

## NEWS AND NOTES

### LOST & FOUND

**Found:** The Detroit Institute of Arts and not the family of Rufus Rose, the puppeteer on the Howdy Doody Show much of its run on TV, is now the proud owner of the Howdy Doody marionette regarded as the original.

**Found:** A Cimabue found in a country house in England is now at the National Gallery in London, and is matched with a "Flagellation of Christ" panel at the Frick Collection in New York City.

#### Lost:

Antique comics including the Beano and the Dandy have been swiped in bound volumes by thieves from the British Library. The publications, which are worth about £7,000 in total, date back mainly to the 1950s but some editions of Film Fun from the 1920s, 30s and 40s have also gone missing. The library has now asked dealers and collectors to be on their guard in case the comics, which disappeared from its base in Colindale, north London, turn up. They will have a British Museum stamp on the cover.

A spokesman said: "They are missing presumed stolen. These are bound, complete runs in very good condition and we would rather have ours back to sit alongside the others rather than having to replace them. It wasn't until we had a stock-take that we realized they had gone. We are asking people to be vigilant and contact us if they come across them."

**Lost or Missing:** Halfway through an inventory of its scattered collection, the city of Los Angeles cannot find 358 works of art that may be worth nearly \$400,000 and has asked police to investigate. Many of the works (2,000) the city of Los Angeles owns have been loaned by the Cultural Affairs Department to city agencies for display in city offices. From a \$600,000 Italian sculpture at the DWP headquarters downtown or the \$1-million Korean Friendship Bell at Point Fermin. The missing work is on the Cultural Affairs Department's Internet site.

**Lost:** During the earthquake in India, the Palace of Mirrors was shattered built in 1752 as well as the ruined Darbargadh Palace.

The Palace of Mirrors, which became a museum in 1977, was originally the king's residence. He installed 26 fountains, which formed a square around a platform where he sat as women danced for him. There are 100 doors with inlaid ivory, the and the walls were covered with tall looking glasses, glass paintings and gilt woodwork. The king had 27 mirrors in his bedroom alone. Inlaid with

gold flowers and semiprecious stones, the mirrors hung on marble walls surrounding a low bed with legs covered in gold leaf.

But found in the ruins of this palace was a long-hidden treasure beneath what everyone thought was a solid stone bastion at the palace gate. The inner wall revealed by the earthquake was erected in 1733 decorated with two elephants, a tortoise and a horse in the ancient royal crest.

**Lost and Found:** A Rembrandt self-portrait and two masterpieces of Renoir were stolen from the National Museum in Sweden in December. Rumor has it at this writing that they were found in a farmhouse, where they were not to be have been found.

**Found:** China's terra cotta warriors unearthed 27 years ago have been subject to mold, caused by heat and humidity in the hangar-like museum where the statues stand, in battle formation, in their original trenches.

Now a cooperative venture between the museum and the Belgian-based Janssen Pharmaceutica are working to identify the varieties of mold that threaten the soldiers and to produce a special fungicide to kill the invaders without harming the statues. The company has built an on-site lab at the museum to enhance preservation work.

### MUSEUMS

A new computerized system developed by the Rochester Institute of Technology is designed to be a Preservation Environment Monitor, which looks like a stand-alone thermostat with a digital display. The hardware and the software is being tested by 180 museums, libraries and archives over a two-year trial to allow conservators to see data by glancing at the device to assess the right levels of temperature and humidity to avoid deterioration.

The Getty Museum has purchased "A Hare in the Forest" by Hans Hoffmann, court painter to Rudolf II of Hapsburg, king of Hungary and Bohemia. The Getty purchased this naturalistic painting—inspired by Durer's renowned image of a rabbit—for \$2.6 million, the top price paid in a \$14.2 million auction of Renaissance art held at Sotheby's in December.

Smithsonian American Art Museum is establishing a new \$25,000 annual prize for contemporary American artists. The Lucelia Artist Award, whose first recipient will be announced in May, will go to an artist under age 50 "who has produced a significant body of artwork that demonstrates exceptional creativity." The prize, intended to "encourage the artist's future development and experimentation," is funded by the New

York City-based Lucelia Foundation.

The Guggenheim Museum will erect new facilities in four different Brazilian cities, after months of talks. Rio de Janeiro, Recife and Salvador, and the modernistic city of Curitiba will be the four venues featuring Brazilian art and the Brazilian art exhibits will circulate in the Guggenheims around the world.

The Museum of American Folk Art in New York City, its new building to be opened in December, has just received a gift of the chairman's extraordinary collection, including Pennsylvania Dutch material which was missing from the permanent collection, as well as paintings, works on paper, and more than 400 pieces!

A Calder Museum will be placed in Philadelphia, the late artist's birthplace, scheduled to open in 2004. The city will donate the land for the \$50 million project, directed by Diane Dalto. The Calder family will display many of the works by the artist in the new museum to be designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando.

Musée Guimart in Paris, one of the world's finest Asian art collections, has recently reopened after a five-year, \$48 million overhaul. About 3,000 pieces of the museum's 45,000 works are on display. A multilingual audio handset, included in the museum fee, guides visitors through examples of Asian art, from India to Japan.

The City of Washington DC will have a new City Museum, transforming the 97-year-old Carnegie Library building into museum dedicated to the history of the people who built the neighborhoods and communities of the District.

### ANGELS IN THE CITY OF ANGELS

Well, New York had cows, and so did Chicago. There were pigs in another city, and now "A Community of Angels" will place individually decorated angel sculptures all over Los Angeles as a fund-raiser for Volunteers of America and Catholic Big Brothers. 6-foot angels in three positions, designed by Tony Sheets, will be reproduced in fiberglass and painted by artists. They will be on exhibit February through April and then auctioned in May.

### DATELINE: Newark, Delaware

Paul R. Jones has given his collection of works by 20<sup>th</sup> century black artists (more than 1,000 pieces) to the University of Delaware, where its campus is widely respected for American art studies.

**DATELINE: Dallas**

The Dallas Museum of Art is hosting the first major retrospective of Henry Moore's work in the U.S. in almost 20 years. Included are 109 works ranging from an almost 40-foot-wide bronze to palm-size maquettes as well as 98 drawings through 27 May.

The show then travels to the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco from 23 June through 16 September and the National Gallery of Art in Washington from 21 October - 27 January 2002.

**DATELINE: California**

The California Arts Council has announced the Year of the Arts-2001, to increase the awareness of and support for the arts in California. This statewide campaign includes partnerships with private partners to launch exhibitions, performances and festivals celebrating a different arts discipline each month.

The Donald R. and Joan R. Beall Center for Art and Technology has opened at UC Irvine, to encourage the relationship between art and technology through collaboration between artists and people in various technologies, such as engineering, computer sciences, the biological sciences, etc. It is also to encourage the development of new art forms, and to educate and enlighten the public by exhibiting these new art forms.

Yountville - When you go to buy wine, oftentimes you will find how art has gravitated to Napa Valley too. There are several wineries which feature art such as Niebaum-Coppola Estate Winery and the Clos Pegase Winery, but there are also several artists who show in their studios and in galleries. Don't forget that food, wine and art really go together!

**DATELINE: Santa Fe**

The 3-and-a-half-year-old Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, NM plans to open the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center on 13 July. The first such center devoted to the study of American modernism, it will offer six stipends annually for periods of 3 to 12 months to historians in art; architecture and design; literature; music; and photography. Barbara Buhler Lynes, curator of the O'Keeffe Museum, will be the director.

**DATELINE: Shanghai**

The two-month Shanghai 2000 Biennial was too much for the Communist Party, with 67 artists from 15 countries, so that the controversial works went on display at private galleries, then raided by police and the works were seized. Artists in China can create-in private, but problems start when artists want to show their work to the public.

They are shut out of museums and the staid, state-controlled art press. Artists most admired abroad are largely unknown at home.

**DATELINE: Warsaw**

The arrival of Maurizio Cattelan's sculpture of the Pope crushed under a meteorite provoked an outcry: two MPs from the Catholic nationalist party seriously damaged the sculpture when it was on display at the publicly funded Zacheta Gallery in December. The Polish Minister for culture has been inundated with letters of protest about the sculpture calling for Anda Rottenberg, the director's, dismissal. However, the two MPs are unlikely to face criminal charges while they serve as members of parliament, which gives them immunity.

**RADIO NEWS**

Thousands of scripts, recordings and other memorabilia from the Golden Age of Radio, now stored in Hollywood, will be added to the extensive display at the Thousand Oaks Library, in California, creating one of the most expansive collections in the world. Funding is being sought for a new building to display this vast collection. Besides recordings of radio stars such as Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Edgar Bergen, there are posters, statuettes, awards, props and sound effects equipment - chains, chimes, bells, a car door, a front door and a contraption that sounds like a military band marching.

The library's own collection includes more than 23,000 radio and TV scripts and 5,000 hours of recordings. Included are Norman Corwin, Carlton E. Morse and Rudy Vallee, whose archives were acquired in 1987 when the library foundation outbid the Smithsonian Institution.

The Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters' collection includes 20,000 historically significant transcriptions and 6,000 tapes from the Armed Forces Radio Library, the KFI Library, World War II broadcasters and rare radio broadcasts. There are scripts and neatly filed metal or glass records, old microphones and walls covered with photos and posters.

•Radio is creating a new community for Native Americans in the U.S. and for Gypsies or the Roma in France!

**CENSORSHIP**

Artist Renée Cox's nude self-portrait is the center panel in *Yo Mama's Last Supper*, which is being shown at the Brooklyn Museum of Art through 29 April. The work led New York City's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, to call for a commission to set "decency standards" to keep similar works out of museums that get public funding.

Attacked by William Donahue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and

Civil Rights, Cox in her defense said she created art that has meaning for her, rather than creating it simply to increase her own fame. She is most appreciate of the "free publicity" that the Catholic League has given her.

•The Chicago Athenaeum in Schaumburg, IL reported more than 100 people called to complain about *The Last Pancake Breakfast* by artist Dick Detzner, depicting breakfast cartoon characters eating pancakes with Mrs. Butterworth in the role of Jesus. Part of a 13-work collection titled Corporate Sacrilege, it also includes Jesus on a Wheaties box, Mickey an Minnie Mouse in the Garden of Eden and the Pillsbury Doughboy on a crucifix, being poked in the belly by the hand of G-d.

• The latest negative reaction to art is "Our Lady" by Santa Monica artist Alma Lopez, which is now at Santa Fe's Museum of International Folk Art. Ironically, the digital collage depicting the Virgin of Guadalupe wearing only a few sprays of strategically placed roses was featured on 11,000 brochures sent out by the museum last September, but when the work arrived in a show on 25 February titled "Cyber Arte: Where Tradition Meets Technology," patrons packed the auditorium to hear Lopez, three other Latina artists and the curator talk about mixing folk imagery with computer media and no one complained about "Our Lady" But about 25 protesters, mostly Latino Catholics, staged a rally on 23 March and 300 attended a prayer vigil on 31 March. By then the Archbishop was involved. Retired Neutrogena Corp. Chairman Lloyd Cotsen of Los Angeles wrote a letter to the regents saying the work should remain on display, and he has some clout because he gave the museum \$4.5 million, 2,500-item folk art and textiles collection, and provided \$2 million to help finance space to house it and endow a fund to manage it. Guadalupe is a long tradition in which artists have re-created the image in all popular contexts including a Barbie doll in the traditional garb of Guadalupe in her 2000 "Barbielupe."

**DATELINE: Washington, DC**

The Library of Congress was ordered in early March to fix fire safety violations that threatened treasures like a Gutenberg Bible, Thomas Jefferson's personal library and 30,000 recordings on cylinders that predate phonograph records.

The Library has been ordered to correct fire dangers in book stacks, stairwells, book conveyor systems, electrical switch boxes, rare-book areas and the storage space for the audio recordings of the early 1900s.

**DATELINE: Afghanistan**

The Taliban rulers on 26 February ordered the destruction of all statues in the country,

including ancient pre-Islamic figures, especially the two massive, ancient Buddha statues in the province of Bamiyan, 68 miles northwest of Kabul. Everyone from the U.N. to Pakistan, from Greece and Italy, the French and Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has tried to obviate this tragedy, but as of this writing, the Taliban seem to have completed the destruction. Only witnesses can tell. And their rationale is how can you think about art, when your children are dying of malnutrition?

**DATELINE: Berlin**

Samizdat/Tamizdat was an exhibition at Berlin's Academy of Art, which not only featured most of the oppositional literature in the Eastern Block, but also a considerable number of works of art from the Samizdat environment by such people as Vadim Sidur, Ilya Kabakov, Erick Bulatov and Tadeusz Kantor, Karell Malich, and A.R. Penck

**DATELINE: Powell, Wyoming**

A formal agreement with artist Cosimo Cavallaro of New York has been negotiated, since the artist plans to coat a house with 10,000 pounds of melted cheese, inside and out. The problem was health and safety issues. Cavallaro wanted to keep the cheese house up through the summer, but it would attract squirrels and mice, according to the City Administrator. The cheese is coming from a Wisconsin cheese distributor who was going to throw out the 10,000 pounds of cheese.

**FLUXUS NEWS**

From Hammond Guthrie  
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you probably know, the late Dick Higgins periodically performed his vocal chord tearing piece "Danger Music." Upon hearing a portion of this piece I was inspired to create "Danger Painting" as an undefined tribute/homage to Dick's piece. The composition is thus:  
For the frame I used the end section of a

wooden ammunitions crate sent to the Netherlands by the U.S. government during WW II. It still had the original sticker of the American eagle on it and was stamped "For Mutual Defense." On one of my artistic detritus expeditions around Amsterdam I found a very large, (antique) wooden rat trap - as in to catch a small cat or dog type of trap. I lovingly applied linseed oil to both items (to bring out the grain) and mounted the rat trap in the center of the frame. To make the assemblage "Dangerous" I glued a white ping-pong ball to the bait flipper and set the trap. When it was purchased by the Stedelijk Museum, I insisted that the curator of painting and sculpture (Ad Petersen) sign an agreement that whenever the piece was on display the trap had to be set - and without any warning to the viewer that the trap was "ready/set to break their hand." When the piece is viewed on the wall the ping-pong ball acts as a wonderful enticement for the viewer to ignore the inherent possibility of being severely injured.

•London: Selfridges, the Oxford Street department store, will turn itself in May into a 24-hour Tokyo-style convenience store, stocked with Japanese products, including the Fluxus-influenced artist Tatsumi Orimoto, the "Bread Man", who serves as a living sculpture, making a number of appearances by parading, with his loaf-covered accomplices, through Selfridges and out into Oxford Street.

Orimoto, a friend of this editor, is a 57-year old Fluxus follower, who has previously worn clocks and cardboard boxes, and even used his mother for a performance in which he placed heavy newspapers on her head

**DATELINE: London**

A drawing of a horse and rider by Leonardo da Vinci, a preparatory study for "The Adoration of the Magi", a large unfinished panel now in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, is to be auctioned by Christie's in London on 10 July. It has been part of the Brown

Family of Rhode Island since 1928.

**DATELINE: New York City**

On 22 May, 50 years after its completion on 22 April 1951, the scroll on which Jack Kerouac composed "On the Road" is to be auctioned at Christie's in Manhattan, the product of a three-week typing marathon stoked by Benzedrine and coffee. This single-spaced quasi-autobiographical ode to free living is nearly 120 feet long and pasted together in sections about a dozen feet long, the seams later reinforced with tape. It was on exhibit during the Beat Show recently from the Whitney to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. One hopes it goes to an institution that can preserve and protect it.

**DATELINE: London**

From 10 - 24 February, Michael Landy pulped all his possession, including a 1988 Saab, from all his possessions put in storage with a label and a reference number. Then they were dismantled, sorted, identified, weighed, shred, granulated. A team of people separated everything into its material parts (about 8 materials). Hopefully, everything ended up in powdered form, put back in the containers, and buried in a shopping center, underground. Over 6,000 items and over 72,000 words were logged onto the PC.

Even a mechanic took apart the relatively new Saab part by part. All of this occurred in an abandoned department store on Oxford Street in London. This is definitely a performance piece to mock our consumerism life. Left with only the jumpsuit on his back, he probably will buy some new cheap clothes at the C & A department store at Marble Arch.

