

WHAT'S ON...


Rudolf de Crignis: first solo show ever in the U.S.

The University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive presentation of Rudolf de Crignis' work, through an exhibition titled "Matrix 245" (on from 30 January through 5 May 2013), is the artist's first solo museum exhibition in the United States. The show will gather fourteen of the artist's signature blue-and-grey oil paintings, in addition to which eight graphite works on paper will be features – all of them produced between 1991 and 2006.

Rudolf de Crignis was born in 1948 in Switzerland, and died in 2006 in New York. He is mostly renowned for his meditative paintings. He began as a performance and video artist, but a series of trips to New York in his thirties changed the course of his life and career. De Crignis was very much inspired by the Minimalist abstract works of Ad Reinhardt, Brice Marden, Blinky Palermo, Robert Ryman and Agnes Martin. De Crignis' works are seemingly monochromatic paintings, actually made of multiple layers upon layers of thin oil washes with many different tints of colours.


Fashion and photography meet at the Maison de la Chine

The Maison de la Chine, Paris, presents through 25 April 2013 "La Photographie Cinématographique", an exhibition dedicated to Chinese photographer Quentin Shih.

The artist, long interested in the worlds of fashion and advertisement, achieved recognition in 2007 when hailed Photographer of the Year by *Esquire* Magazine. He then undertook a collaboration with Dior in 2008, in the framework of the project called "Dior and Chinese artists". The works on show at the Maison de la Chine are issued from this project with the fashion designer. The visitor will enjoy this cross-gaze between two cultures and arts de vivre, puritan China and French elegance of the 1970s and 1980s. The display encompasses series such as *The Stranger in a Glass Box* and *Shanghai Dreamers*.

Quentin Shih (Shi Xiao Fan) was born in Tianjin in 1975. He is a self-taught photographer.


Antoine Watteau at the Musée des Beaux-Arts

Thirty years after the last retrospective dedicated to French painter Antoine Watteau (1684-1721), the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels (BOZAR) is organising from 8 February to 12 May 2013, jointly with the Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille, an exhibition titled "Antoine Watteau, music lesson". The display brings together a hundred works — paintings, drawings, engravings and music instruments — that will enable to recall the career of the major early 18th-century French painter, who created the "Fête galante" genre.

One of the exhibition's original features is that the general curatorship was entrusted not to an art historian as usual, but to famous conductor William Christie, as music is the leading theme of the project. A series of eight concerts titled "Antoine Watteau and the Muses", and precisely conducted by Christie, will punctuate the event.

The aim of the exhibition is not only to exceed the boundaries of painting and music, but also to create time correspondances between the arts, thanks notably to the intervention of contemporary artists such as Michaël Borremans and Dirk Braeckman, as well as writers like Pierre Michon.


Largest retrospective ever on Cristina Iglesias at the Reina Sofia

The Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid is currently housing the largest retrospective ever on Cristina Iglesias. Running from 22 January through 16 September 2013, "Cristina Iglesias: Metonymy" includes over 50 works by the Spanish artist.

A sculptor, Cristina Iglesias "has employed a wide-ranging aesthetic that is as indebted to poetry, literature and architectural theory as it is to the discourse of sculpture proper" (according to the press release). Iglesias has put a lot of effort into understanding how space may be a receptacle of memory, as well as a path that may lead to more speculative forms of thought and reverie. The exhibition spans three decades of the artist's work.

Cristina Iglesias was born in San Sebastian in 1956. She is renowned for her site-specific artworks set in public spaces, such as Deep Fountain, completed in 2006 in a square in front of Antwerp's Museum of Fine Arts; or such as Estancias sumergidas intalled on the coast of Baja California Sur, Mexico, in 2010. A display of travelogues illustrate these projects of public art, mainly those completed for various plazas in European cities.

Iglesias' work is full of references to architecture, both through the materials she uses (concrete, metal, clay, glass...) and through explicit representations of mazes, pavilions, portals, huts and so on. Iglesias will typically produce artworks that engage the spectator's personal reflection upon many matters — not specifically seeking an interactive approach, for her works evokes fictive worlds one must imagine and develop on their own.


Frederic Church at the National Gallery, London

The National Gallery in London has just opened an exhibition devoted to American painter Frederic Church, titled "Through American Eyes: Frederic Church and the Landscape Oil Sketch", running from 6 February through 28 April 2013.

Considered by many to be the greatest American exponent of the landscape oil sketch, Frederic Church (1826-1900) was part of the Hudson River School landscape painters — and was actually regarded as the most ambitious of them all by many. His works are usually admired for their freshness and originality. He sought inspiration in his numerous travels which lead him to countries such as Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico and the Middle-East.

The exhibition gathers 25 oil sketches and one monumental painting, titled *Niagara Falls, from the American side*, dated from 1867.

The exhibition is organised by the National Gallery in partnership with the Terra Foundation for American Art, and with support from the Olana Partnership and loans from Olana and Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution.


MACBA between art and activism – Eulàlia Grau

The Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA) is currently featuring the first monographic exhibition of one of the most militant Catalan voices of the 1970s and 1980s: Eulàlia Grau. The exhibition, titled "I Have Never Painted Golden Angels", runs from 7 February to 26 May 2013.

Through her work, Grau addressed topics such as corruption, exploitation of labour, real estate speculation, gender stereotypes, and in general the capacity of the mass media to influence our image of the world. Her work was deemed topical by MACBA, as well as a perfect illustration of the museum's will to rediscover important local artists which are little known. Over a hundred works are on show, many of them presented for the first time.

Eulàlia Grau was born in 1946. She first briefly studied Fine Arts in Barcelona, studied film at Sala Aixelà, design at the Escola Eina and then in Milan. There she began creating collages and photomontages with a strong political charge and social content. In the late 1980s, she spent a lot of time in Berlin and later on in China, where she found new material for her work, exploring the concepts of loneliness and cultural misunderstandings.