WHAT WOULD ANDY DO?

ON ANDY, FAME AND THE VIRTUAL AFTERLIFE

BOB COLACELLO • HANS ULRICH OBRIST • ED RUSCHA • DONALD WARHOLA • SHIRIN NESHAT • RYAN TRECARTIN • SARAH MORRIS • ZIMOUN
When David Hockney returned to his native England in the 1990s, he began painting the countryside, producing scenes that came to be known as his Yorkshire landscapes. Comprising 120 works, this exhibition surveys the influence of Van Gogh on Hockney, including his use of colour, perspective and even the stylised vertical strokes the Dutch painter employed to create texture. Also on display are 20 of Hockney’s vivid iPad drawings, a new medium he has fully embraced. This show is the first to bring these two artists side-by-side, highlighting the connectedness of art movements across generations.

Amsterdam, Netherlands
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In a new body of work, Rana Begum revisits materials first used during her 2006 British Council Residency in Bangkok – readymade reflectors. She has since returned to them in her practice as a way to create unexpected encounters in urban settings. In 2017, large-scale reflectors ran the length of 50 metres in London’s King’s Cross. Inside The Third Line, scaled down versions are hung on the walls. In lieu of placement in a public space, the works are accompanied by vertical structures that echo Dubai’s cityscape, inspired by the patterns and shifting colours of roadsigns.

Dubai, UAE
thethirdline.com
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The artist’s debut film centres on a girl named Zein, who leaves her village in Egypt to continue her studies. The story follows her return to her rural roots, where she questions superstitions embedded in society and clashes with conservative elders. Playing out the tension between past and future generations, the film offers a critique of contemporary Egyptian society. First shown in the Egyptian Pavilion as part of the 57th Venice Biennale (2017), The Mountain is in line with themes he often tackles, which deal with socio-political issues in his home country and Africa as a whole.

Dubai, UAE
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Resembling organisms, the clay works of Johan Creten embody his call for spiritual connection with nature. Using elemental materials to shape these primordial forms, he emphasizes the link between Earth and humanity. Meanwhile, the second space features the fantastical, anime-like paintings of Soraya Sharghi, an emerging artist from Tehran. While Creten’s sculptures draw from natural substances, Sharghi’s renderings of the environment are dream-like and psychedelic. Both are tied by their references to the female form – the former with his nod to Mother Nature; the latter with her depiction of Eve and the forbidden fruit.

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Focus Iran 3: Contemporary Photography and Video

Peer into the lives of today’s Iranian youth in the third iteration of Focus Iran, a biennial series of juried exhibitions that present photography and video works on Iran. This year’s diverse works explore queer identity, religious affiliation, family relationships and street fashion through the lens of Iran’s youth culture, reshaping the vilified image of the country. One of the winning works selected is by Hushi Mortezaie and Jiyan Zandi, featuring a male couple with garlands of roses on their heads, challenging the often hyper-religious depictions of Iranian men.

Los Angeles, USA
cafam.org
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MARRAKESH
26 February-22 September
The Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL)
Material Insanity
Group exhibition

Bringing together over 30 artists from Africa and its diaspora, this exhibition examines the effects of trade, mass production and capital on materiality in art. Also considered are the environmental implications of such movements, particularly in the context of the continent, as well the impact of the digital on our relationship with the tangible. The works reinforce the tactile power of materiality, from Frances Goodman’s undulating sculpture that mimics fabric yet comprises acrylic nails to Cyrus Kabiru’s face masks fashioned out of cassette tapes, wooden planks and steel strips.

Marrakesh, Morocco
macaal.org
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NEW YORK CITY
Until 23 April
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
Hilma af Klint: Paintings for the Future
Hilma af Klint

Years before Kandinsky, Malevich and Mondrian did away with representation, Hilma af Klint created radically abstract paintings. As far back as 1906, the Swedish artist had been producing works that pulsed with colour and unusual shapes. Driven by a mystical search, she conducted séance sessions that inspired her to create hundreds of works meant to represent the spirit of the world. In this first major solo exhibition, the Guggenheim attempts to secure af Klint’s rightful place in art history, uncovering her mysterious coded visual language.

New York City, USA
guggenheim.org
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SAN FRANCISCO
Until 31 March
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA)
Vija Celmins: To Fix The Image in Memory
Vija Celmins

Known for her realistic renderings of the natural environment, including ocean waves, spider webs and the night sky, Vija Celmins’ practice spans over 50 years. Her delicate detailed works are based on photos, which Celmins recreates with meticulous precision, taking years to complete. According to the artist, the surfaces are ‘translated’, after which the images detach themselves from their origins, becoming specific yet untraceable at the same time. This exhibition, Celmins’ first North American retrospective in over 25 years, features nearly 150 works of various media, including drawings and sculptures alongside new works.

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