

been named the world's most influential piece of modern art, knocking Picasso and Matisse from their traditional positions of supremacy. The UK sees a direct link between Duchamp's "readymade", as the artist called it, and the conceptual art that dominates today, e.g. Tracey Emin's *Bed* being a prime example.

Number 2 was Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*, 3 was Andy Warhol's *Marilyn Diptych*, 4) Picasso's *Guernica*, and 5) was Matisse's *The Red Studio*. The rest of the top 10 are: 6) Joseph Beuys, *I Like America and America Likes Me*; 7) Constantin Brancusi's *Endless Column*; 8) Jackson Pollock's *One: No. 31*; 9) Donald Judd's 100 untitled works in mill aluminum, and 10) Henry Moore's *Reclining Figure 1929*.

DEADLINE: Chicago

A Chicago artist, Chapman Kelley, filed a federal lawsuit against the Chicago Park District, five months after it slashed the size of a Grant Park wildflower garden he planted 20 years ago.

In his suit, invoking the federal Visual Artists Rights Act, which aims to prevent the destruction or modification of recognized artwork, alleged the district destroyed his creation. He views it as a landscape painting done in wildflowers, and the suit includes several documents praising it as a work of art.

MUSEUM NEWS

• Michelangelo's *David* has been celebrated in its 500th anniversary. Concerts, fireworks, symposia and exhibitions took place in Florence, Italy in September, after a long restoration.

• The Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway has been retrofitted for security upgrades, after the theft of *The Scream* and another Munch painting.

• Ken Tyler, the American print publisher who has worked with leading contemporary artists since the 1980s, has donated 480 prints to the Tate Gallery in London. It includes 28 artists, including David Hockney, James Rosenquist, Michael Heizer and Joan Mitchell, is that final installment in a series of gifts from Tyler's collection to museums around the world.

• The Tate Modern in London has a show called "Raw Materials", but there is nothing to see, only to hear the noise, 22 recorded

texts in different voices yelling, whispering, pleading, mocking, bullying piped in via speakers set up at intervals along the hall so that visitors hear different segments as they move through the vast space. These are earlier works by Bruce Nauman, produced over nearly 40 years. Cacophony through 28 March.

• A new museum of Peruvian sculpture from the collection of Rafael Larco Hoyle's collection is the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art in Cuzco, Peru, opened by the collector's grandson.

• A new museum devoted to clay, The American Museum of Ceramic Art or AMOCA is located in downtown Pomona, California. It opens with a 108-piece retrospective exhibition of pots and sculptures by Paul Soldner, a leading figure in Southern California's effort to transform ceramics from a functional craft to an expressive art form. It is the dream of businessman David Armstrong, inspired by his passion for ceramics sparked by Soldner 45 years ago.

• The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, whose structure has remained the same since 1903, will have its first major expansion, designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano with a multistory building which will triple the Gardner's special exhibitions space, create a new main entrance and mark a dramatic leap for the museum which has wrestled with ways to modernize its operation without violating the strict, legal limits that Isabella Stewart Gardner created to maintain the museum's distinctive atmosphere.

ART & MAIL

• The U.S. Postal Service is now accepting any picture smaller than five megabytes, free of copyright restrictions and suitably decent, to make into official postage stamps. No portraits of people will be allowed anymore. Terrorism, I guess.

• Spamusement (spamusement.com) is a home for what its creator calls "poorly drawn cartoons inspired by actual spam subject lines."

DATELINE: Medzilaborce, Slovakia

The eastern Slovak town of 6,500 that is home to the Warhol Family Museum of Modern Art is planning to become a symbol

of Pop Art and Andy Warhol, with a grant from the European Union. The \$54,000 grant will be used to renovate the facades of nine houses in the center of town and to decorate four bus stops in Warhol's style. This will be a catalyst for tourism.

UMBRELLA NEWS

Contributions to Umbrella Museum

Angela Lorenz, Joanne Echevarria-Myers, Sherman Clarke, Claire Isaacs, Laura Blacklow, Keith Smith & Scott McCaerney, Peter Netmail

UMBRELLA NEWS

After the G.O.P. Convention in New York, many of the items such as chairs were distributed to centers for the elderly around the city. Elderly New Yorkers also received rain ponchos and umbrellas.

UMBRELLA.net (2004), is a collaboration between Jonah Brucker-Cohen and Katherine Moriwaki (both US/Ireland) who exhibit, speak and conduct workshops at festivals. This work relies on rainfall being frequent and unpredictable, and can only come from a geographical region where carrying an umbrella is a daily necessity. Made in Dublin, similar work could have been produced in Melbourne or Auckland, but never in sunny Beirut or Brisbane.

UMBRELLA.net consists of 10 Bluetooth-equipped umbrellas with chat-capable PDAs. When it is raining and the umbrellas are open, they connect and illuminate with bright LEDs; pulsing red if searching for nodes, pulsing blue if connected to other umbrellas; or flashing blue if transmitting data between umbrellas.

This public artwork establishes a fleeting sense of community between umbrella users, who must be in close physical proximity for social engagement as the connection dissipates as they move away. This is an interesting observation on contemporary networking, as more and more we are contracting from the anonymous, interchangeable global internet, to operate within the intimacy of small local networks—hinterLANs—or discreet social groups which speak of containment and mutual need.