved-in men with hung-down heads, women with worried eyes, children clinging to their skirts and so much more—a stash of photos of '30s migrants credited to Dorothea Lange have turned up in a Thousand Oaks attic in California. These 52 black-and-white photos were stashed in a file folder amid an assemblyman's memorabilia. The family that owns it has contacted libraries and museums and a good home will be found for these vintage photos by Dorothea Lange.

Found: One of the few statues attributed to the lovers Camille Claudel and Auguste Rodin has been raised from the Seine in Paris, where it was thrown by the thieves who stole it from Versailles several weeks ago. The statue, a small female nude valued at \$990,000, was feared lost, although suspects in the robbery were arrested and confessed to tossing it into the river. Perseverance by a team of police divers in an area where witnesses reported seeing them dispose of the statue proved successful.

Found: With the aid of a digital camera thrust inside a hole used by pigeons and shooting blindly, an art restoration team has found a Renaissance fresco of winged angels hidden from view for more than 3 centuries on the ceiling of the cathedral in Valencia, Spain. When the painting of winged angels against a starry background was finished in 1481, officials didn't like it and refused to pay the agreed fee. Thus, the false ceiling covered the fresco.

Rebuilt: The Church of Our Lady (Frauenkirche), a Protestant church constructed in Dresden under the rule of the Catholic Dukes of Saxony, symbolizing 18th-century religious tolerance, has been rebuilt thanks to the Friends of Dresden and a world-wide effort. The altarpiece, smashed into roughly 2,000 fragments, has been reconstructed, and concerts and services are

being held in the crypt. A replica of the original gilded globe and cross, over 25 feet high, was placed atop the church on 22 June. Info: www.frauenkirche-dresden.org

Restored: The Apollo of Veio has been restored with its original colors and technical information intact from its Etruscan roots some 2,500 years ago. Fragments were found in 1916 near Rome and then pieced together including one single big piece of the head, shoulders and torso—the statue now misses arms and other parts, but it has come back to life.

Returned: A stolen Egyptian relief from 380-280 B.C. that was spotted in a Christie's auction house catalog has been seized by the U.S. government and is to return to Cairo. The granite relief, valued at \$5,000, was taken from the Temple of Bebeit el-Hagar in Gharbia in 1990.

Found: In more than 264 Philadelphia public schools' storerooms and boiler rooms, as well as closets, 1,188 original works of art were found last year, including more than 100 pieces considered museum quality. Among the finds were two portraits by Eakins, the great American realist painter who attended Philadelphia high school, and paintings by Henry Ossawa Tanner, N.D. Wyeth, Franz Kline and a group of 19th-century American impressionists.

Likewise in the Los Angeles Unified School District, which just completed a four-year inventory of its Art & Artifact Collection, the district owns 85,000 art objects, including paintings, murals, historical artifacts, architectural features and book, estimated to be worth about \$30 million. Included are three bas-relief works by Dali, a series of landscapes from the 1920s and 1930s, Greek coins and 34,000 original photographs.

Lost: On 24 May a fire in London destroyed a warehouse in the East End, leased by the art storage and shipping company Momart. Virtually all of the art in the building, most of it contemporary, was destroyed with work by Damien Hirst, Gillian Ayres, and Barry Flanagan all lost from their own collections and dealers Victoria Miro, Antony d'Offay, Leslie Waddington and Bernard Jacobson sustaining losses. A significant collection of work belonged to Charles Saatchi.

ENDANGERED

The Cologne Cathedral in Germany has been placed on Unesco's list of endangered World Heritage sites. The 13th-century Gothic edifice is surrounded by high-rise buildings on the opposite bank of the Rhine River, causing "harmful visual impact" on the landscape.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Whitney Museum of American Art has chosen Italian architect Renzo Piano to design an expansion for its permanent collection and for much-needed public and educational space.

* When MOMA opens up in their vastly expanded home on West 53rd St. On 20 November, the price for entrance will be \$20 per adult (\$16 for seniors and \$12 for full-time students. Children and all those under 16 will be free.)

* A 2,000-piece collection of works by American Abstract Expressionist painter Clyfford Still that has been in storage since his death in 1980 has finally found a home in Denver.

According to the artist's will, the collection is to be given to an American city but requires the recipient to create and maintain a museum devoted exclusively to his art. His widow has finally reached an agreement with Denver, which City Council will launch a campaign to raise \$7 million for construction of the planned museum and additional funds to cover the estimated operating expenses. Denver, under terms of the agreement, has 10 years to meet its obligation.

DATELINE: Helsinki

An exhibition of Salvador Dali's art in Helsinki was canceled in late June as police stepped in to confiscate the works, several of which they suspected to be counterfeit.

Collectors who had bought Dali's print works at the exhibition had suspected them to be fake and notified the police, which prompted an investigation. All of the roughly 400 works displayed are under investigation.

DATELINE: Manhattan

Jonathan Borofsky will install "Walking to the Sky", a stainless steel pole that reaches 100 feet in the air at a 75-degree angle, with seven life-size figures walking up and three more at the base, in Rockefeller Center, beginning in mid-September.

DATELINE: Seattle

The new Seattle Public Library building by Rem Koolhaas is the centerpiece of an ambitious initiative to revamp and expand Seattle's library system citywide. Touted by Herbert Muschamp in the New York Times on 16 May, the library building is like a "rock-candy masterpiece, wrapped in glittering crystal and folded like origami."

DATELINE: New York

A city-wide celebration of Romare Bearden (1911-1977) from September 2004 through

March 2005 includes exhibitions (the Whitney), gallery tours and performances, concerts, dance performances, and educational symposiums.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Peru: A temporary exhibition generated by the government's Truth Commission, has evolved into a popular museum with documentation of the horrors of a 20-year terror war, a testament to 70,000 Peruvians who perished in the country's long conflict pitting state security forces against two rebel groups, one of them the fanatical Shining Path. The museum is called Yuyanapaq, "To Remember", in the Quechua language of the Peruvian Andes.

*48 hours of images from Abu Ghraib were enough to prove the power of the image in our society in our time. Trying to alter the meaning of the images through words by the administration was a lame trivialization of the whole idea of a "handful" of Americans engaged in such heinous activities.

DATELINE: London

Britain has banned the export of a major painting by Francis Bacon in the hope that a buyer can be found to keep it in the country. The 1950 painting, "Study after Velazquez" is valued at \$17 million, and the Tate Museum, which owns 50 Bacon works, said it could not afford it. The export ban is valid through July and can be extended until November.

READING

The reading of books is on the decline in America, despite Harry Potter and Oprah Winfrey's book club. A report released by the NEA says, the number of nonreading adults increased by more than 17 million between 1992 and 2002. Only 47% of American adults read "literature" (poems, plays, narrative fiction) in 2002, a drop of 7 points from a decade earlier. Those reading any book at all in 2002 fell to 57%, down from 61%.

Enormous cultural shift from print media to electronic media, and the unintended consequences of that shift.

LIBRARIES IN CINEMA

The New York Public Library is featured in the recent film, "The Day After Tomorrow." The library appears as flash-frozen.

ART AND THE LAW

The artist, Tom Forsythe, an artist and photographer, has won a court case citing that artists can make fun of dolls. Forsythe is the artist who experimented with images of the Barbie doll, citing "Barbie's power as a beauty myth." His chief critic was Mattel, Inc., which has manufactured the Barbie doll since 1959. In the summer of 1999, Mattel sued Forsythe for copyright and trade infringement. Now Mattel must pay Mr. Forsythe legal fees of more than \$1.8

million.

AUCTIONS

A most important auction will be held 5 - 7 October in Paris with more than 900 works from the estate of Jean Levy, including two paintings by Gorky, the largest group of works by Marcel Duchamp to come to auction, as well as works on paper by Gorky, Noguchi, Tamayo, Tanguy, Matta, Ernst and Dali, along with assemblages by Man Ray.

POP ART & SOUP

In an unusual case of life imitating art that imitated life, Campbell Soup Co. is replacing the classic red-and-white labels on some of its tomato soup cans with multihued designs inspired by the Campbell's artwork of Andy Warhol. It's being test marketed in some select venues. "It's the same soup" but in cans with different labels.

9/11 & ART SPIEGELMAN

Look out for Pulitzer Prize winner Spiegelman's new *In the Shadow of No Towers*, his artistic response to the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as an expression of his deep opposition to the war in Iraq.

LATE NEWS

The Scream and *Madonna* by Edvard Munch were stolen in daylight in front of visitors to the Museum of Modern Art in Oslo, Norway on Sunday 22 August. Word has it that *The Scream* is terribly fragile.



4 roues sous
1 parapluie



Excursions - Transferts
Paris - Ile de France