



29 January 2021

Issue 148

Pictured: S.J. Peploe, *Flowers and fruit with Japanese background* (detail) from the Kirkcaldy Art Gallery online exhibition marking the 150th anniversary of the artist's birth. See ARTS NEWS.



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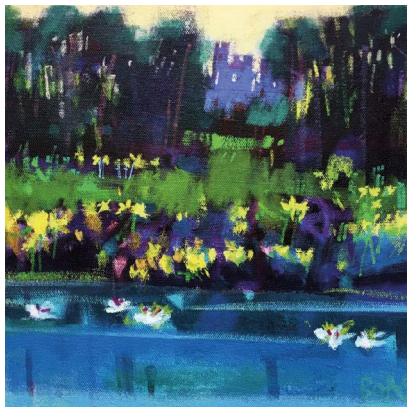
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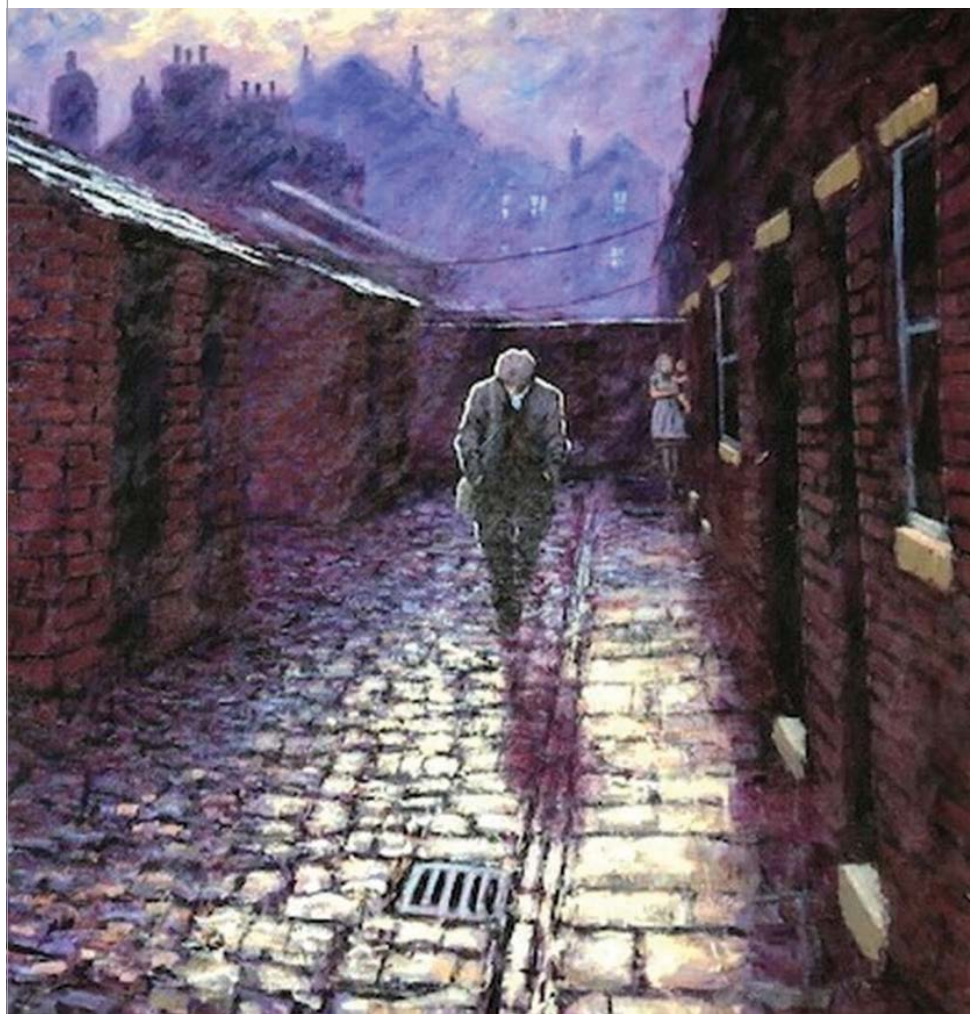
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Autumn at Dalquahandy Farm – Deborah Phillips

Limited edition print of the original painting 'Come Home Soon' by Alexander Millar

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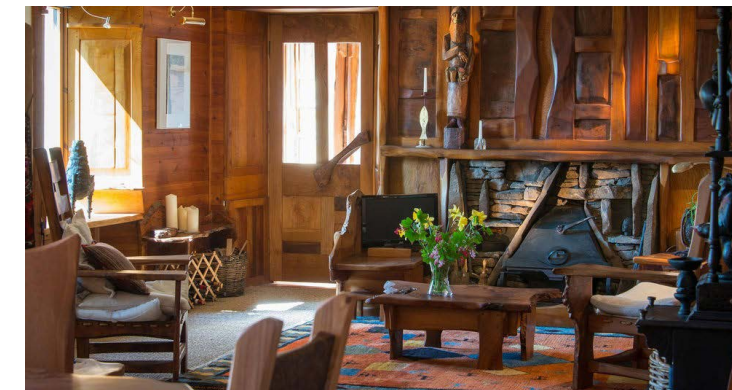
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Exhibitions are online and in gallery
when Government guidance allows.

Choosing something we would all like to do these days, **Escape** at the **Whitehouse Gallery** in Kirkcudbright (Jan 30-Mar 6) is an online exhibition of paintings and prints by 20 artists taking viewers on a virtual journey through Scotland with scenes of wilderness, countryside, coastline, glens and islands. There are also images of France and Italy, birds in flight and still life and figurative works.

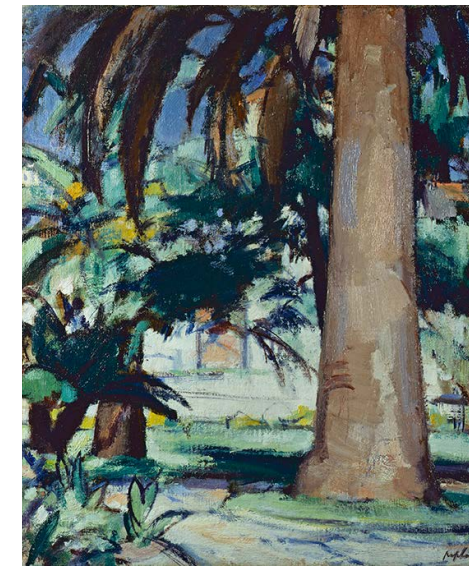
Framed and unframed and in a variety of sizes, purchased works will be posted free of charge direct from the artist's studio to your home. You can contact the gallery to find out more about a work or about more works by a particular artist.

The Whitehouse Gallery participates in the Own Art scheme, which allows buyers to pay for works priced between £100 and £2,500 in ten monthly, interest-free payments. Pictured: Anne Skinner, *December Sun* www.whitehousegallery.co.uk



The Borders home of the late furniture-maker, woodworker and environmentalist Tim Stead has been saved for the nation after a late flurry of private and public donations to the **Tim Stead Trust** enabled it to reach its target of £450,000.

The family home near Lauder is



Marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish Colourist Samuel Peplow, the **Kirkcaldy Art Gallery** has launched a virtual exhibition of the artist's work from the collection managed by the Fife Cultural Trusts. With 46 Peplow paintings, the gallery has the largest group of his work outside National Galleries Scotland.

The works derive mainly from the collection of the Kirkcaldy linen manufacturer J.W. Blyth (1873-1962), part of which was purchased by Kirkcaldy Town Council following Blyth's death. Blyth was the grandfather of the former Conservative MP Michael Portillo, who recalls visiting Blyth's home: "There were paintings

regarded as Stead's most important achievement, with the interior, which features entirely original sculpted fixtures and fittings, attesting to his extraordinary craftsmanship.

Stead, who died in 2000 at the age of 48, is known for works such as Cafe Gandolfi in Glasgow, the Millennium Clock at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and the oil industry memorial chapel in the Kirk of St Nicholas in Aberdeen. www.timsteadtrust.org

everywhere. There were more Peplows than works by the other Colourists and the landscapes featured either the cold blue light of Scotland or the fierce brightness of Royan and Cassis."

Peplow's grandson Guy Peplow, director of The Scottish Gallery in Edinburgh, cites *Palm Trees, Antibes* (pictured), as his favourite work by him.

The Kirkcaldy Art Gallery works can be viewed on the Art UK website: www.bit.ly/2NmbIYd.

The **Maclaurin Gallery** in Ayr is hosting the Ayr Arts Circle annual exhibition online this year (Feb 1-Mar 29). Over 100 works can be viewed virtually, then purchased through the ASC's own website. Pictured: Colin Mackay, *Loch an Eilean* www.themaclaurin.org.uk



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ARTS NEWS

With cinemas currently closed, the excellent **Exhibition On Screen** films are available on DVD or to stream, from a 2-disc set featuring all 14 episodes of Great Art Series 1 to single episodes on the all-time greats in art.

Produced by Seventh Art Productions and hosted by writer, broadcaster and art

historian Tim Marlow, Director of the Design Museum in London, some 30 films were shot on location in over 50 galleries, museums, churches and palaces throughout the world. Together they build a comprehensive survey of the history of western Art. Pictured: Filming 'Renoir: Revered and Reviled' at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia

www.seventh-art.com

Amazin.Scot is a new online marketplace showcasing independent Scottish designers. The wide range of products includes furniture, homewares, art, glasswork, textiles, lighting and jewellery.

Pictured: This minimalist overhead light in steam-bent ash by Yellow Broom can be displayed in two different shapes by simply



turning the four lower tiers, which also changes how the shadows fall. It comes with a large decorative LED bulb and coloured fabric braided flex and can be hard-wired into an existing circuit or supplied with an inline switch and plug to drape it on a hook, peg or bracket. www.amazin.scot

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On the Edge by S Ratcliffe



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Loch an Eilean by C Mackay

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The exhibition can be viewed on www.themaclaurin.org.uk

If you would like to purchase a painting from our online exhibition you will find a link on www.themaclaurin.org.uk to the Ayr Sketch Club.



Analysing a Masterpiece

Lucy Whitaker is Senior Curator of Paintings at the Royal Collection Trust. Here she explains one of the most famous scenes in world art, Canaletto's *The Bacino di San Marco on Ascension Day, c.1733-34*.

We are looking at the most famous view of Venice on the day of the most important festival in the Venetian calendar – the 'Sposalizio del Mar', or Marriage of the Sea, held on Ascension Day to commemorate the Christian belief of the bodily ascension of Jesus into Heaven. Canaletto provides us with an exact record of the occasion, but – as always – transforms reality into a work of art.

THE VIEW

This was the first sight of Venice that visitors had of the city. From left to right are: the Zecca (Mint), the Library of St Mark, the famous Campanile and the Torre dell'Orologio (Clock Tower).

Two huge granite columns are surmounted by the symbols of Venice: a statue of the first patron saint of the city, San Teodoro (Saint Theodosius) and the winged lion of St Mark, forming a monumental 'gate' to the city for visitors approaching from the sea. (Ironically, today walking between the columns is the

Venetian equivalent of walking under a ladder – bad luck.)

In front of the Basilica of San Marco are the Palazzo Ducale, the Prisons (Prigioni) and the Palazzo Dandolo (today the Hotel Danieli). This is the religious, administrative and political heart of Venice.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE SEA

The gilded Bucintoro, the ceremonial galley of the Doge, Venice's most senior elected official, was used once a year for the Marriage of the Sea festival. At the prow of the Bucintoro are the gold figure of justice, the ducal umbrella and the standards of the Republic. To the left is the Fusta, the Doge's galleon.

After AD 1000, Venice marked an important naval victory by a blessing of the sea on Ascension Day. In 1177 the Pope gave the Doge a gold ring and the right to marry the sea as a sign of his lordship over it. By 1267 the two ceremonies had been combined to symbolise Venetian domination over the Adriatic Sea.

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THE CEREMONY

The day started with Mass sung in San Marco after which the Doge and his entourage of officials and foreign ambassadors embarked on the Bucintoro. It was rowed out onto the Lagoon, where the Doge dropped a ring into the sea with the words "We espouse thee, o sea, as a sign of true and perpetual dominion".

In the picture the Bucintoro has returned to San Marco after the ceremony, but the party is still on board. The High Admiral in red stands before the flagpole to give orders. Booths have been set under awnings on the Piazzetta as part of the Festa della Sensa, the 15-day festival celebrating the Ascension, which begins on this day.

THE SPECTACLE

In the 18th century Venice was a vital stop for travellers on the Grand Tour. They would flock to see this event. The Bucintoro was accompanied by gondolas filled with spectators, some in carnival masks. On the left a gondolier struggles to slow down to prevent a collision with another boat. People watch from every possible vantage point. At the top of the Campanile a man uses

a telescope to get a better view. (Galileo, inventor of the telescope, also used it on the Campanile.)

COMPOSITION

Canaletto assisted his father as a painter of theatrical scenery, but soon turned to

Canaletto provides us with an exact record of the occasion, but – as always – transforms reality into a work of art.

painting light-filled views of Venice. His work became so famous that everyone's idea of Venice was then, and still is, based on his vision of the city. He recorded Venice so assiduously that at first sight his paintings can be dismissed as mere records of reality, whereas in fact in every painting he manipulates what he sees, rearranging and altering what he recorded and combining viewpoints.

MANIPULATING REALITY

The architectural setting has been altered for dramatic effect. The buildings in the distance

have been diminished and the Campanile shortened, while the Zecca and the Libreria on the left are enlarged. The Torre dell'Orologio has been moved to the left and the column with the lion of St Mark to the right, so that San Teodoro is silhouetted against the sky and more prominence is given to the Basilica. The Palazzo Ducale is reduced in width to accommodate the Prisons and the Palazzo Dandolo next door.

LIGHT

While meticulously planned and painted in great detail, the view is transformed by Canaletto's attention to the effect of the slight breeze, which flecks the waves and ruffles the hair of one of the passengers under the blue parasol. The reflected spring light illuminates this couple, while others, shaded by canopies, are in part-sunlight and part-shadow. The water is full of reflections and there are shadowy details of oars and posts below the waterline.

Image courtesy the Royal Collection Trust © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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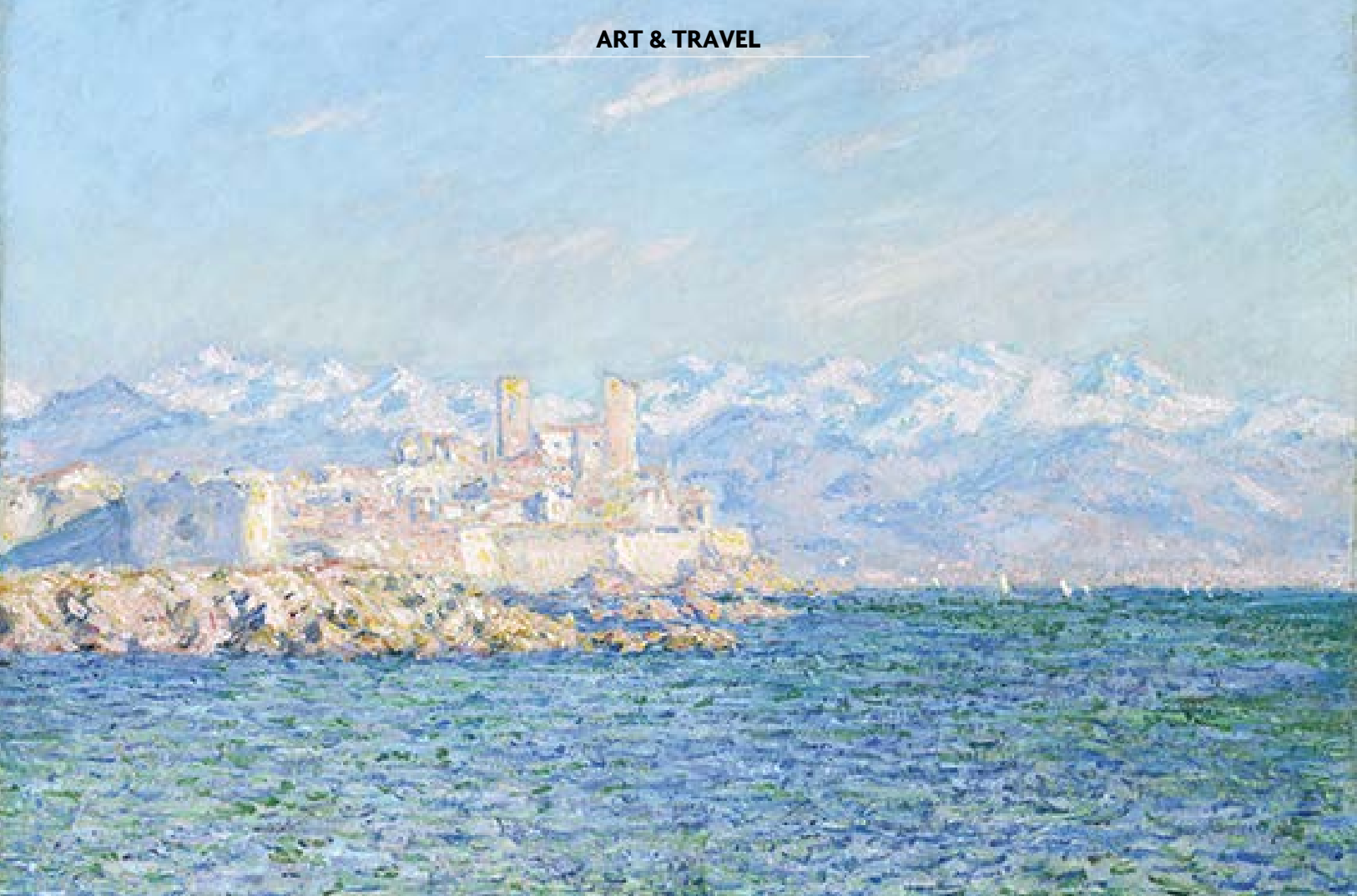
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Claude Monet, *Antibes, effet d'après-midi (Antibes, afternoon effect)*, 1888 © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Blue Heaven

Since the latter years of the 19th century the light, climate and lifestyle of the south of France have attracted some of the art world's legendary names and inspired them to create some of their best work.

As a result, there are now a dozen or so museums in the area dedicated to the work of individual artists who lived (and, in some cases, died) there as well as a clutch of galleries with world class collections.

Sometimes it seems that every town on the Riviera has its own art patron saint. There's Matisse and Chagall in Nice, Picasso

in Antibes, Bonnard in Le Cannet and Leger in Biot.

NICE

Nice is a bustling city with the Riviera's finest ocean-front boulevard, La Promenade des Anglais (named in honour of the vacationing English aristocracy who paid for its construction) and one of the best city views on the coast from La Colline du Chateau, or Castle Hill. (Take the elevator to the top and get set to go "Wow!" when the doors open to reveal the shimmering Mediterranean far below.) The city is second only to Paris for the most number of galleries and museums

The French Riviera has drawn countless artists over the years

in France.

Behind the trompe l'oeil facade of a 17th century villa, the **Matisse Museum** holds Henri Matisse's entire personal collection, which he bequeathed to the city. It includes his famous cut-outs, often of laurels, leaves and fruits, as well as paintings, prints, illustrated books, photographs, engravings, sketches, tapestries, ceramics, stained glass windows and all the bronze sculptures he ever made – in all, a visual history of the artist's work. www.musee-matisse-nice.org

The **Marc Chagall National Museum** is

housed in a modern building custom-built to display the largest public collection of the artist's works. At its heart is the Biblical Message cycle of 17 paintings illustrating Old Testament books. The artist himself decided the placement of the works on the walls.

Russian-born, Chagall created works in virtually every artistic medium, including paintings, book illustrations, stained glass, stage sets, ceramic, tapestries and prints. www.musees-nationaux-alpesmaritimes.fr/chagall/chagall

Located in a sumptuous 19th century building, the former residence of a Ukrainian princess, the **Fine Arts Museum** has a collection of paintings and sculptures spanning the 15th to the 20th century. Some of the rooms are among the largest of any museum on the French Riviera.

Along with the main attraction, a collection by the Fauvist Raoul Dufy, the French School is well represented by the likes of Degas, Boudin and Sisley, while Impressionist and post-Impressionist artists include Bonnard, Vuillard and Van Dongen. www.musee-beaux-arts-nice.org

The **Museum of Modern Art** (known by its French acronym, MAMAC) specialises in the main avant-garde art movements in France and the US since the mid-19th century.

Highlights include: a room dedicated to Yves Klein, the leading figure of the French New Realist movement; a collection of American Pop Art by artists such as



Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg; and a large part of the French-American artist Niki de Saint Phalle's personal collection, including her rotund, larger than life figures, which she bequeathed to the city of Nice.

The building itself is a major landmark, with towers on all four corners linked by glassed-in walkways, leading visitors through the galleries on a circumference of the museum on each level. On the roof a series of arched bridges links viewing terraces with spectacular panoramas of the city.

www.mamac-nice.org

ANTIBES

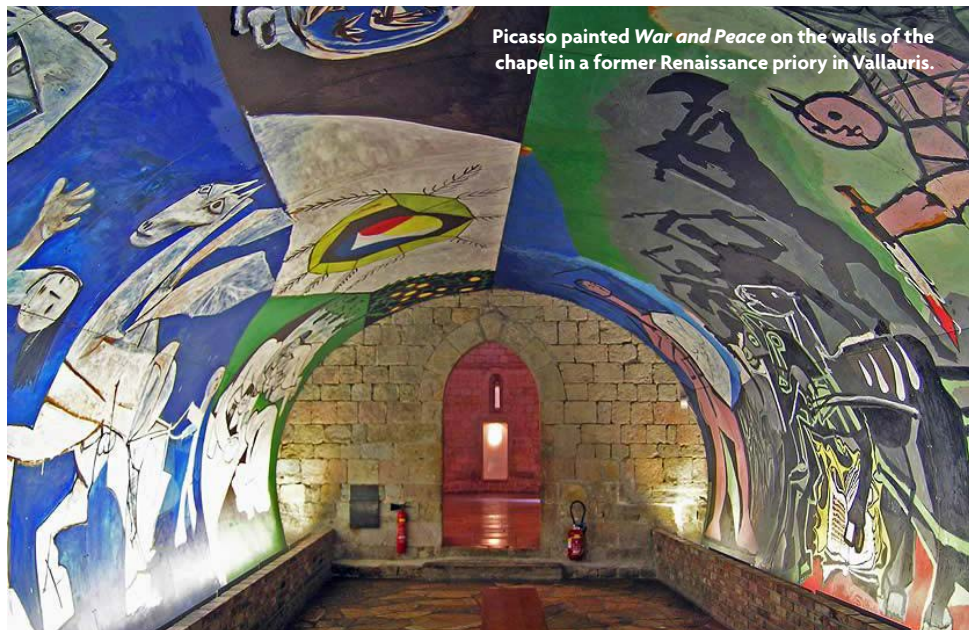
Fifteen kilometres or so along the coast from Nice, Antibes is the only fortified town on the French Riviera. Famous for its ramparts, it has been repeatedly depicted by painters over the years and you can see it through the eyes of artists such as Monet, Picasso and Boudin by following The Painters' Trail marked by illustrated lecterns standing on the very sites where the originals were painted.

Here the **Picasso Museum** perches over the Mediterranean. After spending the WWII years in Paris, Picasso moved to Antibes in 1946. Accepting an invitation from the city's mayor to use a room in a former chateau of the Grimaldi family (the rulers of Monaco), Picasso set to work painting on whatever materials were at hand in the austere, post-war years, including plywood, recycled sail canvas and concrete. Since the other museums dedicated to him – in Barcelona, Malaga and Paris – have no works made on these materials, the resulting collection is unique in the world.

Picasso subsequently donated the complete works from this period to the city of Antibes, and the chateau became the first national museum in France dedicated to a living artist. The works, which may only be shown here, are exhibited in rotation, so that almost the entire collection is shown over the course of a year.



Rooms in the Museum of Fine Arts in Nice are among the largest on the French Riviera.



Picasso painted *War and Peace* on the walls of the chapel in a former Renaissance priory in Vallauris.

As well as the Picasso works, there is a permanent collection by the Russian-born emigré Nicolas de Stael, known mainly for his abstract landscapes, as well as changing exhibitions of work from the main 20th and 21st century art movements. On the terrace overlooking the sea are sculptures by Miro and others. www.antibesjuanlespins.com (search 'Picasso')

VALLAURIS

A short distance inland the town of Vallauris is also closely associated with Picasso. Pottery first appeared there around 1500 and rapidly become its main activity. Picasso learned ceramic techniques in the Madoura workshop of Georges and Suzanne Ramié between 1948 to 1955. Breaking down the barriers between painting, sculpture and ceramics, he produced more than 4,000 works over the next 20 years and many of them are on display in the **Magnelli Museum** and the **Ceramics Museum**, both housed in a former Renaissance priory.

This is also home to the **Picasso War and Peace Museum**, named after the two remarkable murals which are permanently installed in the former chapel, turning it into a kind of 'peace temple'.

War and Peace was part of the 1950s movement rediscovering sacred art, when Matisse was finishing The Chapel of the Rosary in Vence and Chagall was working on his Biblical Message series in Nice. A far cry

from a busy gallery, it is difficult to sit in the quiet intimacy of the tiny museum, literally surrounded by a cry for peace from the master's soul, and remain unmoved.

In the marketplace in front of the museum stands the bronze statue *L'Homme au Mouton* (*Man with a sheep*, 1943), which Picasso gifted to the city of Vallauris, his first sculpture to be installed in a public place. www.vallaurisgolfjean-tourisme.fr

LE CANNET

Pierre Bonnard is perhaps best known as a founder member of a group of post-Impressionist avant-garde artists known as Les Nabis. ('Nabi' means 'prophet' in Hebrew and Arabic.) Spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, the movement set out to revitalise painting, paving the way for the development of abstract art.



The Picasso Museum in Antibes, Photo: J-L Andral

Occupying a former hotel in Le Cannet, the **Bonnard Museum** has a permanent collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs, with other pieces on loan from museums and private collections. A series of exhibitions explores different aspects of Bonnard's work.

Bonnard's compositions are typically sunlit interiors and gardens populated with friends and family members. He also painted self-portraits, landscapes, street scenes and still lifes, usually of flowers and fruit. Bonnard owned a small house in Le Cannet and died there in 1947. www.museebonnard.fr

While in Le Cannet seek out *The Lovers' Wall*, a Chagall-like mural by Raymond Peynet and Guy Ceppa depicting a newly wed couple flying over the Garden of Eden.

MOUGINS

With its medieval streets dotted with galleries and artist studios, Mougins has been home to Fernand Leger, Jean Cocteau, Man Ray and Pablo Picasso, who died there in 1973.

With some 700 works spanning 5,000 years, the **Museum of Classical Art** demonstrates how modern artists have been influenced by ancient art. This is shown by the juxtaposition of ancient and modern exhibits, such as a Roman Venus next to Salvador Dalí's surrealist *Venus de Milo*, a blue Venus cast by Yves Klein and Andy Warhol's *The Birth of Venus* or Egyptian tomb reliefs and a painted sarcophagus displayed alongside Alexander Calder's colourful pyramids and a sphinx by Jean Cocteau.

Other exhibits demonstrate how ancient monuments, coins, mosaics, paintings and sculptures are reflected in work by a virtual roll-call of modern greats, from Matisse, Dufy, Cézanne, Rodin, Cocteau, Hirst and Chagall to Modigliani, Giacometti, Toulouse-Lautrec, Moore and Braque. Outside two cast iron figures by Anthony Gormley stand guard over the road leading up to the village.

www.mouginsmusee.com



The Fernand Leger National Museum in Biot

BIOT

Unlike other artists who have museums dedicated to them on the French Riviera, Fernand Leger never actually lived in Biot, although he bought a villa there, but died soon afterwards. His wife Nadia decided to create a museum on the property and the **Fernand Leger National Museum** was inaugurated in 1960.

The vast murals in primary colours covering the outside walls demonstrate why Leger is considered a forerunner of Pop Art, while inside the spacious, white-walled

galleries make his works pop out. With almost 350 of the artist's original paintings, drawings, oils, stained glass windows and mosaics, it is the largest collection of Leger's works in the world. www.musees-nationaux-alpesmaritimes.fr/fleger

VENCE

In its walled Old Town, Vence has preserved amazing souvenirs of its rich history: Roman ruins, ramparts, watchtowers, the remains of the Bishop's Palace, the chateau of the Lords of Villeneuve, squares, fountains and the

treasures in its cathedral.

A long-time refuge for artists, Vence has been depicted by the likes of Soutine, Dubuffet and Dufy. In 1943 Henri Matisse left Nice to escape the bombing and lived in the villa Le Reve (*The Dream*) until 1949, painting some of his finest works there. The house can be visited and it is even possible to paint in one of the studios.

It was also in Vence that Matisse dedicated three years to the design of a masterpiece of sacred art, the *Chapelle du Rosaire*, which he created to honour ▶▶▶



Henry Matisse's *Chapelle du Rosaire* in Vence was the first building to be entirely designed by an artist.

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Pierre Bonnard, *L'amandier (The almond tree)*
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the Dominican sisters who treated him during an illness. Matisse worked on the plans for the building and all aspects of its decoration, including stained glass windows, ceramics and furniture – the first time an artist designed an entire building. Although not a religious person, he considered it his masterpiece. www.chapellematisse.com

SAINT-PAUL DE VENCE

Utrillo, Derain, Soutine, Signac, Modigliani and Matisse were all bewitched by the beauty of Saint-Paul as were other artists, writers and showbiz stars. Today the town is still an artists' mecca, albeit the many galleries have a ritzy, glitzy air about them.

On an overlooking hill the **Maeght Foundation** has hundreds of outdoor sculptures by the likes of Henry Moore, Alexander Calder, Jean Arp, Joan Miro and Alberto Giacometti. This private collection was a true collaboration, many of the artists working with the Maeght family (Aimé Maeght was a French art dealer, collector, and publisher) and the architect Josep Lluís Sert to create site-specific works for the museum building and grounds.

www.fondation-maeght.com

FURTHER INFO: www.cotedazurfrance.fr



Andy Warhol's *The birth of Venus*, (1984) is one of many modern works inspired by ancient art in the Museum of Classical Art in Mougins.



Niki de Saint Phalle's *La Toilette* (1978, paper maché & var. materials) is from the French-American artist's personal collection, which she bequeathed to the city of Nice. (Museum of Modern Art)

A visitor to the Marc Chagall National Museum in Nice admires a work from the Biblical Message cycle of paintings.



Working to commission and for exhibition, Brian Waugh of **Cobweb Stained Glass** in Glasgow designs and makes original works for windows, doors and skylights in homes, offices or churches as well as being expert in restoration, repair and installation. Pictured: Red Griffin www.cobwebstainedglass.com



Photo: Tina Sorensen

Tom Cooper combines function and style to create what he calls “usable sculpture” for a range of clients, including the Royal College of Surgeons, Dunfermline Abbey, Innis and Gunn brewery and Edinburgh’s Lord Provost. Pictured: Deco Flow office desk and chair in Scottish walnut with sycamore details www.tcfinefurniture.co.uk

Helensburgh-based **Caitlin Hegney** creates contemporary silver and wooden jewellery inspired by ancient patterns. She first sketches her designs before using hand-made tools to translate them into precious metals and onto wooden surfaces dyed from her own pigment recipes. www.caitlinhegney.co.uk



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Stuart Whatley of Skye-based **Edinbane Pottery** developed a passion for ceramics after the chance discovery of boulder clay when his father was digging a drainage ditch. Playing with it became a hobby then a business specialising in a variety of finishes and glazes on a wide range of homeware. www.edinbane-pottery.co.uk



Rachel Bower of **Woven Willow** makes contemporary basketry using ‘stake and strand’, a traditional technique believed to have been introduced by the Romans in which ‘stakes’ are pushed into a base to create a structure around which material (the ‘strand’) can be woven. www.wovenwillow.co.uk



This Bubble Bowl in recycled window glass by **Kate Henderson** is from a range of clear and coloured, kiln-textured bowls and dishes. Kate has also created the Summer Shadows, Shelter and Community series of framed, standing panels made of stained, sand-blasted, etched and layered glass. www.katehenderson.co.uk



ART CRUISES

All at sea

Viking Cruises has the largest private collection of Edward Munch artwork outside Oslo

Some luxury cruise ships are also floating art galleries

Some of the world's finest contemporary art galleries can be found in Amsterdam. Or Barcelona. Or Monte Carlo. Or Lisbon or Copenhagen or Tallinn or St. Petersburg or Hong Kong or Miami or... Wait, you ask, they're in all these places? Well, yes, if one of several luxury cruise ships happens to be in port.

Cruise lines are increasingly turning to art to boost their image with a particular kind of clientele and have amassed multi-million pound art collections which, if housed in a building with a 'Gallery' sign outside, would have art-lovers queuing around the block. The biggest cruise ship in the world, the 9,000-passenger Symphony of the Seas operated by Royal Caribbean, has over 13,000 works valued at some \$8 million.

A big advantage cruise passengers have over 'landlubbers' is that they are on board

for anything from a few days to a few months, so they have a far longer encounter with the works than in a conventional art gallery. (It is estimated that the average viewing time most artworks in museums and galleries get is a few meagre seconds.) Here are some other 'floating art galleries'.

Norwegian-owned **Viking Cruises** has the largest private collection of Edward Munch artwork outside Oslo, with 28 original pieces displayed on its ships. Through an exclusive relationship with Oslo's Munch Museum, Viking has also been granted the digital rights to the artist's entire collection. This forms the basis of Munch Moments, a daily audio-visual presentation on Munch's art and life for passengers to enjoy.

Guests can also download a free app for an on-board self-guided tour of each ship's collection. Art is also included in daily guest

lectures on a wide range of topics, while most shore excursions include visits to art galleries.

Viking has a number of cultural partners around the world where they sponsor exhibitions. These have included the British Museum (Edvard Munch: Love and Angst), the V&A (Ocean Liners: Speed & Style) and the Royal Academy of Arts (Picasso and Paper and Tracey Emin/Edvard Munch: The Loneliness of the Soul, which was curtailed due to the pandemic).

Viking also offers art-focussed itineraries such as The Waterways of the Tsars, which explores the Russian art scene from Moscow to St Petersburg, and The Viking Shores & Fjords, which takes in Skagen in Denmark, a place of inspiration for generations of artists, and Oslo, where through a partnership with the Munch Museum guests can enjoy Privileged Access experiences, including special admission to the private collection of Munch's printing plates and the museum's conservation department.

Introduced at the beginning of lockdown, Viking-TV includes art-related programmes,

such as behind the scenes peeks into the Munch Museum, the Royal Academy of Arts and the heritage Museum. Launching this year, the next ocean ship in the line, Viking Venus, will also feature its own collection of original artwork, including pieces by Munch.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises has a \$5 million art collection permanently displayed throughout the Seven Seas Splendor. Comprising some 300 pieces of 20th and 21st century art by over 200 artists, it includes works by Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro, whose *The Bullfighter Move* is displayed alongside Eduardo Arranz-Bravo's *Bull in...* the ship's steakhouse. The works were previously shown together in Barcelona's Sala Gaspar Gallery in 1969.

Founded in 1873 in Rotterdam (some of its earliest passengers were emigrants to the United States, and the original terminal is now the New York Hotel), the **Holland America Line** considers art an important component of its fleet and traditionally the ships have been filled with works ranging from museum-quality antiques to contemporary pieces by both recognised and emerging artists.

ART CRUISES

Sister ships the MS Koningsdam and the MS Nieuw Statendam both have collections based on themes of music and performance in a variety of media. With works by artists from over two dozen nationalities, the collections were each valued at around \$4 million when first acquired, with prices

Cruise lines are increasingly turning to art to boost their image

ranging from £500 to over £600,000. Some of the larger works were completed on-site by the artists.

The Koningsdam collection in particular features artists in the early stages of their career (it is estimated that, by value, 90 per cent of all art sold globally is by emerging artists) and together the artworks weigh over 20 tons.

The centrepiece installation on both ships is *Harps*, a three-storey, 7.5-ton stainless steel sculpture with giant spokes

blending art, architecture and engineering. Soaring above passengers' heads in the ships' Atriums, it is designed to emulate the feeling of being inside and surrounded by a giant musical instrument, with the perspectives changing as guests move around and through it. On the Nieuw Statendam the atrium is capped by a skylight which acts as a backdrop for high definition projections changing from wispy cirrus clouds floating in an azure sky to light playing on water to starlit constellations in a night sky.

As with all the on-board installations, key factors had to be taken into consideration, such as the ship's vibrations (which can loosen screws), its movement in the water



Joan Miro's *The Bullfighter Move* is displayed on the Seven Seas Splendor.

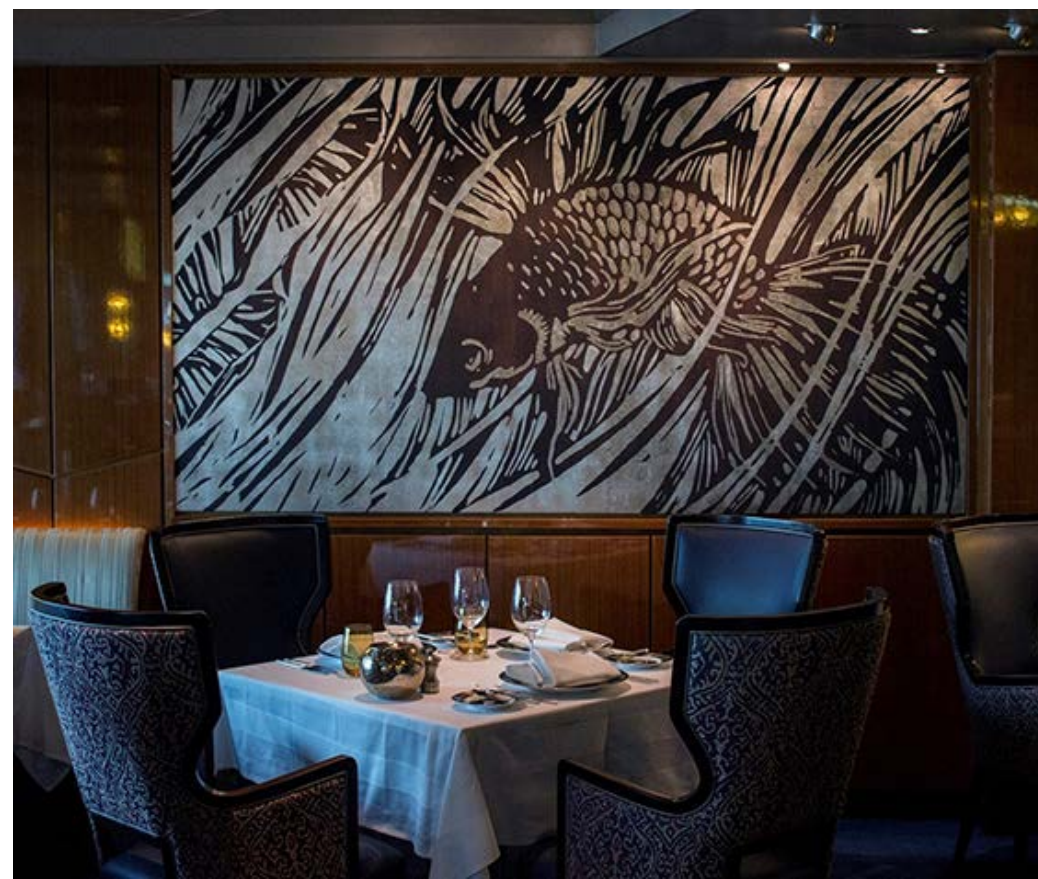
and 'hull bending', a characteristic which allows a vessel to cope with stresses on the structure.

The ships' multi-level stair towers are treated as galleries, which passengers can browse as they go from deck to deck. Those who choose to take the lift can tell which deck they are on by the art they see when the doors open.

A new ship arriving later this year, the MS Rotterdam, will also have art on board.

The small scale Italian cruise line **Silversea Cruises** has a fleet of nine ships. One of them, the Silver Shadow, has a museum-quality collection curated by the art collector and dealer Michael Judge, which includes works by Dali, Picasso, ▶▶▶

This work by the German-born, New York-based Sandra Spannan hangs in a restaurant on the Holland America Line's Nieuw Statendam. Photo: Alessandro Passerini





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The Newcastle-born graffiti artist Carl Hush has created three installations for the Scenic Eclipse.

Chagall, Miro, Modigliani and others. Judge himself leads art tours on selected cruises.

A sister ship, the Silver Muse, features an Arts Cafe with an eclectic display of art, as have the refurbished Silver Spirit and the fleet's newest addition, the Silver Moon. You may also find a library of large "coffee table" art books to browse through on a leisurely day at sea.

Operated by **Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours**, the Scenic Eclipse features three custom installations by the Newcastle-born graffiti artist Carl Hush, who draws inspiration from graphic novels, animation and street art. In a style described as 'urban abstract Pop', his central focus is the female form, from the geisha to anime manga.

The newest flagship of **P&O Cruises**, the Iona will showcase over 4,600 works in

what will be the world's largest floating art collection. Taking inspiration from the sea and nature, the multi-million pound collection by mainly British artists will include paintings, photography, mixed media, reliefs, glasswork, sculpture and textiles.

Featured artists include: Sebastian Chaumeton, who has been commissioned to produce computer-generated wall panel designs; painter Johnny Morant, whose large scale works of flora and fauna from the Mediterranean region are designed to 'bring the outside in'; and Natalie Muir, who has created a series of hypnotic disks finished by mostly using a blow torch rather than a paint brush.

Artmag writer and cruise industry expert Vivien Devlin contributed to this article.



Natalie Muir has been commissioned to create 400 circular pieces of art for the three main staircases on the new P&O Cruises flagship Iona.



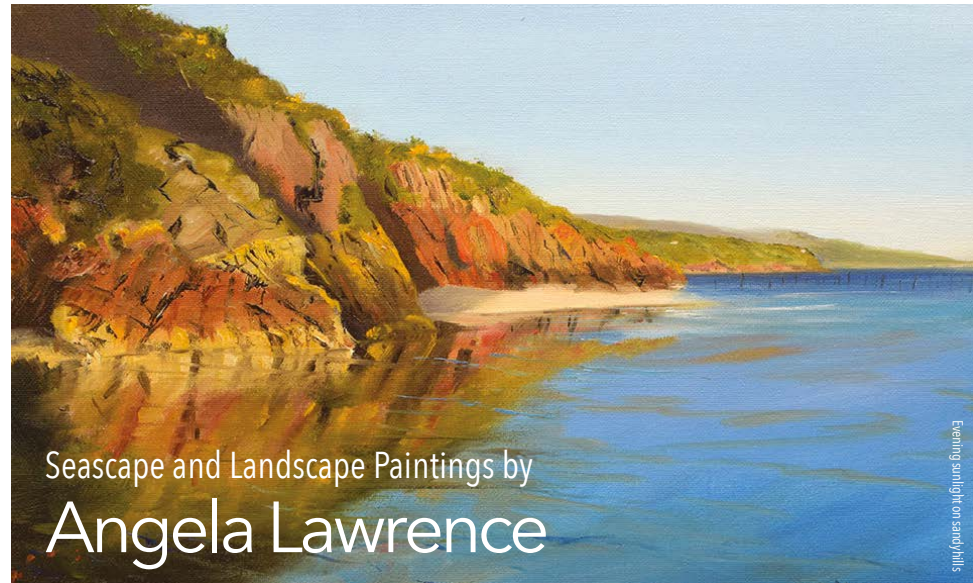
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ART CRUISES

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P&O Cruises
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Regent Seven Seas Cruises
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Royal Caribbean
www.royalcaribbean.com

Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours
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Silversea Cruises
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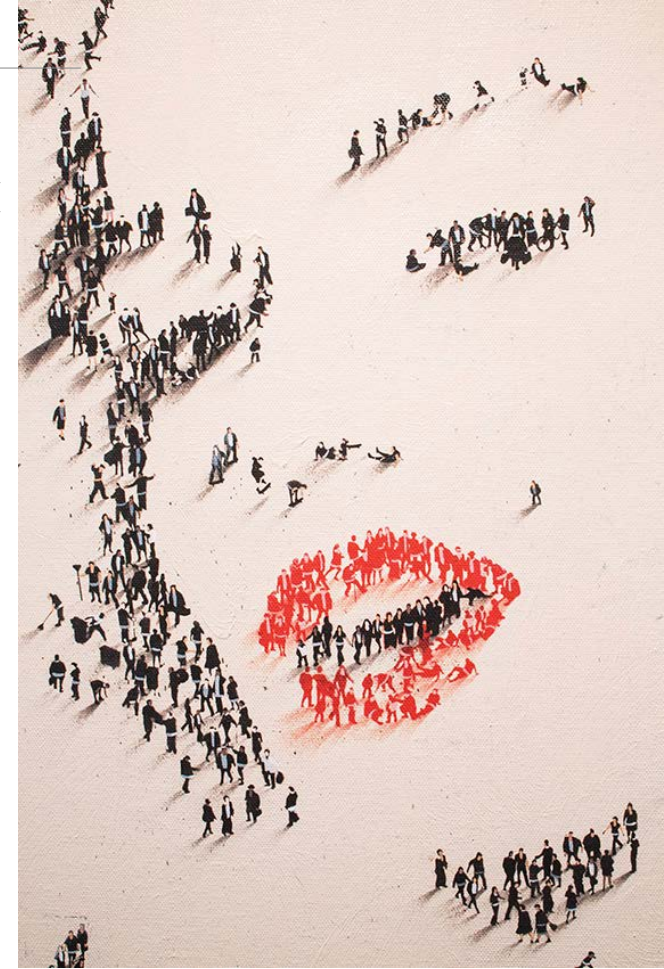
Viking Cruises
www.vikingcruises.co.uk

Craig Alan (USA), *Looking Over Shoulder* (detail, mixed media), one of the many artworks on Holland America Line's MS Koningsdam

Holland America Line's Nieuw Statendam



Look out for Part 2 of our Art Cruises feature in the Friday February 5 digital issue of Artmag.



GALLERY 2



Dan McShane Cloudscape

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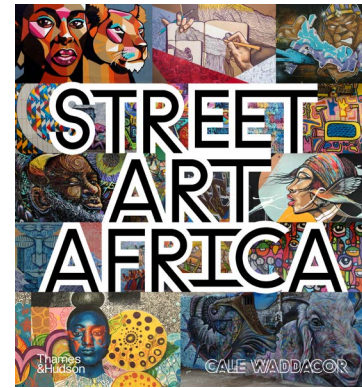
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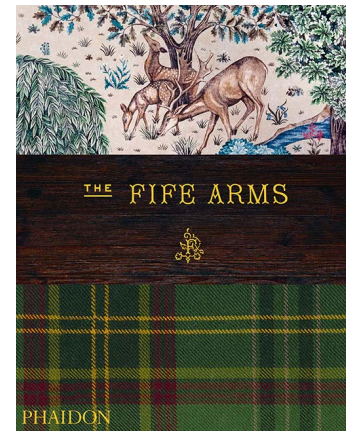
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OWN ART

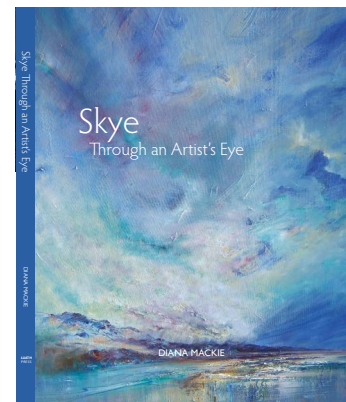
ART BOOKS



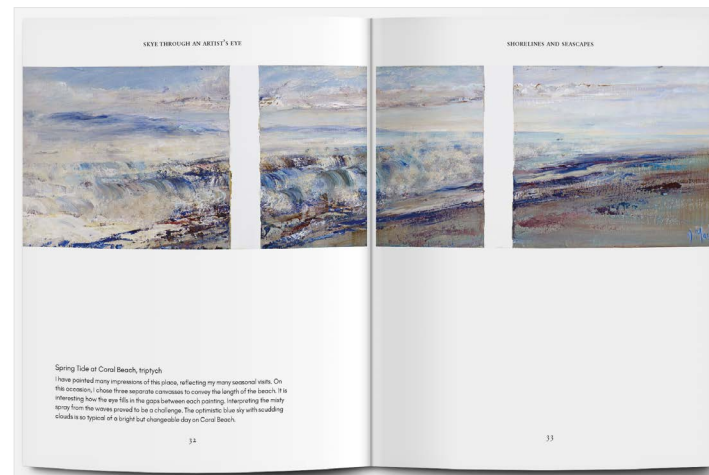
Street Art Africa, by Cale Waddacor, pub. Thames & Hudson This visually rich survey, the first of its kind, showcases recent work by over 200 artists and details the continent's major street art projects, collectives and festivals. Taking readers on an introductory tour of the cultural influences and idiosyncrasies of individual street art scenes from Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and South Africa to Tunisia, Angola and Egypt, the fully illustrated book elaborates on styles, processes and contemporary visual cultures and puts the explosion of street art in Africa into a social and cultural context.



The Fife Arms, text by Dominic Bradbury, photography by Sim Canetty-Clarke & Ben Addy, pub. Phaidon The Swiss husband and wife superstar gallery owners Manuela and Iwan Wirth have transformed an inn near Braemar in Aberdeenshire into one of the world's most enchanting hotels, decorating and appointing it in exquisite detail with bespoke wallpaper and soft furnishings, custom-made furniture and specially commissioned art and crafts along with works by Lucian Freud, Louise Bourgeois, Pablo Picasso and others. This lavishly illustrated guided tour is the next best thing to staying there.



Skye Through an Artist's Eye, by Diana Mackie, pub. Luath Press Skye-based artist Diana Mackie tells of her love affair with the island in words and dramatic oil paintings in response to the weather's ever-changing moods by both day and night. Painting skies, waterfalls, woodland, shorelines and moonscapes, she captures rays of sun penetrating through a storm cloud, isolated moonlit paths and spume rising from a turbulent sea. She also recounts the story of the series of moon paintings she created in memory of those who took part in the perilous Arctic Convoys during WWII.



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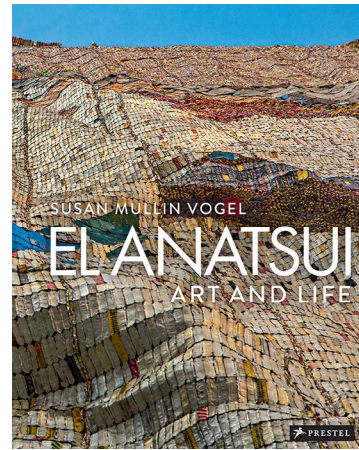


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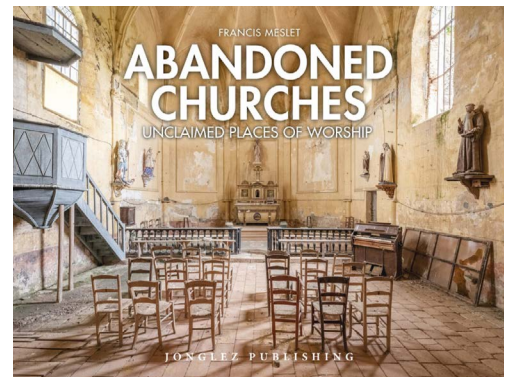
Bring in the Light

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El Anatsui: Art And Life, by Susan Mullin Vogel, pub. Prestel Born in Ghana and based in Nigeria, El Anatsui is best known for his remarkable tapestries made from thousands of bottle tops sourced from alcohol recycling stations and sewn together with copper wire. The resulting metallic, cloth-like wall sculptures are in the permanent collections of many of the world's great museums. Accompanied by 180 images, the book traces El Anatsui's exploration of media leading to his bottle top art form, his two decades of art-making and and his desire to express Africa's history..



Eternally waiting
16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th-century church, France, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region

I love the light

A female, expressive saint gazes heavily to the sky holding a sword, instrument of passion or struggle, and the palm leaf, that heaven grants her. Is the king her servant or her assassin? And is her woman at the right or what? Yes, these are three holy figures on the pedestal and niches above. Saint Catherine of Alexandria of the King's table. Eternally waiting, they call out to the rose garland who falls upon this place, which is now only visited by loquacious messengers. Against a dark background dotted with crosses, the two abandoned places await the resurrection of a forgotten church. The statue, which is lit right away thought to be made of beautifully carved stone, is only plastic, as evidenced by the pedestal on the left and its grating second. This late 17th-century creation probably descended more from being abandoned like the 17th-century. This abandoned statue, made in a factory, is not privileged. There is no flourish signature on the base. Is that why it is worth no more? A white world is slowly disappearing, dissolved because it is too close to us, as if architectural and ordinary youth were a child. One day even the noisy work of a mechanical should tell us our three statues to rubble. Perhaps a worker will take one last look at these sculptures. Will the statue in place in the light to be lit again? How many statues, left out in the freezing cold of empty rooms, will you find? This is the great mystery of what was the pride of the 17th century in France. In less than a century, more churches and chapels were built from in all the previous centuries. When one of these construction disappears, it is a small piece of our history that falls into oblivion. Each of these statues tells us a story and bears witness to the belief and convictions of a century. Each one tells us, in the time, remembered, and let us not forget, the women of the people came to buy flowers of their feet.

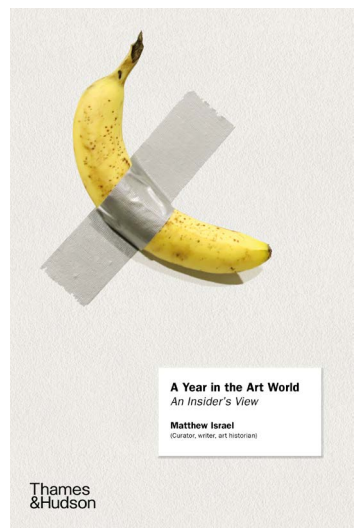
Christian Mathewson



Abandoned Churches, by Francis Meslet, pub. Jonglez Publishing Francis Meslet travels the world in search of places which have fallen into disuse. For this book he photographed places of worship across

Europe, from a crypt in the Italian mountains to a tomb in a former convent in Portugal. Where once Latin prayers were recited in a German church or a children's choir filled a French Catholic college, there is now silence

interrupted only by an occasional gust of wind whistling through broken stained glass or the rhythmic drip of water leaking through a dilapidated roof.



A Year in the Art World: An Insider's View, by Matthew Israel, pub. Thames & Hudson This tell all book by a curator and art historian takes the reader on a worldwide journey through a notional calendar year in the fast lane of art, a world long perceived as closed and obscure, to uncover the working lives of artists, curators, gallerists, institutions, auction houses, art advisors and critics and find out what they actually do. Along the way Israel explores what drives an interest in working with art, how artworks acquire value and how technology has transformed the art world.



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Huh?

Talk about giving art a bad name.
(Names withheld to protect the guilty.)

Bodies of work often become a conversation between very specific and directly expressed concepts, and the fruits of accidents or experiments.

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(The artist) wants to question and address the limitations of the human condition, revealing the simplicity of how we all travel consciously or unconsciously through the third and fourth dimensions of time and space.

(The artist) moves between disciplines to investigate the appropriation of qualities, properties, methodologies and gestures inventing ways to physically convey transitions.

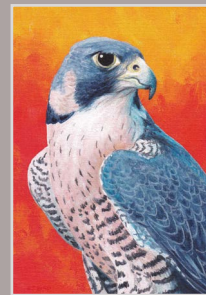
Stealing details from architectural forms and decoration, (the artist's) work collides references to the everyday with the monumental, often playing with visual similarities between disparate sources.

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Clockwise from left: Deborah Phillips, Sonas Maclean, Lindsay Turk

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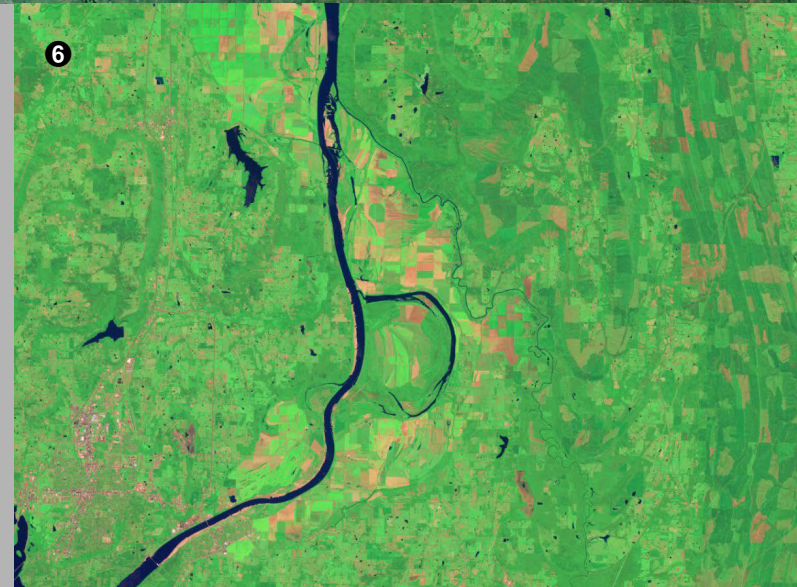
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Satellite images of the earth reveal the art of nature

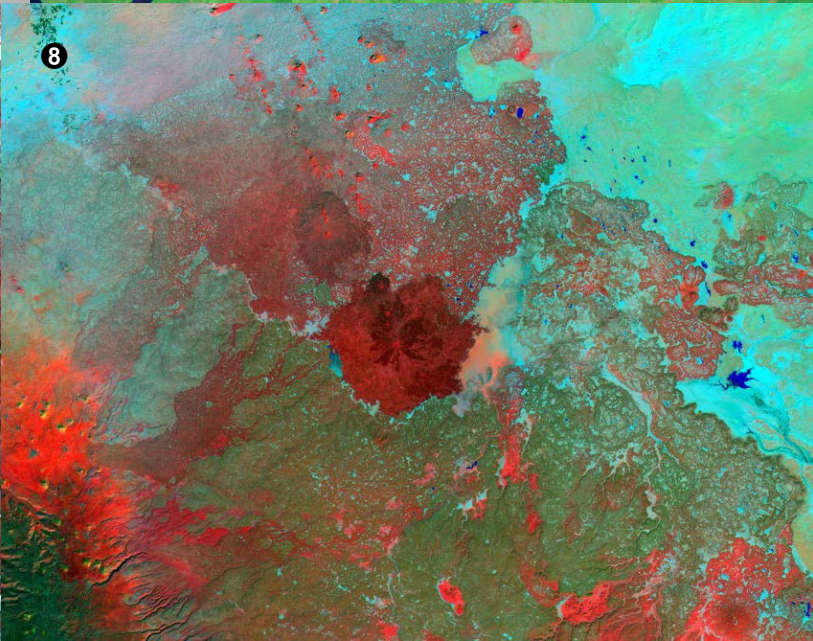
- 1 Cambridge Gulf and Estuary, Western Australia
- 2 Detroit, Michigan, USA
- 3 Lake Eyre, South Australia
- 4 Betsiboka River, Madagascar
- 5 Mount Taranaki, Egmont National Park, New Zealand
- 6 The Arkansas river running through the Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge, USA
- 7 Ugab River, Namibia
- 8 Syrian Desert



6



7



8