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Arts
 Guide

AUSTRIA | VIENNA

BA-CA KUNSTFORUM

To Feb. 2: "Der Kuss der Sphinx: Symbolismus in Belgien." Departing from the Realism and Impressionism that prevailed in the last two decades of the 19th century, Symbolist painters let their imagination be fed by reality, dreams and doubt. Started in France and closely linked to literature, the movement flourished in Belgium. Focusing on Fernand Khnopff (1858-1921), the show assembles 100 paintings, drawings and sculptures and offers an insight into the painters' world of aestheticism and mysticism. www.ba-ca-kunstforum.at

BELGIUM | GHENT

MUSEUM VOOR SCHONE KUNSTEN

To Jan. 13: "British Vision: Observation and Imagination in British Art, 1750-1950." To celebrate its reopening after extensive renovation, the museum offers a survey of 200 years of British art from William Hogarth to Lucian Freud. The 300 paintings, watercolors, prints, drawings, sculptures and photographs reveal their specifically British character, i.e., a contradictory exploration of the real and the visionary. Landscapists (Constable) and portraitists (Stanley Spencer, Lucian Freud) are the best representatives of realistic painting while William Blake, the Swiss-born Henry Fuseli and the Pre-Raphaelites explored the mysterious and the poetic. Such artists as Turner and Bacon straddle the thematic and stylistic frontiers. The

display is arranged in sections devoted to the observation of society, the interpretation of landscape and art inspired by literature and mythology. www.britishtvvision.be

BRITAIN | LONDON

DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

To Nov. 4: "The Changing Face of Childhood: British Children's Portraits and Their Influence in Europe." No depictions of walls or little beggars here, only aristocratic and middle-class children. In the early 17th century, Van Dyck was portraying King Charles I's offspring in a courtly way; 100 years later, Gainsborough chose to paint children in carefree poses with a landscape background, imitated by Reynolds and, later, Lawrence. In this Age of Enlightenment, children's portraits became popular with the European bourgeoisie and appeared on canvases as independent personalities. www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

To Dec. 2: "Making History: Antiquaries in Britain, 1707-2007." About 150 artworks owned by the Society of Antiquaries of London: Founded in the early 18th century, it was entrusted, by Royal Charter, with the study of antiquities and history in Britain and other countries. Paintings by Constable, Turner and Blake, royal portraits, manuscripts, and historical objects figure in the show. www.royal-academy.org.uk

DENMARK | HUMLEBAEK

LOUISIANA KUNST FOR MODERNE KUNST

To Jan. 28: "Lucian Freud." "I paint what I see, not what you hope that I see," said Freud (b. 1922). The display of his figurative work includes about 60 paintings and 20 works on paper created over the past 60 years. In the 1940s, the artist experimented with strange juxtapositions of people and plants; starting in the '50s, Freud took to painting portraits and nudes after his friends, family and lovers. The very personal angle of vision adds an expression of inner beauty to the raw depictions of the models. The exhibition will travel to The Hague. www.louisiana.dk

FRANCE | PARIS

GALERIES NATIONALES DU GRAND PALAIS

To Jan. 7: "Design Centre Design: Deux Siècles de Création." A conceptual exhibition: The curators, eager to rehabilitate the concept of design, have grouped pieces of furniture and objects in thematic "dialogues" that play upon geometric similarity, unbalance and unusual materials; the display documents the use of human and animal shapes in furniture and the inevitable link between architecture and furniture. The non-initiated will enjoy the wild imagination of some designers, but may be defeated by the diversity of objects and the esoteric presentation. www.rmn.fr



Fundation Balhaus (above); private collection (right); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

girls in particular, are marked by a strong erotic undercurrent and were labeled as scandalous when first shown in Paris in 1934. www.museenkoeln.de/ludwig

The Museum Ludwig, Cologne, has assembled works created by Balhaus between the 1930s and '60s. They include his self-portrait as "Le Roi des Chats, 1935," left; "Thérèse, 1936," below; and "La Toilette de Cathy, 1933."



SPAIN | MADRID

MUSEO THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA AND FUNDACION CAJA MADRID

To Jan. 6: "Durero y Cranach: Arte y Humanismo en la Alemania del Renacimiento." The exhibition offers a survey of the German Renaissance with more than 200 paintings, drawings, prints, gold objects and weaponry, with particular emphasis on the work of Dürer (1471-1528) and Cranach (1472-1553) and to a lesser extent on their contemporaries, Hans Baldung Grien and Albrecht Altdorfer. While the show's first part focuses on aesthetics, its second shows the role of images associated with religion, political power and war. www.museothyssen.org
www.fundacioncajamadrid.es

JAPAN | TOKYO

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART

To Jan. 6: "Edvard Munch: The Decorative Projects." "We should paint living people who breathe, feel, suffer and love," Munch wrote a few years before he started on the "Frieze of Life," a series of paintings exploring love, life, death and the anxiety they generate in the psyche. The display of 108 works — including the Frieze — explores "the decorative" in Munch's (1863-1944) paintings, in his works for private homes and in his architectural projects (Oslo City Hall). www.nmwa.jp



RUSSIA |

ST PETERSBURG

STATE HERITAGE MUSEUM

To Jan. 13: "Max Beckmann: Works from Museum and Private Collections of Hamburg and Lübeck." While a Munich exhibition (to Jan. 6) concentrates on the works created by Beckmann (1884-1950) in Amsterdam in the decade that followed his flight from Germany in 1937, the St. Petersburg show offers a more comprehensive survey of the German artist's works — from his early self-portrait in 1907 to the graphic works created in postwar America. Although they show some realistic, expressionist and post-impressionist touches, Beckmann's portraits, landscapes and seascapes still defy classification but remain easily identifiable, with their bold colors and strong black lines, as his. The show also features graphics created in the 1910s and printings that were mostly made between 1914 and 1924. www.hermitagemuseum.ru

SWITZERLAND | GENEVA

MUSÉE RATH

To Jan. 13: "Philippe de Champaigne, 1602-1674: Entre Politique et Dévotion." A classic painter of religious scenes, a landscapist and portraitist, Champaigne worked for the French religious orders and for the court (where he successively served Marie de Medici, Richelieu, Louis XIII and the Regent and Anne of Austria). The exhibition attempts to trace, chronologically, the artistic and spiritual itinerary of the French painter. Such famous paintings as Richelieu's portrait and "The Dead Christ" (whose theme and elongated format bring to mind Holbein's "Dead Christ in the Tomb, 1521") figure in the show. www.mah.ville-gc.ch

GERMANY | COLOGNE

MUSEUM LUDWIG

To Nov. 4: "Balthus Aufgehobene Zeit: Gemälde und Zeichnungen 1932 bis 1960." A small monographical display of paintings and prints by Balthus Klossowski (1908-2001), better known as Balthus. Striving for "timeless realism," the French painter, self-proclaimed "King of Cats," kept away from artistic movements, such as Abstraction and Surrealism. His portraits of familiar subjects, young



Whitney Museum of American Art (top); Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio (above); Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

An exhibition devoted to Edward Hopper in Washington focuses on the period of his greatest achievements, between 1925 to the early '50s: "Self-portrait, 1925-1930," top; "Morning Sun, 1952," above; and "Room in New York, 1932" are part of the display.



NETHERLANDS | AMSTERDAM

STEDELIJK MUSEUM

To Jan. 13: "Andy Warhol: Other Voices, Other Rooms." The organizers' ambition is "to shed new light on the oeuvre of the celebrated Pop Art master" by "revealing the conceptual soul of his work." With films, video tapes, audio recordings and photos, the display focuses on Warhol's (1928-87) voyeurism, his merging of the personal, the glamorous and the quotidian. Part of the show is devoted to the material that the artist produced for television, the last medium he used. The exhibition will travel to Stockholm. www.stedelijk.nl

SOUTH KOREA | SEOUL

SEOUL MUSEUM OF ART

To Nov. 13: "City_net Asia 2002." Collaborating with the Singapore Art Museum, the Guangdong Art Museum, in China and Japan's Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, the exhibition introduces the works of 60 contemporary artists who struggle to find their artistic identities amid social and economic changes. www.seoulmoa.org

UNITED STATES |

WASHINGTON

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

To Jan. 21: "Edward Hopper." The realist painter (1882-1967) explored New England in his open landscapes, seaside and village scenes, but his iconic intimate views of confined, sealed rooms, bars and theaters explore the loneliness and incommunicability of human souls. The paintings in the show were created during the period of his greatest achievements, 1925-50. The exhibition, arranged chronologically and thematically, includes 48 easel works, 36 watercolors and 12 prints. It will travel to Chicago. www.nga.gov

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iht.com/arts
 Expanded arts guide and images from selected exhibitions.