

NEWS & NOTES

LOST & FOUND

Found: A Dutch painting by Gabriel Metsu, "Maid Washington Clothes in a Wooden Basin at an Open Window", stolen from a Polish museum by German forces during World War II has been bought for the Polish Government in a convoluted manner. A private anonymous collector received about \$65,000 who had consigned the work to Sotheby's in New York nearly two years ago for auction. The painting was withdrawn by the auction house after a Polish art restorer in New Jersey spotted the work in a Sotheby's catalog and questioned it sale. And the auction house made up part of the difference between what the businessman contributed and what the seller wanted. Double dealing?

Missing: 22 medieval manuscripts are missing from Columbia University's Rare Book & Manuscript Library, including a papal bull written in 1202 and a French copy of the Book of Hours from the 14th century, containing 17 miniatures and blue and gold initials. 8 of the 22 missing works are of 19th-century Arabic or Persian origin, including a highly decorated Persian book of poems, which contains 31 miniatures.

Saved: 50 years of Argentine Government files on Nazis that were handed over last year at the direction of President Menem. In addition, the largest library of Jewish rare books in Argentina, maintained by the Yivo Institute.

Lost: The archives of the Jewish Mutual Aid Association of Argentina's archive of community records, dating to 1894.

Found: The bulk of a rare collection of Jewish artifacts stolen from the Budapest Jewish Museum late last year has been found in Romania. Many of the 179 stolen pieces were found in the village of Dascalu, near Bucharest. About 90% of the collection was found, and everything is in very good condition.

Found: Australia's national film archive has donated more than 1,600 early American films, from Harold Lloyd comedies to industrial movie is to newsreels, to the United States for restoration. Some of the films are believed to be the only remaining copies. These nitrate-based films, some of

Harold Lloyd's earliest (1915), will be restored in the U.S., since the Australian archive realized it did not have the money to preserve the films, so they offered them to the U.S.

Lost: Antonio Canova's neoclassical sculpture, "The Three Graces", seems to have eluded the J. Paul Getty Museum, thanks to a combination of a pledge of \$1.5 million from John Paul Getty II, and from Thyssen's 800,000 pounds, and a pledge by the V & A Museum in London and the National Gallery of Scotland. Is this the last word? Not according to John Walsh, director of the Getty Museum, who is appealing the case.

Lost: Cuban exiles are threatening legal action to stop Britain from exhibiting priceless paintings they say were confiscated from their families by Fidel Castro. Among them are a "forgotten" Canaletto view of the Thames, works by Turner and Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida, all stolen by the communists. The exile families who fled the country more than 30 years ago, fear that Cuban officials plan to sell some of the works, among which are works by Wilfredo Lam.

Found: WPA murals are having a renaissance in schools, post offices and other public buildings. Murals are being removed from buildings destined to be destroyed, and the prices are increasing. Other WPA murals are being restored, and a Friends of WPA Art has been formed in Chicago.

Damaged: Artist Mark Bridger was found guilty of criminal damage in a London court after he made an "addendum" to a piece of art made by Damien Hirst which was on display at the Serpentine Gallery. Hirst's work, *Away from the Flock*, (it sold for \$39,000!), consists of a lamb suspended in a tank of formaldehyde. Bridger poured black ink into the tank. He told the court he thought Hirst would not object, since he wants his work to provoke a response.

Lost & Found: Russia has a problem--with its 10 million German books it refuses to send back to Germany. To be sure, Germany destroyed nearly 200 million Russian books in World War II, but it long ago returned most of the books it had left and has sent millions of dollars to Russia in partial compensation. Russia should return them, according to

some, based on moral choice. But the task would be daunting, seeing that the books were disbursed throughout the country. Some of the books, a Gutenberg Bible and several medieval manuscripts, for example, are of great value. Some of the books are in Moscow at the Lenin Library and Moscow State University, but others are strewn throughout Soviet libraries.

Germany really wants the main collections of libraries from the early 16th & 17th centuries, while they are not even concerned with books from the 18th or 19th centuries.

Lost: The National Endowment for the Arts, wrestling with nearly \$3 million in budget cuts that followed Congressional rebukes over works it backed, has eliminated the system that allowed local nonprofit organizations to earmark \$1.3 million in Federal grants for individual artists. This occurred before the elections on 8 November.

Found: A home for British Museum's collection of native North American ethnography--including all the native peoples of North America, from the Inuit to the Navajos. The 20,000 artifacts include wampum, scarves, combs, dresses, bison robes, weaponry, eating utensils, basketry, potlatch clothing, headdresses with eagle feathers, moccasins, totem poles and sealskin parkas. thanks to a gift from Chase Manhattan Bank for \$1.6 million, the North American collection will be permanently housed in one gallery in the British Museum. The collection will go on view in 1997.

Lost: Canada is missing 237 pieces of fine art from more than 60 diplomatic missions around the globe, owned by the Foreign Affairs Department. One of the most valuable pieces is a large-canvas painting by contemporary artist Les Levine, estimated to be worth about \$10,000. It was hurriedly shipped by truck from the Baghdad Embassy just before the 1991 Gulf War, but appears not to have reached its destination in Adman, Jordan.

MUSEUMS

A new museum in London dedicated solely to art created by women is being planned by artists Belinda Harding and artist and critic Menace Petzal. They have discovered that in the Tate Gallery only 1200 out of 15,000 works are by women, the National Gallery has 11 out of 2214 works of art by women and

Liverpool's Walker Gallery have only 92 works of art out of 3292 pieces by women. And most of the work is in storage and not on display.

For more information, contact Georgia Treacher, 13a Downshire Hill, London NW3, England.

Dateline: Madrid

The Prado has had four directors in just over three years; its budget has been frozen since 1986; it desperately needs extra space for its collection, and it is short of qualified staff. Even its roof leaks. Only 1,049 paintings hang in the Prado with another 310 in its annex out of a collection of 7,679. It has more than 1000 sculptures but no curator of sculpture.

Dateline: Vatican

IBM said it will assist the Vatican's repository for many of the world's rarest books and documents in making its material available electronically. The prefect of the library hopes to make its volumes accessible worldwide without risking damage to the documents. The project will involve making page of ancient and rare volumes available as digital images.

Dateline: Maryland

The Baltimore Museum of Art dedicated its New Wing for Modern Art, featuring 15 newly acquired paintings by Andy Warhol. It includes 16 galleries and displays major works by more than 75 American and European artists of the post-1945 period.

The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and Design in Kansas City, MO opened with the first public exhibition of 28 early watercolors by George O'Keeffe, called **The Canyon Suite**.

Dateline: Tachikawa, near Tokyo

Furamu Kitagawa, art gallery owner, has transformed the former U.S. military base in Tachikawa, located in the suburbs of Tokyo, into a "town of art", with a sculpture in the shape of a bicycle by Rauschenberg in the parking lot. With 11 smart buildings--artists were instructed to design and produce objects that are both artistic and functional, such as car ramps, street signs and the external walls of building, the project is radical in nature for Japan.

The project cost 900 million yen. Kitagawa chose the artists himself, scouring the site for likely locations, proposed concepts to the artists and oversaw the installation of the works. 1) Stage of art. These were originally dead

spaces and he asked artists to turn them into "stages of art", 38 to be exact. Sculptures on air vents, sculptures that wrap around ventilating towers. 2) Appropriation of standard sidewalk objects, turning them into art: design of benches, signs and lightposts were all commissioned to artists from around the world, e.g. posts that separate the sidewalks from the streets of which there are 38 which provide buffers between pedestrians and cars. 3. "Landmarks", significant works of art set in locations that command attention. Besides name brands such as Claes Oldenburg and Robert Rauschenberg, there are 92 artists from 36 different countries, who produced 110 pieces for the project.

The artworks are so thick, so varied and interesting, even an observant pedestrian will likely find a new detail catching the eye on every trip down the street. The project is called **Faret Tachikawa** or Tachikawa Forest, six hectares of land, turning it into a mixed-use city subcenter and a forest of art.

Dateline: London

To help protect the Eros statue in Piccadilly Circus from climbers and vandals, London installed a \$60,000 electronic surveillance system linked to a nearby security office. A recorded voice warns trespassers: "Do not touch the statue. Please move away!"

Dateline: Scottsdale, AZ

An exhibition, **Neo-Dada: Redefining Art, 1958-62**, curated by Susan Hapgood, attempts to show how important the Dadaist influence was during this brief period and reveal common attitudes that were expressed across a broad spectrum of art.

Dateline: Port-au-Print, Haiti

Stevenson Magloire, a painter with a taste for abstraction and political symbolism and son of Louisaine St. Fleurant, a 70-year-old world-renowned artist, was stoned to death the week Father Aristide returned as President on 15 October. Ironically, his death came after he was granted political asylum in the U.S., but before he could find a way to get there. The reason for his stoning stemmed from a painting of his stoned three years before, after fame had gone to his head and he was flaunting his sudden success. Death threats led to attempts to retrieve the painting, thus being arrested, thrown in jail and beaten, since the same one who stole the painting had him beaten to death.

Dateline: Ottawa

Canada will be represented at the 1995 Venice Biennale by Edward Poitras, the first native Canadian ever to show at the Biennale. Curated by Gerald McMaster, a Cree from Saskatchewan who is curator at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, the exhibition of Poitras, who is a Metis artists from Saskatchewan is quite a first

Dateline: London

The British government has deferred until January a decision on whether to allow a rare Rembrandt painting to be exported to the U.S.--especially to Malibu's J. Paul Getty Museum--in the hope that a buyer will come forward to keep the work in Britain. The Getty paid \$7.63 million for the 17th century masterpiece, "Daniel and Cyrus Before the Idol Bel."

Dateline: Boston

The Museum of Fine Arts' Museum School has a gallery, Grossman Gallery, and the exhibition just closing, "Self/Made Self/Conscious", curated by Lelia Amalfitano, the director of exhibitions, pairs two of the most unlikely artists: Bruce Nauman, 53 and Janine Antoni, 30, but it works, and the fugue and variation they play is amazing. Wish this show would travel--it would really be talk of the town!

Latest Fad: Bust Art

Women are flocking to have themselves turned into classical sculpture--with busts of their busts. It's the latest thing!

CENSORSHIP

Charles Gatewood is known to make remarkable photographs, which have been exhibited and published to international acclaim. He is a winner of many fellowships and awards, including the Leica Medal of Excellence for Outstanding Humanistic Photojournalism. His latest series, also in book form, is called "**Charles Gatewood: Photographs**" with an introduction by A.D. Coleman. Well, on 18 March of this year, the Rita Dean Gallery in San Diego was visited by the police vice squad and told to remove to cover a large photographic silkscreen by the Gatewood. The artwork, displayed in the front window of the gallery, depicted a smiling, full-figured woman, reclining nude in a classic odalisque pose.

Gallery owner J.D. Healy was told "cover the nipples, remove the artwork, or you will be arrested. This is San Diego. No nipples." Healy responded by

placing oval pieces of cardboard (reading **Censored**) over the women's nipples. The artist was shocked and very upset, since the silkscreen had been drawing large, enthusiastic crowds. "I find this censorship by police intimidation odious and totally unjustified."

Canada has passed a new obscenity law, commonly known as the Butler decision. It has touched three separate censorship trials: of artist Eli Langer in Toronto, over the depiction of children in sex acts; Little Sisters bookstore in Vancouver, involving book seizures by Customs officials; and for comic relief, a dopey Hollywood sex comedy in Saskatchewan. According to the new law, Michelangelo's statue of David might not escape the sweeping definition of "child pornography" now found in the Criminal Code. In Eli Langer's court case, a certain Patrick Watson, a TV production for 38 years, said the 16th century masterpiece was clearly of David as a young man, but he could not say whether at the time he would have been over or under 18.

Under the Code's definition, child pornography includes any "visual representation...the dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, for a sexual purpose, of a sexual organ or the anal region of a person under the age of 18 years. In fact, there are probably some Canadian artists "hanging works in the basement" because of uncertainty as to society's reaction if they were hung publicly. The law, with its penalty of up to 10 years in jail for anyone who produces any form of child pornography, will have a chilling effect on Canadian artists and writers.

Mr. Langer, a 26-year-old self-taught artist, was forced to give up five paintings and 35 drawings to the police last December. It may be that some of the work will be returned to the artist, since only two paintings and a minority of the pencil sketches are deemed ready for destruction by the authorities. The two paintings were of a young girl defecating and of a voyeuristic intruder peering at the naked figures of a sexually aroused man and a small girl sitting astride his collarbone.

An internationally known San Francisco Artist, Zoravia Bettioli, 60, a Brazilian who lives in San Francisco, has sued the city of Menlo Park for censoring her nude sculptures by covering them with Post-It notes and then forcing her to remove the pieces.

Fashion photographer Richard Avedon is portrayed in court papers as a drug abuser who took pictures of his grandchildren in the nude, sexually fondled one of them and had a preoccupation with seeing them naked. The allegations were made in court documents filed last fall by his former daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Paul Avedon, who divorced his son, John, several years ago.

Christopher Small, a former substitute teacher, was sentenced last summer to 180 days in jail for sketching a nude 15-year-old girl while her mother was present. The girl and her mother answered the Madera, California man's advertisement for a nude model, but the mother later complained that Small had the girl do poses that were overly suggestive.

WILD ART

Slumber Party: Art and the Contemporary Bed was shown in Hoboken, New Jersey, featuring linens individual designed, dyed, printed, and signed by artist Doug Lindsay at a gallery called Slumber Party.

Panty Art. 100 pairs of panties bearing the inscriptions "Call Me," "Try to see it my way," "It hurts" and "Don't forget me," were flying recently on the campus at Illinois State University in Normal. It was part of an "interactive site sculpture" by three local artists, who also happened to be women. The work was titled "Spinning Our Wheels...Prayers, Self Help and Dirty Laundry." Accompanying the revolving clothesline with the panties were a computer monitor and a TV set. On the screens were tapes of Cinderella, self-help videos and texts from romance novels.

The Fastest Work of Art. A Qantas 747 covered with an Aboriginal painting named "Kangaroo Dreaming" is in the air these days, telling the story of the journey by kangaroo ancestors across the Australian landscape.

Performance Art in China. Artist Ma Liuming, having removed his clothes, cooked potatoes flavored with a watch and earrings during an exhibition in Beijing. He later buried the potatoes. Unmoved by the symbolism, whatever it was, police arrested Liuming, his assistant and nine spectators.

Yoko Ono has plastered the small German town of Langenhagen with

pictures of backsides. The New York-based artist has put up hundreds of posters depicting bottoms in the small town near Hanover as part of an art project. The posters, entitled **A Celebration of Being Human**, have taken the little town by storm. They are being reprinted on shopping bags and postcards and pasted on every wall. "Faces can lie. Backsides can't," Ono, 61, told the magazine. "People's faces deceive through makeup, mimicry and false smiles." Ono said she is not aiming to make lots of money through the exhibition but hopes to be provocative. "People talk about my pictures," she said. "So long as they continue talking about butts, they will not be killing each other."

Interactive Art: Golf holes designed by six Wisconsin artists at the John Michel Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan included one that allows couch potatoes, reclining on a divan, to try for a hole in one through a TV screen. Another combines bowling and golf, while another is a fishing hole. To score, golfers have to send the ball through a waterless stream full of fake fish.

Artists' Rights: A sculpture created for an office building lobby cannot be removed or destroyed as long as the artists are alive, according to a judge in Manhattan. The artists--John Carter, John Swing and John Veronis, known as the Three Js--sued to protect the 18,000 sq. ft. work, which they created for Helmsley-Spear, owner of the building in Queens, New York. They sued to protect the sculpture under the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990. Under the law, certain categories of visual art that have achieved "recognized stature" are protected from intentional distortion, mutilation or other changes that would harm an artist's honor or reputation. The work, made from recycled materials, garnered \$1,000 weekly between December 1991 and April 1994 for each of the artists.

Sound Art: For the three summer months, Bill Fontana, San Francisco artist, broadcast sounds of the sea into downtown Paris. The Atlantic Ocean's noise, relayed live from a buoy five kilometers off the shore of Normandy, masked the roar of traffic, he hoped.

POETRY IN MOTION

If you have been riding the bus or subway in New York, you will find for

the last two years, that the M.T.A.'s "Poetry in Motion" program has stocked the transit system with poems by Lorca, Audre Lorde, Joseph Brodsky, Emily Dickinson, Sir Walter Raleigh, Langston Hughes, Robert Frost and many more. There is also a similar program in Idaho, a Boise State University "Poetry in Public Places" series, designed by Sally Stevens and written by the BSU students. Subscriptions to this series for Idaho and non-Idaho subscribers is limited to one set of posters. To reserve a set of posters next year, you must fill out a form and return it to Tom Trusky, Dept. of English, Boise State University, Boise, ID 83725.

ART & TECHNOLOGY

An MIT Symposium on Art and Technology called *Digital Expression* in October included participation of Nolan Bushnell, who built a proto-video game called Pong and the empire called Atari; Douglas Trumbull, who did the special effects for *2001* and *Close Encounters*, who now makes multimedia rides for amusement parks and Las Vegas casinos. In addition, there was the head of Sony and Bell Atlantic, as well as the leaders of the MIT Media Laboratory, who are building such high-tech artistic tools as the technologically enhanced "hypercello" and a piano that can be played with a joystick. Included were Peter Gabriel and Laurie Anderson and the iconoclastic magicians, Penn & Teller. The subject of the symposium dealt with how technology is altering relations between artist and audience.

ArtView has been developed by a New York gallery owner, Ken Nahan, using a Macintosh-based, on-line network for the electronic sale of artworks. This system stores the inventories of member galleries and dealers. Potential buyers--other galleries or individual collectors--can call up a digitized color image of any painting or sculpture on the network. Any certified dealer or gallery logged onto the system can hold, buy or offer for sale artwork from any other location.

The potential buyer can view a 21-inch image of a painting up close to check the artist's signature or can get a 360-degree view of a piece of sculpture. On the other half of the split screen, the buyer can see a picture of the artist, read his or her biography, view a lecture on the artist's career or get a full listing of every showing of an individual artwork. Then, the buyer can get a printed image to take home and try out on the wall, or

purchase the work immediately via a confidential electronic funds transfer.

It is being tested now. Member galleries and dealers would pay a monthly usage fee of \$1,200, which would entitle them to free storage of 500 inventory images. Beyond that, the network subscriber would pay a storage charge of \$5 per image.

The system can also assign every artwork an "International Standard Art Number", which can be used by Interpol to track stolen items.

Irish Art is being promoted by digital technology to display paintings over the Internet, the international information network. *Toppsi* is a Dublin-based bulletin board system, which has its roots in providing information systems for social services. Its founder wants to hold an international art exhibition over the Internet, targeted initially to 15 European Union capitals and extended to include Toronto, New York and Los Angeles, featuring local artists from each city.

50 paintings will be scanned in at each site, stored on a central server in Dublin, and then relayed over the Internet to art galleries and museums in each city. Each site will have a high-quality printer and prints will be sold for around £35 each.

Internet users will later be able to dial into the server in Dublin and download images of the paintings. They also plan to publish the exhibition on CD.

MURALS

Chicago's largest mural was finished in October. Painted by Hector Duarte and Mariah de Forest, the bright Mexican-themed mural, which stretches 20 feet high, 425 feet long and covering the entire 8,500 square feet of the market's cinderblock south wall, was the culmination of two years of work. The subject is "Loteria", which is like bingo with pictures. Game cards displaying symbols such as a drum, a heart, a fish and the moon float through the air until being sucked into a machine that transforms them into more freely floating, three-dimensional spheres.

COMICS

Drawn to Text: Comix Artists as Book Illustrators, co-curated by Art Spiegelman, at Galerie St. Etienne in New York City includes work by Robert Crumb, Javier Mariscal, Lorenzo Mattoti, Art Spiegelman, and Jacques Tardi from 15 November - 7 January 1995.

AUCTIONS

Shot Red Marilyn by Andy Warhol fetched \$3.63 million at Christie's in New York. Meanwhile, a Roy L. painting, "I...I'm Sorry" was sold for \$2.5 million to Eli Broad of Los Angeles.

Portrait of Jeanne Hebuterne by Amedeo Modigliani went to a private collector for \$5.9 million in early November at Sotheby's.

