

Stepping ^{out}

VISUAL ARTS

ART ATTACK

By Miriam Seidel

Painted Ladies: New York artist Lisa Yuskavage's extreme women will winter at the ICA.

Here's a sure bet: for sheer art-show attendance figures, nothing will beat Van Gogh this fall. "Van Gogh: Face to Face," a choice selection of the artist's portraits culled from three American museums, will make its last stop at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (October 22nd-January 14th). If this is on your must-see list, that's fine. But there's lots more art to view before 2000 ends, in and

around Philadelphia, vintage and new—some of it as provocative as Van Gogh's was in his time.

To help put the Dutch master's work in perspective, there's "About Face: American Art at the Time of Van Gogh," at the Pennsylvania academy of the Fine Arts, showcasing works from the Academy's collection (October 21st-January 14th). For another view of the 19th-century painting milieu that the angst-ridden artist struggled against, take in the Delaware Art Museum's exhibition of 50 Victorian narrative paintings from the *Forbes Magazine* collection in London (September 9th-January 7th). Don't forget the Art Museum's other worthwhile shows, running alongside Vincent. For instance, acclaimed photographer Ray K. Metzker, known for his urban scenes, shows another side of his work—13 years' worth of landscape photographs, of subjects from Tuscany to Utah (November 18th-February 11th).

You don't have to schlep to New York to get a taste of what's hot in that capital of the art world. Featured in last spring's Whitney Biennial, Lisa Yuskavage has her first solo museum show at the Institute of Contemporary Art (December 2nd-February 4th). Her lush, naughty paintings of baby-faced females with proportions distended past Barbie dimensions make us question our ideas of femininity and beauty. Beverly Semmes has received national (and international) attention for her monumental fabric works examining the interplay of clothing and identity. At the Fabric Workshop and Museum, you can see a new installation work she's created in residency there, featuring a large sculptural installation of fluorescent-yellow fabric along with photos, video and costumes (September 14th-November 4th). Right after that, the Fabric Workshop attacks these same issues more whimsically, with the fashion photographs of William Wegman—featuring his elegant, sober-faced weimaraners in duds from Gucci to Gaultier (November 16th-January 13th).

Three-dimensional art will make a strong showing this fall, too, when a (continued on page 190)



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number of Philadelphia-based artists with proven chops display new work. Sculptors Nicholas Kripal and Kevin Kautenberger show pieces that share a contemplative bent at the Philadelphia Art Alliance (September 9th-November 1st). Kripal's chunky concrete sculptures reflect the interior spaces of a Renaissance church; Kautenberger's window installations explore the translucent beauty of bee pollen and amber. For a real art adventure, visit the Eastern State Penitentiary, where Kripal has constructed a pool and garden modeled on the former prison's historic architectural plan (through November 5th). On a sunny day at Eastern State, you can catch the effects of Richard Torchia's camera-obscura piece, "Daylights" (also through the 5th).

Mei-Ling Hom's sculptural installations never fail to provoke thought and feeling. In December, she shows a kinetic multi-sensory piece at the Institute of Contemporary Art that incorporates wiggling six-foot-long "silkworms" and Chinese herbs and spices (December 2nd-February 4th). Alan Greenberg, another consistently interesting sculptor, takes over Gallery Joe's tiny Bird Park, just around the corner from the gallery at 3rd below Arch (through November 30th). John Phillips and Carolyn Healy, a sound-and-sculpture team, do their third Fringe Festival installation, this year at Larry Becker Contemporary Art (through September 16th).

In spite of recent pronouncements from the art establishment, painting is also alive and well. Genre giant Frank Stella shows at Locks with new wall-reliefs and a site-specific piece playing off the gallery's massive columns (October 13th-November 25th). Robert Straight, whose paintings feel like mysterious cosmic diagrams, exhibits works on paper at Schmidt/Dean's Spruce Street space (September 8th-October 14th). Randall Exon knows how to paint landscapes, and he shows his stuff at More Gallery (November 10th through January 6th).

In the not-to-miss category is Judith Schaechter's stained-glass art, opening the season at Snyderman Gallery (September 1st-30th). Her beautifully crafted but intensely personal images are in a class by themselves. An ambitious triptych has already been sold, but other works have never been seen. And in

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Event Listings

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7th Annual Phashion Phest

A cocktail reception followed by a live runway show showcasing the Delaware Valley's most upscale, fashion-forward retailers and leading salons. Contact Sharon Phillips Waxman at 215.973.5343. PHASHION PHEST SEPTEMBER 22ND, 6PM

The Accessory Show at Turtledove

Fantastic accessories of all kinds by over 25 designers! Philadelphia designers Grace Ann Agostino, Leni Hoch, and Monica Turtle will appear at the opening reception. TURTLEDOVE SEPTEMBER 15TH, 5-8PM

Bernie Robbins "Summer Long Celebration"

This "Summer Long Celebration Finale" will introduce a full collection of exotic luxury diamonds! 1.800.BERNIE.R. BERNIE ROBBINS FINE JEWELRY, SOMERS POINT, NJ SEPTEMBER 1ST & 2ND

Best of Philly® 2000 Party

Meet the millennium winners and sample Philly's Best food, drink and entertainment! For tickets, visit www.phillymag.com, or call 215.564.7700, ext. 7490. PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD SEPTEMBER 21ST, 6:30-9PM

Champagne Cocktail Party



Visit Intrigue for a champagne cocktail party showcasing fall fashions. RSVP 215.794.0422. INTRIGUE SEPTEMBER 14TH 6-8PM

Claire Dickson's 20th Anniversary Celebration

We've been dressing Philadelphia's most fashion-forward women since 1980, and would love to have you join in our celebration! Bubbly, lite bites, prizes and surprises! RSVP 610.547.8218 by October 6th. CLAIRE DICKSON BOUTIQUE OCTOBER 12TH, 6-8PM

Events In Style

Events In Style (EIS) is a traveling retail outlet store featuring women's ready-to-wear artwear. For more information, call 609.397.7900, or visit www.eventsinstyle.com.

THE HAMPTON INN AT GULPH CREEK, SEPTEMBER 8TH - 17TH

PRINCETON COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, SEPTEMBER 15TH - 17TH

MAIN LINE ARTS CENTER, SEPTEMBER 22ND - 24TH

Fall Fashion at Doneckers

A series of Fashion Show Brunches will feature tableside modeling. Call 717.738.9501. DONECKERS MONICA TURTLE, SEPTEMBER 8TH PENDLETON, SEPTEMBER 15TH JUNIORS' HOMECOMING & BACK TO SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 2ND

First Annual Philadelphia Accessory Showcase

Featuring shoes and accessories from Danielle Scott Ltd., eyewear from Optique International Eyewear, designer fine jewelry by LAGOS, make-up by Mindy Tamaccio of Knit Wit. RSVP 215.567.0770. LAGOS THE STORE SEPTEMBER 27TH, 6-7:30PM

Marisela Trunk Show

Visit Bala Girls this September for a Marisela trunk show, featuring special occasion dresses for pre-teens and juniors. Call 610.668.1088 for appointments. BALA GIRLS SEPTEMBER 15TH - 17TH

Ocean Galleries - The Contemporary Art of Jiang Tiefeng

Prominent Chinese artist Jiang Tiefeng. 609.368.7777. OCEAN GALLERIES, STONE HARBOR, NJ SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH

"On The Town" with the Restaurant School



The Restaurant School begins a series of live remotes featuring "On The Town" host John McNulty, who will host a multi-course wine paired dinner. \$55 per person, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit

The Restaurant School Scholarship Fund. 215.222.4200, ext. 3012. THE RESTAURANT SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 23RD, 6-8PM

Paris Runway Fashion Show

Featuring Fall/Winter 2000 European and American Collections provided by Joan Shepp. Accessories by Lagos The Store, hors d'oeuvres by Striped Bass. Limited seating, reservations required. 215.735.2666. JOAN SHEPP SEPTEMBER 13TH, 7PM

RCN Manayunk Indian Summer Festival

Celebrate the beginning of Fall at the 9th Annual Indian Summer Festival with food, fashion and family fun! MAIN STREET, MANAYUNK SEPTEMBER 24TH (RAINDATE OCT.1ST)

Sippin' by the River

A wine and beer tasting festival held on Penn's Landing. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate 215.922.2FUN or www.sippinbytheriver.com. PENN'S LANDING SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1-5PM

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a similar vein, Susan Hagen's distinctive, juicy-themed small wood carvings can be seen at Schmidt/Dean on Spruce Street (October 20th-November 25th). Of course, there's even more than this—check out the next First Friday, the collective gallery event in Old City, to start your own art survey.

Miriam Seidel writes about the arts for *Art in America* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. E-mail: mail@phillymag.com

Abington Art Center. 9/16—11/30: Exhibition of heirlooms and mementos. 515 Meeting-house Rd., Jenkintown. 215-887-4882.

Art at the Airport. Through 11/12: A history of shoes. Through 11/1: Political memorabilia from the collection of Alfio J. Brindisi. 10/1—3/1: Sculptural vases by Italo Scanga. Philadelphia International Airport. 215-937-4359.

ArtForms Gallery Manayunk. 9/7—10/1: New works by Alice Norman Mandel. 10/5—10/29: Work by Kiki Gaffney and Etta Winograd. 11/2—11/26: Work by Irene Frankel and Perky Cohen. 11/30—1/6: "Off the Wall." 106 Levering St. 215-483-3030.

Arthur Ross Gallery. 9/5—10/31: Photographs by Sylvia Plachy. 11/10—1/21: "Inventing the American Southwest: Archaeology, Historic Preservation and Native Americans." 220 S. 34th St. 215-898-2083.

Art in City Hall. 10/4—1/12: *Philadelphia Designs*, a survey of work by local designers and architects. Northeast corner of City Hall. 215-683-2078.

Artists' House. Through 10/1: Work by Deborah Zwetsch, Kevin Cummins and Joan Zylkin. 10/4—10/29: Work by Beatrice McLaughlin and Elisabeth Nickles and various works by other artists. 11/1—11/26: Philadelphia Orchestra 100th anniversary tribute by various artists. 57 N. 2nd St. 215-923-8440.

Berman Museum of Art. Through 10/1: 15th-through 19th-century Japanese and Chinese scrolls and prints. 9/5—10/22: Watercolors by Zhe Zhou Jiang. 10/10—1/21: Philadelphia Watercolor Society 100th anniversary exhibition. 10/29—12/17: Photos of popular musicians by Larry Hulst. Ursinus College, 601 Main St., Collegeville. 610-409-3500.

Brandywine River Museum. Through 11/19: N.C. Wyeth House and Studio tours. 9/9—11/19: 25 political quilts and memorabilia. 11/24—1/14: Christmas exhibit. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 610-388-2700.

Brandywine Workshop. Through 10/14: Group exhibit of works exploring death. 10/27—1/27: Monoprints and collages by Alvin Loving. 730 S. Broad St. 215-546-3675.

Philly Scene September 2000

For information on how your upcoming event can be listed, please call the Promotion Department at 215-564-7700.

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