

NEWS & NOTES

STOCKHAUSEN & THE WTC

According to the German news agency dpa, Karlheinz Stockhausen said in an interview he gave on account of a concert in Hamburg:

"What happened there is - now you must readjust your brain - the biggest artwork of all times. That spirits achieve in a single act what we in music cannot dream of, that people rehearse ten years long like mad, totally fanatical for a concert and then die. This is the biggest artwork that exists at all in the whole universe... I couldn't match it. Against that, we - as composers - are nothing."

Asked by a journalist whether he identified art and crime, Stockhausen replied: "It's a crime because the people were not consenting. They haven't come to the 'concert'. This is evident. And nobody had announced them that they could die in its process. What happened there spiritually, this leap from security, from what's ordinary, from life, that sometimes happens poco a poco in art. Or else it is nothing."

The Financial Times Germany quotes Stockhausen's colleague Gyorgy Ligeti with the following reaction: "Stockhausen has taken the side of the terrorists. [...] If he thinks this atrocious mass murder is an artwork, I am sorry that I have to say that he should be locked up in a psychiatric hospital".

Message from Professor Karlheinz Stockhausen: After returning from Hamburg I find false, defamatory reports in the press. I am as dismayed as everyone else about the attacks in America.

At the press conference in Hamburg, I was asked if Michael, Eve and Lucifer were historical figures of the past and I answered that they exist now, for example Lucifer in New York.

In my work, I have defined Lucifer as the cosmic spirit of rebellion, of anarchy. He uses his high degree of intelligence to destroy creation. He does not know love.

After further questions about the events in America, I said that such a plan appeared to be Lucifer's greatest work of art. Of course I used the designation "work of art" to mean the work of destruction personified in Lucifer. In the context of my other comments this was unequivocal.

I cannot find a fitting name for such a "satanic composition". In my case, it was not and is not my intention to hurt anyone. Since the beginning of the attack onward I have felt solidarity with all of the human beings mourning this atrocity. Not for one moment have I thought or felt the way my words are now being interpreted in the press.

The journalist in Hamburg completely ripped my statements out of a context, which he had not recorded in its entirety, to use it as a vile attack against my person and the Hamburg Music Festival. This whole situation is regrettable and I am deeply sorry if my remarks were misconstrued to offend the grieving families of the brutal attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. I will continue to keep the victims of this outrage in my prayers. Karlheinz Stockhausen September 19, 2001

LOST & FOUND

• A 35,000 Photo Archive, one of the largest collections of photographs of Broadway, Off and Off Off Broadway and regional theater, was in the offices of Broadway Digital Entertainment, a company that had been preserving videotapes of historic theatrical productions that appeared on TV, just a block away from 7 World Trade Center. 320 videotapes in various stages of preservation, were not in the office and escaped destruction. The collection had come from the magazine Theater Week which ceased publication in 1997, and then augmented by a successor magazine, In Theater, which folded last year.

• Vandals have scratched a panel known as the Blue Buffalo out of existence, destroying priceless rock art created about 200 years ago in Utah's southeast desert. The decimated rock art featured a shield, several figures and a bison painted on a large sandstone panel tucked into a canyon about 15 miles northwest of Moab near Mill Canyon. It was a 16-foot-long panel unusual because of the blue paint and the depiction of a bison in motion. There is a \$500 reward for information in vandalism cases, and \$5,000 more is being offered for information about this particular vandalism.

• All around Berlin are 2,500 "Wanted" posters plastered on billboards and kiosks with the image of the British artist Francis Bacon as portrayed by another master British painter, Lucian Freud, in 1951, when he was 42 and Bacon was 31. The tiny image, oil on copper only 5 x 7 inches and based on a photograph of Kafka, depicted Bacon with brooding eyes and tousled hair. It was stolen from a traveling exhibition when it was at the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin in 1988 and was never recovered. Now, with a major retrospective of Mr. Freud's work

opening at Tate Britain in London next year to celebrate the artist's 90th birthday, Freud is desperate to recover the stolen portrait—so desperate, in fact, that he designed the poster himself. An anonymous donor is offering a \$140,000 reward for its return.

• Hollywood is not all bad. A move-set house used in "Life as a House" is going to be a dream library for Brentwood's Kenter Canyon School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. A kind of Greene & Greene-inspired Craftsman house is getting a second chance as a beautiful school library, replacing a big concrete box.

Lost: Pool in the Harem (1876) by Jean-Léon Gérôme, stolen from the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. This is only the second time a painting had been stolen from the Hermitage in its 240-year history. There is at least one museum a month hit by thieves in Russia, which has about 1,500 museums.

• Found: Two tombs dating back more than 2,500 years in a part of Cairo where the ancient city of Heliopolis once stood have been found by archeologists. One of the limestone tombs contained a sarcophagus and 16 statuettes, and the other belonged to a builder, whose name was engraved on the statuettes.

• Found: Problems with Frank Lloyd Wright's organic design for Fallingwater. Stress problems will be repaired permanently, because it has been diagnosed that Wright did not include enough steel in the reinforced concrete, particularly in the second-floor terrace. As a result, the work, begun in late November, gives visitors a one-in-a-lifetime chance to see America's "building of the 20th century" undergo corrections for \$11-million restoration. Tours to see the restoration in progress costs \$50. Fallingwater is in Mill Run, Pennsylvania.

Found: The tidy black notebook in which Truman Capote listed more than 500 names, the definitive social index of its time (1966) which became the guest list to the legendary Black and White Ball given by Capote at the Plaza in that year.

Rediscovered: A whole body of work, paintings from Fort Pierce, Florida, which sold from \$10 to \$35 a piece from the late 1950s into the early 1980s, have now been rediscovered and this revival of interest in them by self-taught or outsider artists, now reap very high prices as collectibles

(especially those of the 1950s). These landscapes have become dreamscapes by a group of black artists who left religious painting for these dreamy landscapes

Lost & Recovered: Benjamin Johnson took more from his summer job than most college students, police say. The 21-year-old from Hamden, Conn., was in court in November on charges he stole \$2 million worth of rare books and historic documents from Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, where he held a summer job.

After a tip from a suspicious autograph dealer who said he bought a signature by George Washington from Johnson, police in October arrested him in his dormitory at the University of Wisconsin, where he is a sophomore. In his desk, police say, they found a trove of valuable letters, maps, signatures, and early classic American novels.

LOST: Some of the world's smallest pieces of art, which fit into the eye of a needle, have been stolen. Three pieces created by the British sculptor Willard Wigan vanished, while being packed after an exhibition in London's Covent Garden. The three minute carvings, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Tower Bridge and Jesus, are together worth ££100,000. They are each less than a millimetre in size and are mounted in the eyes of needles. Bath-based artist Mr Wigan is today devastated at the loss of three of his prized possessions. "No human being can understand what I am feeling right now. Each of these pieces represent months of my life and are irreplaceable. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", in particular, is the finest piece I have ever done. I have put eight people into the eye of the needle. No-one else can do that." They were due to go on exhibition in Japan next year. The theft has been reported to the police.

LOST: 70,000 works of art from the Museum in Kabul systematically destroyed by the Taliban Minister of Culture with the help of a large group of Taliban soldiers, going from room to room and destroying all works of art that had the human form as its basis. The museum is now a shell of itself, hit by axes and hammers. In 1992, the Museum was in the front line of attacks. In 1995, there was a salvage operation but 3000 works were stored at the Ministry of Culture, which in the past two years has destroyed all the works in their possession.

However, one more safe storage space has been indicated by the custodian who saw the utter destruction of the works cited above, and took it upon himself to save what he could. His hope that one day in the near future, he will be able to see them exhibited in the Museum of Kabul again.

FOUND & DONATED: The second most expensive manuscript ever sold in Israel has been donated to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem by a New York collector. Known as the First Nuremberg Haggadah, the rare illuminated parchment written and illustrated by Joel ben Simeon around 1449 in Germany was given to the museum in August by Erica Jesselson, who had purchased it in April at a Sotheby's auction in Tel Aviv for \$1,017,750.

FOUND KORANS

Discarded Korans, worn and tattered, line the rock-studded walls from floor to ceiling of a man-made tunnel in the mountain called Jabbal-e-Noorul near Quetta, Pakistan, across the border from Afghanistan. About 65,000 bags containing somewhere between 3 million and 4 million books and countless loose pages make up this repository which began by chance in 1980 when Allah Noor Daavi, a businessman, rode his bicycle through Quetta, noticing torn pieces of a Koran on the side of the road. He began to retrieve the discarded books and loose pages. In the meantime, he discovered that people often left their old Korans in graveyards, so he added cemeteries to his itinerary. When the collection got too big for his small house, the men bought a plot of land adjoining the mountain and then hired workers to dig the maze of tunnels. There are lights strung along the ceiling and carpet was laid on the floors. But not only are the Korans stored, but many could be restored, so two binders work there every day, repairing books that can be salvaged. The repaired books are donated to religious schools for student who cannot afford new ones. An invitation for old Bibles and Torahs was made almost immediately, but none have arrived.

GUERRILLA GIRLS

The Guerrilla Girls have decided in the wake of September 11 to launch their agit-prop work by producing a poster of an "estrogen bomb." Dropped into the middle of Afghanistan, it would induce both sides to recognize the futility of violence. It was Jerry Falwell and the Taliban who decided it for the Guerrilla

Girls, since both of them blamed women for the current crisis.

ARTIST'S PROJECT: Silence

A set of compact discs featuring silence gathered from BBC Radio 4 broadcasts will be released by a Canadian artist and sold for \$430. Matt Rogalsky, 35, will edit out all the voices and music from a 24-hour period of Radio 4 output and crate 24 sets of 24 CDs—one for each hour of the day. He thought up the project after hearing that American radio stations are editing out gaps in broadcasts to squeeze in more advertising. What is left after cutting out words and music are "ambient sounds" that people usually do not focus on. Rogalsky will crop the silences from programs that aired on 12 December 2000, the 100th anniversary of Marconi's first-ever trans-Atlantic wireless broadcast. The project is named *S* because Marconi's transmission consisted of that letter repeated three times at hourly intervals.

MUSEUMS IN THE NEWS

"Museums in a Quandary: Where are the Ideals?" by Michael Kimmelman in the NY Times of 26 August 2001.

• Only after one year as director of the Tate Modern, Nars Nitve, has announced his resignation as its first director. He has accepted a job as director of the Moderna Museet in Stockholm replacing David Elliott, who is to become the first director of the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo in November.

• The Tate Modern has a new Tate Online with more than 800,000 hits a day, allowing viewers to take a virtual tour from room to room with 360-degree scanning. Damien Hirst has also devised a program on the net based around his installation work, *Pharmacy*.

• The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts in St. Louis is really an "un-museum", i.e. there are no labels on the art, the works are not arranged in any logical order, no postcards are for sale, no gift shop, no restaurant, no vending machines, no audio guides for rent. No strays on the balcony, an elevator exists only because disability-rights activities fought for it.

Looking like an impenetrable concrete box, the look is intentional. Emily Rauh Pulitzer's intention is to create a place for quiet contemplation, a place where visitors could take their time exploring art and architecture, without distraction. The galleries are open to the public only 11 hours a week, on Wednesday and Sturday afternoons with no admission fee, but by reservation only. The place will be used as a sort of cultural think tank during the off-hours.

• The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan has paid \$492,000 at an Internet auction for a bus whose owners say was the one on which Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man in 1955.

• The American Center for Food, Wine & the Arts in Napa, California houses gourmet restaurants and exhibitions on

starvation. It examines the role of wine and food in art and society.

• **Corcoran Art Gallery** in Washington, DC. Has chosen Frank O. Gehry as architect for a metal-clad addition to the gallery and its affiliate, The Corcoran College of Art & Design.

• The **Walters Art Museum** has opened its newly remodeled galleries after three years, and plans to open a Center for Art & Technological Studies in a new building.

• The small **Currier Gallery of Art** in Manchester, NH is now the recipient of a \$43 million cash bequest and 40 19th century paintings, all given by Henry Melville Fuller, a former Currier trustee.

• The widow of Peter Ludwig has offered to donate the world's largest private collection of work by Picasso to the city of Cologne, Germany. 774 works of art will be donated to Cologne museum that bears her late husband's name. The Ludwig Museum already is home to a large collection of Picasso works. There will be 49 unique works, 29 ceramics, 37 works on paper, 15 relief plates and 681 graphic prints.

IS IT ART?

An installation that Damien Hirst, the British artist, assembled in the window of a Mayfair (London) gallery, was dismantled and discarded the same night by a cleaning man who said he thought it was garbage. A heap of cigarette butts, empty beer bottles, a paint-smudged palette, an easel, a ladder, paintbrushes, candy wrappers and newspaper pages strewn about the floor—all of this was the centerpiece of an exhibition. The cleaning man put it all in plastic bags and dumped it. However, he didn't really throw it away, but set it aside—and Hirst resurrected the work as identical to the original as possible, with one exception. A sign nearby said "Keep Off."

ART CRIME IN THE CITY

Los Angeles has the only full-fledged investigative unit assigned to track down art thieves. LAPD Det. Don Hrycyk is the investigator for the Art Theft Detail and during the past 8 years he has had seven partners, who no sooner had settled into the job than they moved to other details. Yet the Art Detail has recovered more than \$46 million in stolen art.

NEW NAME FOR ART SCHOOL

Instead of Maryland Institute, College of Art, the comma has been dropped and it is now the Maryland Institute College of Art—no comma, no pause, no division.

MANHOLE COVERS IN CHICAGO

Young artists from the Gallery 37 city art program have painted sunflowers and "starry nights" by Van Gogh and Gauguin's landscapes and self-portraits are among the famous works decorating the city's sidewalks to celebrate the Van Gogh and Gauguin: The Studio for the South exhibition at the Art Institute through 13 January.

CAPITALISM WITH A VENGEANCE

Artist David Greg Harth, New York-based, has been stamping United States paper currency with one of two phrases, "I am not afraid" or "I am not terrorized." The bills are then put back into circulation in the time-honored way with the goal of providing subliminal comfort to skittish consumers. He is putting his mouth where his money is by saying "I will create art, go out for dinner, go to a concert. The terrorists want to kill us by destroying our economy and productive spirit. It's not going to happen..." If you would like to join Mr. Harth's stamp act, you can visit www.davidgregharth.com/dollars. He will send a stamp (free, but it must be returned) or exchange a check or money order for marked bills.

INTERNET ARCHIVE

An internet archive containing more text than any library in history has opened its digital doors, giving researchers and the public access to just about everything posted on the World Wide Web over the last five years. The free archive, created by San Francisco computer entrepreneur named Brewster Kahle, allows academics to conduct the electronic equivalent of archeological digs, rooting through reams of material illustrated the evolution of the Web and its role in American society. See <http://web.archive.org>

FUN IN THE BUFF

Thousands of Australians stripped naked in a chilly drizzle for the latest in an American photographer's "Nude Adrift" series. About 4,000 people gathered at the Yarra River's Princes Bridge and adjoining Alexandra Gardens in Melbourne.

Since 1992, Spencer Tunick of New York has been photographing hundreds of naked people against urban backdrops from London to Jerusalem. The project has gotten him arrested seven times in the U.S.

DATELINE: Los Angeles

The Watts Towers, damaged in the 1994 Northridge quake, has been re-dedicated, retrofitted and restored thanks to a FEMA grant and seven years of repairs. The towers are now anchored better, using 16-foot steel beams. This work of a self-taught artist, Simon Rodia, has been internationally recognized and images of it have been included in important exhibitions worldwide.

FLUXUS

Ay-O: Rainbow Mandala was seen at Emily Harvey Gallery in New York City from 4 October - 3 November 2001. Here is an URL where you can find some images of the Fluxus Concert of Annecy

<http://performers.free.fr/fluxus/annecy.htm>

The concert was really beautiful, ended in a happy mess with the paper pieces of Takako Saito and Ben Patterson. We spent two marvellous days with Eric Andersen,

Ben Patterson, Takako Saito, Ben Vautier, Charles Dreyfus and the others, let me thank them all for this in the name of 4T Fluxus. Great experience, truly. And the artists seems to have enjoyed a lot too.

This constituted the opening evening of the 40 years of Fluxus in Nov. 2002 we are preparing in France. We are still negotiating the location where the events will take place in Paris, but this concert, and its success (more than 500 peoples, for a concert which was almost not advertised), surely will help our work. We will soon release other images of the concert on the web (those are from Charles Dreyfus, and the site is the one of Richard Piegza). Message from Bertrand and 4T Fluxus. Silver, an exhibition of César, Jeff Koons, Yayoi Kusama, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol and Fluxus artist, Robert Watts, is at the Leo Castelli gallery through 2 February 2002 on 59 E. 79th St., NYC.

OUTSIDER ART

Cleveland Turner's in Houston is a menagerie of junk that Turner has salvaged from garbage cans. From Christmas lights and ornaments to stuffed animals, broken toys, fishing poles, lipstick, Bambis and naked dolls and much more. Thousands come from around the world to gaze at this fine example of "yard show", a form of folk art found in some Southern communities. The house is painted red, white and blue with splashes of green and yellow is known as the Flower Man's House because Turner has planted hundreds of flowers in the nooks and crannies of his evolving masterpiece.

• A certain Van Freeman decorated his rented home with crosses and biblical mosaics in Los Angeles, and then vanished. Because of failed rent payments, he was evicted and disappeared. The neighbors saw what he had left and wanted to preserve the household, full of so many works of art combining the nature of art and law and G-d. Mosaics of glass, tile, stones and nails cover doors, window panes, walls, and floors. And then, this center of a one-bedroom bungalow, with a wall tiled with pennies and ceilings scrawled with Bible quotations, was discovered in his parents' home in Baltimore

LOOTED ART

El Lissitzky's son, Jen, filed a complaint on 13 July against the Beyeler Foundation in Basel, seeking to recover Kandinsky's "Improvisation No. 1" that was looted by the Nazis in 1937. The Kandinsky was one of 13 works that made up Sophie-Kuppers-Lissitzky collection; two other paintings from the collection have already been returned to Jen Lissitzky.

• Gunter Grass, the Nobel Prize-winning novelist, has proposed that a joint German-Polish museum for looted art be set up. Its building would over-arch the river Oder (the traditional boundary between the Teutonic and the Slavic world).

WTC AFTERMATH

New York City's 2,000 arts institutions are facing the gravest economic period since the fiscal crisis of the 1970s, due to the plunge in tourism, a decline in charitable contributions and anticipated cuts in the city's cultural budget. From the Guggenheim Museum to the American Museum of the Moving Image, layoffs are abundant.

•Fritz Koenig's "The Sphere" (1969) which was a focal point of the large plaza in the middle of the World Trade Center, part of the rubble of the World Trade Center, necessitated a farewell visit to Koenig's "biggest child" after the 11 September tragedy.

•The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation announced in November that it was establishing a \$50 million fund for museums, theaters, dance companies and other New York cultural institutions affected by repercussions from the 11 September terrorist attacks, as well as for public parks where people congregated after the disaster.

ARCHIVES

The Stasi's files (those are the East German Secret Police) are being painstakingly pieced together from shreds, shards of paper, some handwritten, some typed, some partly restored. In a small office near Nuremberg, the four million files on citizens of the former GDR, the million files on West Germans and perhaps 200,000 on foreigners, indicate that the Stasi were spying on everyone else. This does not include the 17,000 sacks of shredded and ripped paper, photos and negatives that were hurriedly destroyed by the Stasi as they heard the Berlin Wall fall.

•Russia will shortly publish a list of all art works that ended up in its museums and archives as a result of World War II. About 1,000,000 books, paintings, coins, church windows and other German cultural objects have gathered dust in Russia for decades.

•Williams College in Massachusetts now is the repository of an archive of 700 hours of videotape and 12,000 photographs taken by Afghans to document the war between the mujahedeen and the Soviet Union in Afghanistan from 1987 to 1995. Luckily, last summer it was carried from the Afghan Media Resource Center in Peshawar, Pakistan by a professor and his friend, a Voice of America journalist, along with 3 Afghans: a video cameraman, a photographer and a computer specialist.

KINKADE'S VIRTUAL FANTASY

California painter Thomas Kinkade has licensed his name and artistic inspiration in Taylor Woodrow Homes, a London-based developer building a gated community in Vallejo, California. The 101-house project, known as the Village, will try to re-create the artist's fantasy of family life. The names of the model homes are named for Kinkade's daughters. A satire on the whole thing can be read in the Los Angeles Times, 3 December 2001!

Umbrella Museum

Judy & Chuck Goodstein, S. Bartkowski, Coco Gordon, Sherman Clarke, Picasso Gaglione

