Art in America

CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORS LETTER

THE BRIEF
Photography from India comes to San Jose; a technointernational at New York’s New Museum; retrospectives for Doris Salcedo and On Kawara; Mexico City’s Material Art Fair; museums in New Jersey and California highlight art of the 1990s.

FIRST LOOK
niv Acosta by William S. Smith
Departing from his Denzel Washington obsession, the transgender Dominican artist debuts a four-person dance performance that mixes disco beats, racial themes and sci-fi speculations.

SIGHTLINES
Rose Art Museum director Christopher Bedford tells Chris Chang what’s on his mind.

ISSUES & COMMENTARY
True Noir by Stephen F. Eisenman
The author of The Abu Ghraib Effect compares the U.S. Senate’s recent CIA torture expose to a work of hard-boiled pulp nonfiction.

MUSEUMS
The LV Boat by James S. Russell
Billowing with glass “sails,” Frank Gehry’s new Fondation Louis Vuitton brings Paris a dramatic, art-challenging museum interior and a trove of controversy over its founder, LVMH head Bernard Arnault.

MUSE
The Breath of Life by Carolee Schneemann
Long an icon of feminism and sexual liberation, the artist now finds artistic counsel, erotic pleasure and spiritual sustenance in her many kissing cats.

ATLAS BANGKOK
Northern Renaissance by Gregory Galligan
No longer confined to the capital, experimental art currently flourishes throughout Thailand—especially the northern areas of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Isan.

BACKSTORY
Playing at Saints by José Bedia
In 1985, a host of Cuban artists and writers—all friends of Ana Mendieta and many of them visiting the U.S. at her instigation—gathered for a high-spirited communal evening in New York.

BOOKS
Ryan Holmberg on Chewing Gum and Chocolate: Photographs by Shomei Tonomoto, edited by Leo Rubinfien and John Junkerman; plus related titles in brief.

REVIEWS

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DEPARTMENTS FEBRUARY 2015
THE BRIEF

A concise guide to some of the most exciting new exhibitions, art fairs and festivals opening in February.

INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Bollywood film stills, hand-painted studio portraits and ethnographic images produced during the colonial era serve as sources of inspiration for the artists featured in "Postdate: Photography and Inherited History in India." The exhibition includes work by Raqs Media Collective, Nandan Ghiya, Pushpamala N. and other artists who mine their country's rich photographic traditions to make personal connections with the past.
San Jose Museum of Art, Feb. 5-Aug. 2.

DORIS SALCEDO

Known for evocative installations that invest Minimalist-inspired forms with poignant sociopolitical commentary, Doris Salcedo has been a prominent witness to the ongoing turmoil in her native Colombia. This retrospective includes some of her pivotal large-scale works, such as "La Casa Viuda" (1993-95), a series of sculptures that incorporate modified tables and other pieces of found furniture, as well as newer pieces, including "A Flor de Piel" (2014), a carpet made of rose petals sewn together by hand.

GLOBAL TRIENNIAL

The New Museum's signature triennial survey of contemporary art returns with "Surround Audience," curated by Lauren Cornell and artist Ryan Trecartin. According to Cornell, the exhibition promises to explore how "the effects of technology and late capitalism have been absorbed into our bodies and altered our vision of the world." Among the 51 artists and collectives featured, from more than 25 countries, are Casey Jane Ellison, Martine Syms and Ketuta Alexi-Meskhishvili.

MATERIAL ART FAIR

Dedicated to showcasing emerging artists, the Material Art Fair, now in its second year, features 40 galleries from the Americas and Europe. Many of the participating venues are relatively new ventures, including New York's artist-run Regina Rex; Lulu, a gallery operated by artist Martin Soto Climent and curator Chris Sharp out of their Mexico City apartment; and Yautpec, an art space in the same city owned by fair organizers Daniela Elbahara and Brett Schultez.
Auditorio Blackberry, Mexico City, Feb. 5-8.

ON KAWARA

For the entire run of this On Kawara retrospective, volunteers will take turns reading from the seminal Conceptual artist's "One Million Years" (1969), a multivolume list of years beginning with 998,031 B.C. The steady chant offers an aural analogue to many of Kawara's well-known visual projects, including "Today," a series of date paintings he began in 1964 and continued until his death last year, and "I Am Still Alive," a series of telegrams with which the artist announced to each recipient the simple fact of his continued existence.

DREAM OF THE '90s

Taking its title from a 1992 Nirvana song that could well serve as that decade's anthem, "Come As You Are: Art of the 1990s" looks back on an era when identity politics, culture wars and burgeoning digital technologies helped define the artistic landscape. Among the approximately 45 artists included in the survey are Mark Dion, Felix Gonzalez-Torres and Diana Thater.

RIOT GRRRLS

Making the case that punk—at least its radical feminist strain—is far from dead, "Alien She" examines the lasting influence of the '90s Riot Grrrl movement on seven artists working today, including Ginger Brooks Takahashi, Faythe Levine and Stephanie Syjuco. This traveling exhibition features sculptures, videos, zines and archival materials, all embodying an ideology of female empowerment, activism and collaboration.
Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, Calif., Feb. 15-May 24.