

NEW YORK

Art

EDITED BY
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GOD ONLY KNOWS At first, Alex Prager's images seem sunny as an early Beach Boys song—what could be wrong with those California blondes hanging out by the pool, or silhouetted against a bright blue sky? But check out the way they're looking at one another, the weirdly forceful body language, the waxiness behind the tans. Something's deeply wrong in those lives, and all the saturated Kodachrome-y color and retro buoyancy in the world can't disguise it. These new photographs add an extra, more personal dimension to the otherworldliness: They were all shot in the L.A. neighborhood where Prager grew up, and the models' clothes came from an actress friend of her grandmother's. If you're a David Lynch fan, this is the photographer for you (at Yancey Richardson through February 20).

CHRISTOPHER BONANOS

MUSEUMS

COOPER-HEWITT, NATIONAL DESIGN MUSEUM
2 E. 91st St., at Fifth Ave. (212-849-8400);
M-F 10-5, S 10-6. Su noon-6; \$10, \$5 students and seniors, members and children under 12 free

"Design USA: Contemporary Innovation." A flashy and exuberant seminar on contemporary design and current events, much of which takes place in the palm of one's hand: A survey of interviews and videos programmed into 100 iPod Touches serves as a multimedia docent. Everyone and everything is there, from Milton Glaser to the incredible Eva Zeisel, who, at 103, is still making ceramics as divine as any; through 4/4.

SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM
1071 Fifth Ave., at 89th St. (212-423-3500);
S-W 10-5:45, F 10-5:45, \$18, \$15 students and seniors, children under 12 free; S 5:45-7:45 pay what you wish

"Tino Sehgal." The stubborn, status quo-disrupting dance- and economics-educated art-world superstar takes over the rotunda with a pair of his zealous, contentious, nonchalantly in-your-face conceptual performance-based works. In addition to *The Kiss* (based, extremely loosely, on Rodin's marble statue), the main work will take place up and down the spiral ramp and engage viewers in conversations that will be interpreted by Sehgal-trained performers; through 3/10. • **"Anish Kapoor: Memory."** The often decadent sculptor has worked with Cor-Ten steel (a Richard Serra staple) for the first time and created a thrilling, exasperating cylindrical hunk that looks like a giant grenade and has been jammed into a corner, so that it's impossible to see in its entirety; through 3/28. • **"Paris and the Avant-Garde."** The

museum dives into its collection of must-see masters, dusting off some prescient, some nostalgia-inducing paintings of the romantic city by Georges Braque, Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso, Fernand Léger, Joan Miró, and more. Sculpture by Constantin Brancusi and Alexander Calder will also be on view; through 5/12.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY
1133 Sixth Ave., at 43rd St. (212-857-0000); T-Su 10-6, F 10-8; \$12, \$8 students and seniors, children under 12 free

"Twilight Visions: Surrealism, Photography, and Paris." An extravagant ode to the City of Light and the Surrealist artists like Brassai, André Kertész, and Man Ray who found their visions there; through 5/9. • **"Miroslav Tichý."** Makeshift cardboard cameras and glamorous, grainy, distortive, elegant images of women and landscapes, many of them taken surreptitiously by the reclusive octogenarian Czech artist; through 5/9.

JEWISH MUSEUM
1109 Fifth Ave., nr. 92nd St. (212-423-3200);
S-T 11-5:45, closed W, Th 11-8, F 11-4; \$12, \$10 seniors, \$7.50 students, children under 12 free

"Reinventing Ritual: Contemporary Art and Design for Jewish Life." Dozens of artists interpret ancient Jewish rites and transform them into contemporary art—some of it fun, some of it beautiful, some of it puzzling; through 2/7. • **"Alias Man Ray: The Art of Reinvention."** A searching exhibit that both revisits the admired works of the Surrealist pioneer and also unmask the man behind the reputation: the son of a tailor and a seamstress who dreamed himself out of Brooklyn and became a member of the European avant-garde; through 3/14.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
1000 Fifth Ave., at 82nd St. (212-535-7710); T-Th, Su 9:30-5:30,
F, S 9:30-9; \$20 suggested admission, \$15 seniors, \$10 students

"Contemporary Aboriginal Painting From Australia." Fourteen paintings from a private U.S. collection provide an introduction to Aboriginal art beyond those well-known dot paintings. There is something Warholian to the show: lots of bold, simple forms and rich, happy colors that express much with seemingly little effort; through 6/13.

MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN
2 Columbus Circle, at 59th St. (212-299-7777); T, W 11-6, Th 11-9,
F-Su 11-6; \$15, \$12 students and seniors, children under 12 free

"Bigger, Better, More: The Art of Viola Frey." A stunning retrospective of the late sculptor who entered the scene in the fifties and was the only female in a world of influential artists working with ceramics in San Francisco. Frey modeled her giant, blustering men and flamboyantly nonchalant women—monumental creatures rough in texture and painted with rugged brushstrokes—on the kitschy mass-produced ceramic figurines that she collected in flea markets (see also "Chelsea"); through 5/2. • **"Slash: Paper Under the Knife."** A roaming exhibition of sculptures, installations, and wall hangings made from cut paper, all of which explore contemporary art's renewed interest in the material; through 4/4.

Making the cut: Among the impressive, mesmerizing works on view are Sangeeta Sandrasegar's complex, Bauhausian fiber chair, *Untitled #24* (from the series "The Shadow of Murder Lay Upon My Sleep"), Mia Pearlman's smoky, swirling *Inrush*, and one of Jane South's signature machinelike sculptures, *Wall*.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 W. 53rd St., nr. Fifth Ave. (212-708-9400); W-M 10:30-5:30, F
10:30-8; \$20, \$16 seniors, \$12 students, children under 16 free; F 4-8 free

"Tim Burton." Curators Jenny He and Ron Magliozzi raided Burton's curiosity cabinets for more than 500 photographs, paintings, doodles, storyboards, stories, sculptures, and sketches by the man who has brought us some of the most fantastical movies of the last few decades, from *Beetlejuice* to *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; through 4/26. • **"Gabriel Orozco."** The Mexican artist returns to New York fifteen years after his quiet, whimsical breakthrough solo show with an affair that is anything but, centering on the gigantic hanging skeleton of a whale; through 3/1. • **"Paul Sietsema."** New works by the sometimes confounding conceptual artist whose latest flickering films are based on pre-Colonial objects he's collected around the world; through 2/15. • **"Monet's Water Lilies."** One of the museum's grandest holdings is unveiled in full, along with a few stunning loans; through 3/1.

NEUE GALERIE
1048 Fifth Ave., at 86th St. (212-628-6200); Th-M 11-6;
\$15, \$10 students and seniors

"From Klimt to Klee: Masterworks From the Serge Sabarsky Collection." The extensive collection of the gallery's late co-founder is the source for this admiring exhibition of paintings, ephemera, and especially drawings by cultish innovators; through 2/15.

NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
235 Bowery, at Prince St. (212-219-1222); W, S, Su noon-6,
Th, F noon-9; \$12, \$10 seniors, \$8 students, children under 18 free

"Urs Fischer: Marguerite de Ponty." All four floors of the museum have been given over to the outlandish New York-based Swiss installation artist who dug a giant hole in Gavin Brown's gallery in 2007. There is a whole floor of giant mirrors pasted with larger-than-life renderings of disparate objects like raw sausage, an old CD case, and Ashanti (yes, the pop star); through 2/7.

ONASSIS CULTURAL CENTER
645 Fifth Ave., at 51st St. (212-486-4448); M-S 9-6; free
"The Origins of El Greco: Icon Painting in Venetian Crete." Forty-six breathtaking religious paintings that follow the evolution of the old master (1541-1614); through 2/27.

PS. 1 CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER
22-25 Jackson Ave., at 46th Ave., Long Island City
(718-784-2084); Th-M noon-6; \$5 suggested donation,
\$2 students and seniors, free with MoMA admission

"100 years (version #2, pt. 1, nov 2009)." A floor of the museum is dedicated to an evolving history of performance art, up to as recently as the final days of this year's Performa festival; through 4/5. • **"1969."** A whole floor of big names—Vito Acconci, Sol LeWitt, Jasper Johns, and more—as well as little-known art from the year in which painting was dead, the Beatles gave their

FOR MORE
ART
LISTINGS, SEE
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KEY

Opening this week	Major debut
Closing this week	Crowds; best to go early
Painting	Kid-friendly
Works on paper/drawings	Outdoors
Sculpture	Buzzy show
Performance	Editors' picks are in red
Conceptual/installation	Signature or outstanding works are in boldface
Video/sound	
Photography	

THE METER: EASY TO LOVE ← → **SPIKY AND TRANSGRESSIVE**

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF YANCEY RICHARDSON GALLERY (ALEX PRAGER, BARBARA, 2009)

To list an event, e-mail artlistings@nymag.com