

Exhibits

By Mike May

PITTSBURGH BIENNIAL: JUNE 10-OCT. 23

It takes two to tango, which might seem ideal for a biennial show, but for the 2011 Pittsburgh Biennial, see what happens when twice that number take to the dance floor.

"Creativity Plus Collaboration" could be the theme for this year's Biennial, sponsored by four partner organizations. This major exhibition is not only growing bigger for its eighth installment, but it's also expanding in time and space.

The Biennial, opening this month, premiered in 1994 at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, which has since merged with Pittsburgh Filmmakers. Now, those two organizations have linked with arts partners Carnegie Museum of Art, The Andy Warhol Museum and the Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University to present and co-curate a multifaceted, two-season celebration of the art and artists in the region.

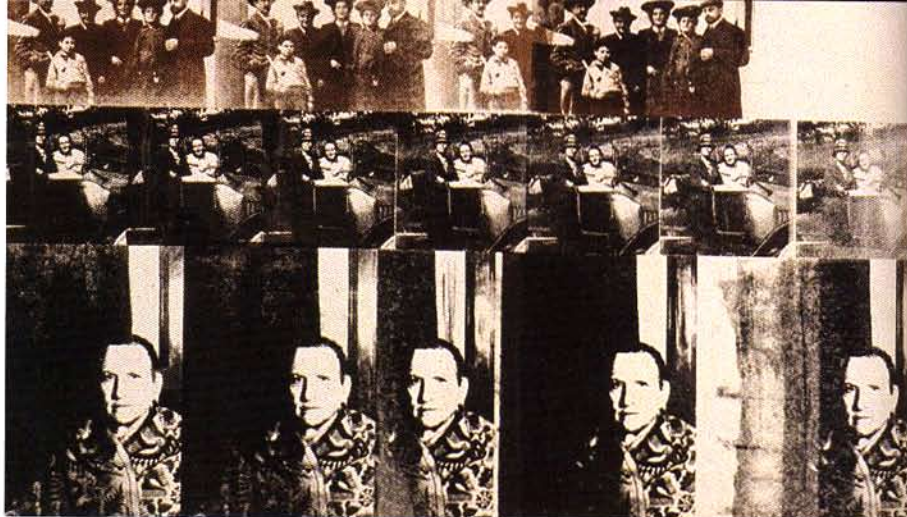
"This unique collaboration among these organizations builds on the open exchange of ideas as well as the collaborative atmosphere PF/PCA cultivates," says Laura Domencic, the PCA's director. "These organizations have stepped outside of their regular programming to focus on the creative energy of Pittsburgh artists. They bring their valuable perspectives and resources as well as a heightened recognition of our region's most compelling visual artists."

More than 60 artists were selected by a curatorial team comprising of Eric Shiner, of the Warhol; Dan Byers, of Carnegie Museum of Art; Astria Suparak, of the Miller Gallery; and Adam Welch, of Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

Things kick off on June 10 and run through Oct. 23 at two of the venues:

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts (Fifth and Shady avenues, Shadyside; 412/361-0873, pittsburgharts.org) will feature works with a focus on installation and two-dimensional, three-dimensional, time-based and interactive/process-based works. At Pittsburgh Filmmakers (477 Melwood Ave., Oakland; 412/681-5449, pghfilmmakers.org) the focus will be on media arts.

On June 17, Carnegie Museum of Art (4400 Forbes Ave., Oakland; 412-622-3131; cmoa.org) will unveil its segment of the Biennial with a multigenerational group presenting art in various media: film, video, drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and publications. The focus will be on "the notion of labor." It will continue



Detail of one of the works included in the Pittsburgh Biennial, by Deborah Kass.

through Sept. 18.

The second half of the Biennial will open months later at CMU's Miller Gallery (5000 Forbes Ave., Oakland. Sept. 16-Dec. 11. 412/268-3618, cmu.edu/millergallery) and at The Andy Warhol Museum (117 Sandusky St., North Shore. Sept. 17-Jan. 8. 412/237-8300, warhol.org).

Says the Warhol's Eric Shiner: "It is nothing less than exciting to work with so many talented contemporary artists that live and work—or once did—in Pittsburgh. We are quickly becoming one of the most dynamic art communities in America, and the Pittsburgh Biennial is going to prove that Pittsburgh is a place that cherishes and supports the arts."

"PAN—FIN DE SIÈCLE PRINTS: ART NOUVEAU ON PAPER": MAY 21-SEPT. 11

Computers, the Internet and other modern wonders are amazing indeed when it comes to visual innovation and pizzazz. But let's travel back in time a bit: B.C. (Before Cyber).

In the late 19th century, an innovative and visionary periodical emerged in Berlin, Germany, that was state-of-the-art for its time in graphic-arts publishing and in other ways as well. Pan—evoking the Greek god of pastures and fertility (read: creativity) whose name can mean "all" (read: international)—has been called the first "20th-century arts magazine." That's rather impressive, considering its brief lifespan from 1895 to 1900.

Yet, Pan is still being discussed and is turning heads today in the 21st century, as you will see at "Pan—Fin de Siècle Prints: Art Nouveau on Paper" at the Frick Art Museum.

Through its pages came an international procession of artists—Aubrey Beardsley, Käthe Kollwitz, Auguste Rodin, Georges Seurat, Paul Signac, Toulouse-Lautrec and others—who brought a diverse range of isms for visual inspection: expressionism, symbolism, post-impressionism, Japonisme and so on.

Also, through the 80 prints representing work by 59 artists at the show, visitors become time travelers into a vanished world, sharing glimpses of life back then—from fashion to social issues.

As noted by the Frick: "A glimpse into the contents of Pan is not simply a view into the spirit, style and spectacle of the 1890s, but is a vivid reminder of what art can accomplish in enriching our lives and expanding our view of the world." (Frick Art & Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze. May 21-Sept. 11: Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Info: 412/371-0600, thefrickpittsburgh.org)

MORE EXHIBITS:

» **Mattress Factory:** "Neighbo(u)rhood" is a large group show that reflects on what neighborhood means today. Through Aug. 21. 500 Sampsonia Way, North Side. 6-9 p.m. 412/231-3169, mattress.org.

» **Westmoreland Museum of American Art:** "They Practice What They Teach: Artist Faculty of Carnegie Institute of Technology (1925-1950)" displays the work of artists who taught at Carnegie Tech. Through Sept. 4. 221 N. Main St., Greensburg. 724/837-1500, wmu-seumaa.org.

» **SPACE:** Artist Eric Singer presents a retro- and protospective based on "Living in the Future." Six-week show starting May 13. 812 Liberty Ave., downtown. 412/325-7723, spacepittsburgh.org

» **Fort Pitt Museum:** "The American Frontier Rifleman: Tall Tales & Truth" examines the history and legends of this iconic figure. Opens April 30. Point State Park, downtown. 412/281-9284, heinzhistorycenter.org.

» **Sen. John Heinz History Center:** "America's Best Weekly: A Century of the Pittsburgh Courier" celebrates the 100th birthday of this influential African-American newspaper. Feb. 11-Oct. 2. 1212 Smallman St., Strip District. 412/454-6000, heinzhistorycenter.org.

» **Society for Contemporary Craft:** "Bridge 11" presents three female artists for the 11th installment of this biennial event, which links fine art and craft. Through Oct. 22. 2100 Smallman St., Strip District. 412/261-7003, contemporarycraft.org.

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