

Publication: International Herald Tribune
Date: May 26 – 27 2007
Headline: Beauty in Asia: 200 BCE to Today

Arts Guide



The State Hermitage Museum
 "Live While Ye May, Yet Happy Pair..." (Milton) — A fifth-century B.C. red-figure oinochoe, or ovoid jug with loop handle, possibly showing Aphrodite and Eros is one of the ancient Greek artworks in the Hermitage Museum exhibition, "The Aroma of Antiquity."

AUSTRIA | VIENNA

KUNSTHALLE WIEN
 To Sept. 2: "Chen Zhen: Der Körper als Landschaft." "I don't play with incomprehension: I try to create it," Chen once said. One of the many artists who left post-Mao China in the 1980s, Chen (1955-2000) settled in Paris where his installations received prompt acclaim. Centered around "Jue Chang, Dancing Body," a 2000 interactive installation of chairs and beds assembled into a gigantic percussion instrument, the exhibition offers photographs, sculptures and installations created in the 10 years leading to the artist's death. Using the human body, illness and Chinese medical practices as metaphors, they document Chen's attempt at structuring his own identity within the frame of conflicting Eastern and Western cultural models.
www.kunsthallewien.at

BRITAIN | LONDON

THE BRITISH LIBRARY
 To Sept. 23: "Sacred." A selection of Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy books. Unfortunately somewhat cramped, the exhibition of 200 manuscripts and cult objects documents how Hebrew illumination drew from Islamic and Christian art for inspiration; how Biblical manuscripts, some dating to the 2nd century, have been preserved; and how

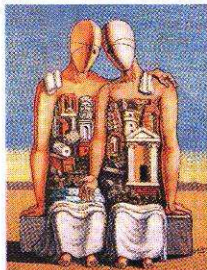
the Koran was calligraphed and illuminated across the Islamic world, from Spain to South East Asia, from the eighth to the end of the 19th century.
www.bl.uk

DENMARK | HUMLEBAEK

LOUISIANA MUSEUM FOR MODERNE KUNST
 To Aug. 5: "Made in China." Contemporary Chinese art has generated a lot of curatorial attention in the West and shot up to record prices at auctions worldwide. The display assembles 90 works — graphic art and ink drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography, performance art and installations — selected from the Estella Collection, one of the world's largest collections in the field. Although still permeated by the traditional military culture, the works reflect the inexorable transformation of Chinese society. Hai Bo (b. 1962), Xu Bing (b. 1955) and Zhen Guogu (b. 1970), among others, have all burst onto the international art scene.
www.louisiana.dk

FRANCE | PARIS

MUSÉE JACQUEMART-ANDRÉ
 To Aug. 26: "Masques de Chine, Rites Magiques de Nuo." About 100 Chinese masks from the 17th to the 19th centuries open the door to the little-known world of



Giorgio et Isa de Chirico Foundation

Chinese sacred rituals. Nuo, an exorcising ritual danced with masks in China for millennia, progressively gave way to theatrical and operatic performances that retained the same cosmological concepts. Many Nuo masks were destroyed as cult objects during the Cultural Revolution. Those that were safely hidden are now officially protected as examples of the Chinese national heritage.
www.musee-jacquemart-andre.com

GERMANY | MUNICH

KUNSTHALLE DER HYPO-KUNSTSTIFTUNG
 To July 8: "Serge Poliakoff (1900-65) Retrospektive." In 1917, Poliakoff (1900-65) left his native Moscow for Paris where he lived for most of his life. After exploring figuration, he found his own pictorial idiom — abstract shapes,



Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York and Regen Projects, Los Angeles
 A 1993 photograph by Wolfgang Tillmans, above, is on display at the Hirshhorn, Washington. "The Archaeologists, 1968," below, is in a show paying homage to Giorgio de Chirico in Athens.

connecting like puzzle pieces and supported by a basic palette of reds, yellows and blues. About 100 paintings and gouaches have been assembled with the help of the artist's son.
www.hypo-kunsthalle.de

GREECE | ATHENS

ATHINAIAS CULTURAL CENTER
 To June 30: "Giorgio de Chirico and Greece: A Journey Through Memory." A former silk factory, the multipurpose venue includes an Art Hall, now displaying 35 of the mysterious and dream-filled paintings and sculptures by the Greek-Italian artist (1888-1974). The works are permeated with de Chirico's emotional memories of Greece (the artist was born in Volos and studied in Athens) and fuse history, myth and tradition.
www.athinaias.com.gr

JAPAN | TOKYO

HARA MUSEUM
 To July 16: "Henry Darger: A Story of Girls at War — Of Paradise Dreamed." During his solitary life in Chicago and unknown to all, Darger (1892-1973) wrote a 15,000-page novel, "In the Realms of the Unreal," which he illustrated with hundreds of watercolors. The book and images, kept intact after his death and now held for a large part in the Musée de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, describe the fight of seven sisters against evil forces. The Outsider artist's naive style is characterized by a profusion of people in turbulent, colorful surroundings with imaginative attributes and well-defined contours.
www.haramuseum.or.jp



Gilbert & George's "Fifteen Hang-Outs, 2003," left, is in a display of 20th- and 21st-century artworks in Belgrade. "Gray Sea Hold Hands, 2006," below, by Feng Mengbo, is shown with other works by contemporary Chinese artists in Humlebaek, Denmark.

Musée d'Art Moderne, Saint-Etienne Métropole



Estella Collection

others. Léger, Soulas, Boltanski, Lavier and Gilbert & George, whose work resists classification, are also on display.
www.kcb.org.yu

SINGAPORE

ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM
 To Sept. 23: "Beauty in Asia: 200 BCE to Today." An ambitious project that assembles 300 objects celebrating "all that is beautiful, across Asian cultures, time and space." The exhibition juxtaposes Chinese and Indian paintings, sculptures and miniatures. It also documents what people did or still do with their bodies in their quest for beauty, from foot-binding in China, elongated necks in Thailand and contemporary tattoos. It ends on an exploration of spiritual beauty.
www.acm.org.sg

SPAIN | MADRID

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL
 To Aug. 26: "Ecuador: Tradición y Modernidad." About 180 ceramics, sculptures, paintings and photographs document the artistic creation in Ecuador during four successive periods: pre-Hispanic, colonial, and the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibits range from pre-Columbian terra cottas to the emotional paintings of Oswaldo Guayasamín (1919-99). Admittedly, the Library hopes to draw the interest of the Ecuadorian immigrant population, one of the largest in Spain.
www.bne.es

UNITED STATES | WASHINGTON

HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN
 To Aug. 12: "Wolfgang Tillmans." The 300 photographs of various sizes have been installed by the German-born artist himself to trigger physical or emotional reactions from the viewer. Tillmans's (b. 1968) subjects include friends and celebrities, colorful arrangements of food and flowers, pieces of clothing that suggest the human body, idyllic landscapes and luminous abstractions created by exposing photo-sensitive paper to light sources.
<http://hirshhorn.si.edu>
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