

HOUSTON HOUSTON HOUSTON

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ARTexpress©: behind the scenes at the world's fabulous art fairs • passport to the maze of exhibitions, galleries, openings, art stars, private collections, historic sites, and not-to-be-missed masterpieces • the art calendar • great addresses, restaurants, side trips, and architecture • the guide to the sizzling world of art travel.

In each issue - the art destinations in the news.

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Suzanne Paulson & Constance Glenn.

After a sizzling hot-tamale summer, Houston is ready to serve up the cooling sherbet of fall we all anticipate: adventuresome programs and important openings at the city's top-notch museums; a fabulous opera season; the **Houston Symphony Orchestra's** September-beginning concert menu; plus the cooler-than-cool cuisine at select establishments like **Cafe Annie** or **Mark's**.

Keep your eye on **CAM**, the **Contemporary Arts Museum**, where October will bring a city-wide celebration in honor of the museum's 50th anniversary. While details have not yet been finalized, check with director of PR and Marketing Kelli Dunning (713-284-8251) for the latest information as your departure time approaches. The official anniversary project is titled *Abstract Painting, Once Removed: A Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibition*, and will focus "on work from the past five years by artists who are wrestling with the boundaries of this tried and tested medium to produce visually and intellectually provocative 'paintings' which are physically, emotionally, or conceptually distanced from the 'pure' abstraction of earlier periods." The artists include **Polly Apfelbaum**, **Uta Barth**, **Jim Hodges**, **Callum Innes**, **Monique Prieto**, and **Pae White** — among many. In *The Perspectives Gallery*, Galveston-based artist **Liz Ward** will present a new body of work from September 8-November 8, followed November 13-January 3 by eleven stunning, large-scale color images by the prominent German photographer **Andreas Gursky** (organized by the Milwaukee Museum of Art and sponsored by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, Stuttgart). Finally, to end the year on a high note, the museum will debut the work of 13 emerging Mexican artists in **Mexico Ahora/Mexico Now**, December 19-February 14.

Last April, the recent CAM renovation was accorded the 1998 Honor Award by the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The design team was led by **ARTexpress** old friend **Bill Stern** and **David Bucek** of William F. Stern & Associates, with the Olin Partnership — **Laurie Olin** and **Lucinda Sanders** — as landscape architects, and **Minor Design Group** as graphic designers. The project included the renovation of the landmark **Gunnar Birkerts** building and the conversion of the adjacent Bayard Street property into new museum offices — so y'all come to see the new CAM!

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At **The Menil Collection**, fall news includes the November 13th opening of a new permanent installation of the work of **Dan Flavin** (1933-1996) in **Richmond Hall**, an annex two blocks south of the main facility. The major installation was Flavin's last finished work and the final commission by the legendary Dominique de Menil (1908-1997). Flavin's plan includes both interior and exterior installations with a fluorescent frieze on the outside of the building and blue, green, pink, and yellow lights installed diagonally on the interior walls. The Dan Flavin Gallery follows in the tradition of such de Menil family projects as the **Cy Twombly Gallery**, the **Rothko Chapel**, and the **Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum**. In celebration of the opening of the Dan Flavin Gallery, The Menil Collection will present an exhibition (*Dan Flavin/Donald Judd: Aspects of Color*, November 13-January 17) exploring the use and meaning of color in the work of the two pioneering minimalists. The exhibit is curated by **Marianne Stockebrand**, Director of Judd's **Chinati Foundation** in Marfa, Texas. Also on display will be selections from the Menil Collection's brilliant Surrealist holdings; through October 11th, and *In and Out*, an exhibit timed to coincide with the annual meeting of the **Folk Art Society of America**, to be held in Houston for the first time October 8-11. Lucky January visitors will see *Joseph Cornell/Marcel Duchamp: In Resonance*, organized by **Walter Hopps** for the Philadelphia Museum of Art (October 1998) and The Menil Collection, where he is Founding Director/Consulting Curator. Of course, if you have not visited Houston since 1995, you'll also want to make a beeline for the Renzo Piano-designed Cy Twombly Gallery (The Menil Collection building was Piano's first great solo museum design). Last spring, Piano was awarded the coveted Pritzker Architecture Prize and these buildings, along with the new Beyeler Museum in Basel, are the essence of his work. The Twombly Gallery showcases 35 major works by the artist, including paintings, sculpture, and works on paper created between 1954-1995.

Over at **The Museum of Fine Arts**, the entire museum campus is still undergoing major expansion as it creates a singularly distinguished architectural complex (one of the greatest joys of Houston is the proliferation of signature buildings by the world's most renowned architects). Under construction as we speak is the Audrey Jones Beck Building by the Spanish architect — also a Pritzker Prize winner —

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HOTELS

Luxury Collection Hotel, 1919 Briar Oaks Lane, Tel. 713-840-7600. Set in a wooded park just minutes from the Galleria, this is Houston's most elegant hotel.

La Colombe d'Or, 3410 Montrose, Tel. 713-524-7999. A distinguished mansion reinvented as a boutique hotel; exemplary service plus a fine, contemporary French restaurant (central location).

Four Seasons Hotel, 1300 Lamar, Tel. 713-650-1300. Four Seasons quality, downtown, with every facility, including access to the Houston Center Club.

Houstonian Hotel, 111 North Post Oak Lane, Tel. 713-680-2626. George Bush's local address when he was in the White House; an attractive secluded location with an excellent health club and wooded jogging trails (near the Galleria).

Lancaster Hotel, 701 Texas, Tel. 713-228-9500. Small (93 rooms), luxurious country house in the English manner; downtown near Wortham Center with every amenity.

Wyndham Warwick, 5701 South Main, Tel. 713-526-1991. Houston's best location for art visitors — across the street from the MFA and within walking distance of CAM and Rice; European ambience and a lovely park setting.

RESTAURANTS

Notes by Carol Neuberger:

Galleria Area

Cafe Annie, 1728 Post Oak Blvd., Tel. 713-840-1111. Robert Del Grande's nouvelle Southwestern cuisine, in a sophisticated atmosphere, is the best bet in town. Elegant interior, with panache and pizzazz, even if it is located in an upscale strip center.

Eatzi's Market & Bakery, 1702 Post Oak Blvd., Tel. 713-629-6003. This most unlikely name belies the most lively, innovative prepared foods emporium west of Dean & Delucca. Opera music and liberal samples. There is a casual seating area if you cannot get out the door without eating first!

Tony's, 1801 Post Oak Blvd., Tel. 713-622-6778. One of the best restaurants in town. Tony's was recently updated with a handsome new decor and china by Versace.

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Piano bar. Still classy and continental; the wine cellar remains the site for oil money's special occasions. Very expensive.

Anthony's, 4007 Westheimer, Tel. 713-961-0552. Also owned by Tony; not quite as fancy, but often better food. Ask to be seated in the "wine cellar" area. Expensive.

Grille 5115 by Ruggles, 5115 Westheimer, Tel. 713-963-8067. Elegant, classic, contemporary restaurant, located on the 2nd level of the Galleria's Saks Fifth Avenue store, with its own entrance. Good food and very pleasant atmosphere; quiet at night with piano player providing mood music. Upper moderate.

Américas, 1800 Post Oak Blvd., Tel. 713-961-1492. South American cuisine in a trendy interior; unusual lighting. Expensive.

Outside the Galleria area worth noting:

Armando's, 2300 Westheimer, Tel. 713-521-9757. Upscale Mexican restaurant in a pretty setting for regional cuisine. Moderate.

Boulevard Bistrot, 4319 Montrose, Tel. 713-524-6922. Trendy cafe in the museum district. Noise, convivial, solid choice.

For hottest, newest:

Mark's, 1658 Westheimer, Tel. 713-523-3800. Trendy European and American dishes in a strikingly transformed church. Moderate for such high quality food.

Sabine, 2606 Sunset Blvd., Tel. 713-662-9041. Just moved to a new location on Westheimer. Experimental cuisine, with some delicious combos, including unusual salads and appetizers, great salmon on wilted spinach.

And from ARTexpress:

Chez Nous, 217 South Avenue G, Humble, Tel. 281-446-6717. French cuisine by Gerard and Sandra Brach; in a converted church in this tiny suburb. A locals' favorite.

La Réserve, Omni Hotel, 4 Riverway, Tel. 713-871-8181. Zagat's top-rated food haven; very formal but a class act.

Chez Georges, 11920-G Westheimer, Tel. 281-497-1122. A romantic Franch bistro presided over by Georges and Monique Guy; beautiful presentation.

Irma's 22 North Chenevert, Tel. 713-

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Rafael Moneo, due to open in 2000 (*ARTexpress* recently toured a number of Moneo projects in Spain and found them to be altogether fabulous). It joins the original building (now the Caroline Wiess Law Building) by **William Ward Watkin** (1924), with major additions by **Mies van der Rohe** in 1958 and 1974; **The Cullen Sculpture Garden** by **Isamu Noguchi** (1986); and an office classroom building by local star **Carlos Jimenez** (1994). The new Beck Building will house the museum's collections from antiquity-1910 in European-style galleries with dramatic natural lighting, an expansive pedestrian plaza on Main Street, a full-service restaurant, and an underground passage linking it to a new multilevel parking facility and museum service center. The expansion plan is said to be the largest in the country for an art museum outside of New York City.

Also crowning October riches, the museum will host *A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum* (October 18-January 10), featuring more than 200 masterpieces selected from the V&A collection. From the vast British repository of costumes, textiles, silver, furniture, books, photographs, paintings, sculpture . . . and more, will come works by artists and designers as diverse as **Leonardo da Vinci**, **Francis Boucher**, **John Constable**, **Thomas Chippendale**, **Charles Dickens**, and **Eileen Gray** in a major exhibit organized and circulated by The Baltimore Museum of Art in association with the V&A. In addition, through October 25th the MFA will present a site-specific installation by Houston sculptor **Joe Mancuso** at the **Glassell School of Art**, and, beginning November 12th, will feature the art of New York artist **Tobi Kahn** in *Metamorphoses*. To end 1998, *Rhapsodies in Black: Art of the Harlem Renaissance* (November 22-February 14) and *Brassai: The Eye of Paris* (December 6-February 14) will celebrate another terrific MFA year.

Of course this is just the most visible tip of the Houston art iceberg. A Downtown Public Art Fair (Tel. Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau for a well-marked map—713-523-5050) will turn up such delights as **Albert Paley's** deliciously baroque 1987 sculpture at Wortham Center (550 Prairie-interior), **Claes Oldenburg's** *Geometric Mouse X* (Library Plaza, 501 McKinney), **Louise Nevelson's** *Frozen Laces-One* (Allen Center IV, 1400 Smith), **Jean Dubuffet's** *Monument au Phantome* (100 Louisiana Building), **Ned Smyth's** *Palm Columns* (1201 Milane), **Barbara Hepworth's** *The Family of Man* (1001 Fannin), **Joan Miró's**, *Personage*

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and Birds (600 Travis) and its model on the 60th-floor Observation Deck of the Texas Commerce Tower at the same address, plus many more works all accessible to motivated viewers. Beyond the public art scene, downtown is host to the alternative space, **DiverseWorks**, highly recommended by CAM's Marti Mayo, as are Houston's many top quality galleries, including **Texas Gallery**, **Hiram Butler**, **Davis/McClain Moody Gallery**, **Meredith Long**, and a host of others that mark Houston as an especially lively collectors' town.

If you plan ahead, you can be lucky enough to rest your art-weary feet at the **Houston Grand Opera** — one of the best in America. The fall productions are the L.A. Opera's *Flying Dutchman*, staged by *Lion King* wizard Julie Taymor, and Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* (in repertory October 23-November 15; Tel: 713-227-ARTS). The great news is Germany's splendid baritone, Franz Grundheber, will be Wagner's Dutchman! While you're in a theater mood, don't forget to check the schedule at the famed **Alley Theater** too. New and innovative productions here set the standard for professional community theater.

To facilitate your Houston visit, *ARTexpress* recommends **The Arts Connection** — the brain child of ever-resourceful **Carol Neuberger**. The Arts Connection offers day tours of visual and architectural delights, unique Houston weekends for arts groups that include art museums, walking tours and evening performing arts, plus a variety of other services designed just for you. Carol is quick to remind us of the riches of the college campuses: the **University of Houston** — with its percent-for-art program — has sculpture and installations by **Nancy Graves**, **Jesus Bautista Moroles**, **Scott Burton**, and **Frank Stella**, among others, and **Rice University** — an architectural showcase (invited designers include **Cesar Pelli** and **Ricardo Bonfill**) — accented by a major **Michael Heizer** — is the scene of the influential Rice Design Alliance. Carol notes that "Houston is the most unexpected place on earth to be building a concentration of sacred spaces created by major artists." Watch for:

1. **James Turrell's** Quaker Meeting House. The inspired pairing of Turrell and the Quaker sensibility was the work of dealer Hiram Butler (opening in 2000).
2. **The Dan Flavin Gallery**, while not a consecrated space, joins the constellation of Menil Collection Projects that foster contemplative contemporary art environments —

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222-0767. Always crowded, everyone comes to this funky, warehouse-district hangout (breakfast and lunch only) for classic Tex-Mex; no menu.

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet, Tel. 713-639-7300.

Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., Tel. 713-526-0773.

The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, Tel. 713-525-9400.

Bayou Bend (a division of the MFA), 1 Westcott Street off Memorial Drive, Tel. 713-639-7750. Important American decorative arts museum in an antebellum-style mansion with renowned gardens. Bayou Bend was the home of legendary Miss Ima Hogg, the only daughter of Texas' first native-born governor. In 1920, she began to assemble what would become an extensive collection of art and antiques documenting American taste, style, and customs from Colonial times through the Victorian era. Her house, one of the first in the elegant River Oaks area, was designed by prominent Houston architect John F. Staub and built between 1927-1928. It now houses the collection, sited on 14 acres along the romantic Buffalo Bayou. Guided tours are available every 15 minutes Tues.-Fri, 10-11:30 AM; one-hour special-interest tours are offered Tues.-Fri., 12 noon-1PM. Reservations are recommended.

Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, Tel. 713-743-9530. Fine Arts Bldg., entrance 16 off of Cullen Blvd. A fine university gallery long popular with local art buffs.

Colquitt Street Galleries: Lynn Goode at 2719, **Davis/McClain** at 2627, and **Moody** at 2815 — plus more gallery row.

Texas Gallery, 2012 Peden, Tel. 713-524-1593. Fredericka Hunter and Ian Glennie's world-class contemporary art emporium.

Meredith Long, 223 Westheimer, Tel. 713-524-5670. Blue chip gallery — a Houston institution.

Hiram Butler, 4520 Blossom. Long an innovative influence on the contemporary art scene.

THEATER & MUSIC

Houston Grand Opera, Gus S. Wortham Theater Center. Call 713-227-

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ARTS for information; also tickets through TicketMaster. Office: 401 Louisiana, 8th floor, Tel. 713-546-0200.

Alley Theater, 615 Texas, Tel. 713-228-8421 or 800-259-2553.

The Houston Symphony Orchestra, 615 Louisiana, Tel. 713-224-4240.

Houston Ballet, 1916 West Gray, Tel. 713-523-6300.

Note: During the season, performances of the Opera, Symphony, and Ballet generally take place at the **Gus S. Wortham Theater Center**, Texas Avenue at Smith Street, Tel. 713-237-1439.

OTHER ADVENTURES

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, NASA Road 1, three miles east of Interstate 45, 25 miles southeast of Houston, Tel. 713-483-3111, open daily 9-4. Where the real "Right Stuff" is still the theme. This is actually Houston's number one-rated attraction.

Transco Tower, 2800 Post Oak Boulevard. Philip Johnson's neo-Art Deco skyscraper — the tallest suburban office building in the world — offers superb viewing from its 51st floor observation deck, plus a splendid lighted waterfall across the green draws many visitors.

Dickens Evening on The Strand. To celebrate the holiday season, make the journey 50 miles south to historic **Galveston** where The Strand turns back the clock to Victorian times with a festival that draws mainlanders as well as locals and steepers Galveston in 19th-century ambience. Call 713-280-3907 or 409-765-7834 for dates, directions, times, tickets.

SHOPPING

While the **Galleria** is the centerpiece of Houston's exotic offerings (5015 Westheimer), don't pass up other equally interesting destinations, some of which include the terrific museum shops. **CAM** has always been a primary source for artists' objects and the artful way-out gift, while the **MFA**, in addition to an elegant gift shop, has a major bookstore where books on Houston art and architecture are a special bonus.

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notably the Rothko Chapel.

3. **Jennifer Bartlett's** stained-glass windows — a recent addition to St. Stephen's Church.

4. **St. Basil's Chapel** — designed by **Philip Johnson**.

Carol also lauds Houston's extraordinary folk art scene and during the Folk Art Society of America conference (October 8-11) suggests "Spirited Journeys: Texas Self-Taught Artists" — a special tour by reservation (Tel. The Arts Connection, 713-827-0894).

Our Houston hotel of choice is **The Luxury Collection** (formerly the Ritz-Carlton and, prior to that, the Remington). It was originally "a personal project of a legendary Dallas woman of great taste. The distinguished art works that she chose are still there." The artists represented include David Hockney, Jay McCafferty, Robert Natkin, Stanley Boxer, Mark Katano, Nancy Graves, Tom Holland, and Greg Renfrow. For a more intimate hideaway, we like **La Colombe d'Or**, formerly the mansion of Humble Oil founder W.W. Fondren. There are only five suites — plus a penthouse — and the world-class French restaurant is added persuasion.

And, speaking of restaurants, Carol sends along her personal favorites: **Cafe Annie**, **Eatzi's**, **Tony's**, **Anthony's**, **Grill 5115**, and **Americas** — all in the Galleria area; **Armando's** and **Boulevard Bistro** — outside the Galleria area; and the brightest spots — **Mark's** and **Sabine**. Mark's, she says, is the "hottest, newest" — where "trendy" European and American dishes are served in a strikingly transformed church. Sabine, on the other hand, sports a classic Southern kitchen yet serves the most inventive, gorgeously presented dishes around.

Although you may be tempted to spend your remaining Houston hours sunk up to your ears in the heavenly decadence of the Galleria — shoppers' paradise modeled after the original glass-domed Galleria in Milan and populated by the biggest names in fashion — consider, too, a nostalgic parting gesture: go adventuring with the **Greater Houston Preservation Alliance**. The walking tours range from downtown excursions around **Market Square** to visits to little-known neighborhoods rich in great examples of Old Houston before the local 'space' age (712 Main Street, Suite 110, Houston 77002, or Tel. 713-216-5000). Downtown itself remains dominated by the contributions of legendary architect Philip Johnson, so watch for the rainbow after the storm arching over what is said to be his finest building: the ever-majestic Penzoil Palace — the signature of a generation that seized the day.

ART AROUND THE WORLD

News

Italy is certainly *the* artful destination this fall. In **Rome**, everyone is talking about the reopening of the Borghese Gallery after 14 years of restoration. This jewel-box collection of masterworks, including Raphael's *Deposition*, Titian's *Sacred and Profane Love*, as well as a vast collection of works by Bernini, was assembled in the 1600s by Cardinal Scipione Borghese. The gallery is open daily except Monday, with specified visiting hours – 9 & 11AM, and 1, 5, & 7 PM. (Tel. 39-06-32810 for reservations). Tickets must be picked up one hour prior to reserved time. Stay nearby at the **ARTexpress** favorite – **Eden Hotel**, or treat yourself to real luxury at the **La Posta Vecchia**, the former villa of J. Paul Getty, located 30 minutes northwest of the city. A favorite visit of ours is to the **American Academy** where the brightest American artists and scholars win fellowships for a year of study. You can visit the McKim, Mead, and White buildings by appointment (Tel. 39-06-58461; Fax 39-06-5810788). Please note that the Villa Aurelia closes soon for restoration. (Watch for the January issue of **ARTexpress** which will focus on Rome). In **Florence**, through December 10, the 1998 edition of *The Florence Biennial of Fashion* will focus on the relationship between fashion and cinema. Exhibitions, films, seminars and special events will take place in all quarters of the city and along the River Arno, as well as in **Prato** and **Livorno**. For more information: Tel. 39-055-249 1424; official web site: <http://www.biennalefirenze.org>. The **Stibbert Museum** will host *Dress for the Body, Body for the Dress*, an exhibition exploring the evolution of the European and Islamic dress. For more information: Tel. 39-055-475-520 or Fax 39-055-486-049. Through November 2, the exhibition *Arte all'Arte* will bring contemporary works of art into dialogue with public spaces in six towns in central **Tuscany**. Organized by the Associazione Arte Continua (Tel. 39-0577-943134, Fax 39-0577-40484) and curated by Florian Matzner, curator of the Landesmuseum of Münster and Angela Vettese, art critic in Milan, it will include the following artists and their venues: **Louise Bourgeois** in the room of the mills in Vicolo Capasso in **San Gimignano**; **Ayse Erkmen** in front of the Mensano Church in **Casole d'Elsa Val**; **Ilya Kabakov** in front of the Bastione di Sapia in **Colle Val d'Elsa**; **Olaf Metzel** in the internal courtyard of the Fortezza in **Montalcino**; **Mimmo Paladino** in the 17th-century cloisters of the San Lucchese convent in **Poggibonsi**; and **Bert Theis** with islets of white wood in the archeological park of Fiumi di **Volterra**.

California's most important art fair this fall will take place in **San Francisco** with the inaugural **San Francisco International Art Exposition** October 1-4. The event will be held at Fort Mason Center and the San Francisco Art Institute will be the beneficiary of the opening night gala preview on October 1. One third of the galleries will be West Coast-based, with strong participation as well from European, Latin American and Asian galleries. Tickets & information: Tel. 415-749-4595. Until December 1, **SFMOMA** will present *Alexander Calder: 1898-1976*, the first American retrospective since his death. Try not to miss it! And while you're there have lunch at

Great Addresses

IN ROME

Hotel Eden, Via Ludovisi 49, Tel. 39-06-47-8121, Fax 39-06-482-1584. An elegant five-star hotel near the Villa Borghese and Piazza Pinciana in a quiet corner of a frenetic city, Hotel Eden was completely renovated four years ago and all rooms are luxurious. The **La Terrazza** restaurant is famous for its rooftop restaurant.

Dei Borgognoni, Via della Bufala, 106, Tel. 39-06-67-80-041, Fax 39-06-69-94-1501. This small, elegant and very hip hotel is the choice of **ARTexpress** for its location near the Spanish Steps and great shopping.

La Posta Vecchia, Palo Laziale, Ladispoli, Tel. 39-06-994-9501, Fax 39-06-994-9507. A mid-17th-century villa hotel, the former residence of J. Paul Getty is located on the sea 30 minutes from both the city and the airport. It is loaded with antiques and antiquities and worth the experience.

IN FLORENCE

Stibbert Museum, 26 Via Stibbert, Tel. 39-055-475520, Fax 39-055-466049. Founded by Frederick Stibbert, an Englishman who lived in Florence and who, upon his death in 1906, left his vast collection of costumes to the city. See the fall exhibition *Dress for the Body/Body for the Dress*.

Marino Marini Museum, Piazza San Pancrazio, Tel. 39-055-219-432, Fax 39-055-289-510. The museum occupies a dramatically renovated, late-medieval church housing the works of one of Italy's foremost 20th-century sculptors.

IN TUSCANY

Locanda dell'Amorosa, Sinalunga, (near Montalcino) Tel. 39-0577-679-497. Fax 39-0577-363-001. A charming villa situated in a 14th-century square with dominating views across the Val di Chiana hills. This is the **ARTexpress** hotel choice for viewing the *Arte all'Arte* exhibition in the six Tuscan towns this fall.

Taverna dei Barbi, (Fattoria dei Barbi) Montalcino, Tel. 39 0577-849-357, Fax 39-0577-849-356. Great food and wine and a perfect spot for lunch after your stop in Montalcino to see Olaf Metzel's contribution to *Arte dell'Arte*. This is a very popular restaurant – make reservations in advance.

Abbey of Sant'Antimo, Castelnuovo dell'Abate, Tel. 39-0577-835-659. Located seven miles from Montalcino; seven times daily, the 12th-century Abbey of Sant'Antimo is filled with the harmonies of Gregorian chants by the seven monks who live there. Call for schedule.

IN SAN FRANCISCO

Caffé Museo, SFMOMA, 151 Third St., Tel. 415-357-4500. Executive chef Gordon Drysdale, formerly of Bix, designed the menu of this very popular lunch spot for museum goers. Have the vegetarian pan bagne with olive tapenade.

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Hawthorne Lane, 22 Hawthorne Lane, Tel 415-777-9779. We are never disappointed in the ambiance and the food at this charming restaurant.

Campton Place Hotel, 340 Stockton St., Tel. 415-781-5555, Fax 415-955-5536. For European standards, and an excellent location near Union Square, plus excellent cuisine, this hotel is the number one choice of *ARTexpress*.

Mandarin Oriental, 222 Sansome St., Tel. 415-276-9888, Fax 415-433-0289. Beautiful views, graceful Asian hospitality, and beautifully decorated rooms make this hotel a very special choice for your stay in San Francisco. The hotel restaurant, Silks, serves wonderful Asian cuisine.

Yabbies Coastal Kitchen, 2237 Polk St., 415-474-4088. Chef Mark Lusardi (helped opened Aqua in San Francisco as well as Rubicon), serves excellent and unusual seafood in this popular arrival on the restaurant scene.

IN LOS ANGELES

UCLA/Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Tel. 310-443-7020, Fax 310-443-7099. Hosting *Sunshine & Noir*, an exhibition examining Los Angeles art from a European perspective.

Vincenti, 11930 San Vicente Blvd., Tel. 310-207-0127. A thoroughly contemporary restaurant with perhaps the best Italian cuisine on the west side.

Mimosa, 8009 Beverly Blvd., Tel. 213-655-8895. Finally a true "French Bistro" in Los Angeles where you can be casual and have a hearty French meal. Very crowded and fun.

Lavande, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, 1700 Ocean Ave., Tel. 310-576-3181. The theme of this new restaurant is Provence; with mixed reviews from our L.A. readers, fresh Provencal dishes are prepared by chef Alain Giraud (former chef of Citrus), and served on ochre Provencal pottery. Not-to-be missed is the view from the floor-to-ceiling windows with the sun setting over the Pacific Ocean. Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel is also an excellent hotel choice for your fall sojourn in Los Angeles.

IN BASEL

Fondation Beyeler Museum in Berowerpark, Baselstrasse 77, Riehen, Tel. 41-61-645-9700, Fax 41-61-645-9719.

Museum Jean Tinguely, Grenzacherstrasse, Tel. 41-61-681-9320, Fax 41-61-681-9321.

Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany. Well worth the trip across the Rhein from Basel to see Frank Gehry's chair museum commissioned by German furniture manufacturer and collector Rolf Fehlbaum. Also on site is the stunning fire station by **Zaha Hadid**.

News...more

Caffé Museo, the Mario Botta-designed museum cafe – a destination in itself. For a special art-filled dining experience, we always like to recommend **Hawthorne Lane** occupying the same building as Crown Point Press.

Los Angeles is hosting a special **Picasso** exhibition through January 4 at **LACMA**. The audio tour is wonderful – narrated by Dustin Hoffman with comments by the curators, Kirk Varnedoe and Lynn Zelevansky. Be sure to try the new **Joachim Splichal** museum restaurant due to open in October. The museum will have late viewing hours (closed Wednesdays). Call 323-857-6010 for ticket information. On October 7, *Sunshine & Noir: Art in L.A. 1960-1997* opens at **UCLA at the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center**, the only U.S. venue following a major European tour. Organized by Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark, it explores Los Angeles art from a European perspective. The exhibition presents over 150 ground breaking works in a variety of media and will be on view through Jan. 3, 1999. Complementing the exhibition will be a wide array of free cultural programs at galleries and museums throughout Los Angeles County. Call 310-443-7000 or 310 443-7094 for more information. For restaurants nearby, try **Vicenti** in Brentwood for Italian fare or **Mimosa**, a popular celebrity hangout near Beverly Hills.

If you have never participated in a **Christo** event, you have a great opportunity to do so this fall in Switzerland. In mid-November, his *Wrapped Trees* project – 170 trees will be wrapped by Christo and Jeanne-Claude – will take place in the park of the **Fondation Beyeler** near **Basel**. On November 22, the Fondation Beyeler will host *The Magic of Trees*, an historical exhibition of works from Cézanne to the present on the theme of trees. In conjunction, Santa Barbara Museum of Art has planned an exciting art-filled tour to Basel (November 14-24) led by *ARTexpress* Swiss friend, Clarisse Gagnebin. Included will be visits to Mario Botta's **Tinguely Museum**, and to the Frank Gehry-designed **Vitra "Chair Museum,"** as well as many of Clarisse's favorite private collections. The trip will climax in Bilbao for a tour of the new **Guggenheim Museum**, also designed by Gehry. For more information call 808-963-4364, ext. 336.

In **New York**, *Jackson Pollock: A Retrospective* will be on view at **MOMA** from Nov.1 through Feb. 2. It should be worth the visit to see the full-size replica of his studio hung with the famous Hans Namuth photographs of Pollock at work. Also this fall, the *"Unsinkable Molly Barnes"* returns to the **Roger Smith Hotel** (501 Lexington Ave.) with the following Brown Bag Lunch Speakers: Oct. 5 – Louis Newman, Director, M.B. Modern Gallery; Oct. 6 – John Webber; Oct. 7 – Ira Spanierman; Oct. 8 – Jim Kempner; and Oct. 8 – a surprise guest. Call Molly at 212-888-3588 for reservations. In the Chelsea art district **LOT 61**, designed by architect Rafael Viñoly with artwork by Damien Hirst and other well known artists, is the new artworld hangout located at 550 W. 21st St. between 10th & 11th. Call 1 week ahead for reservations: 212-243-6555.)

Calendar

Through Oct. 11	MAK Center, Los Angeles	<i>M. Kippenberger: Last Stop West, Metro-Net</i>
Through Oct. 11		<i>Manifesta 2, (European Biennial of Contemporary Art), Luxemburg</i>
Through Oct. 13	MOMA, New York	<i>Pierre Bonnard</i>
Through Oct. 13	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Joseph Cornell</i>
Through Oct. 18	National Gallery of Australia, Canberra	<i>Holzer, Kruger, Sherman</i>
Through Oct. 18	Musée des Beaux-Arts, Montreal	<i>Giacometti</i>
Through Oct. 18	Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, Madrid	<i>Paul Klee</i>
Through Oct. 18	Santa Barbara Museum of Art	<i>Eternal China: First Dynasties Splendors</i>
Through Oct. 19	Whitney Museum, New York	<i>Charles Ray</i>
Through Oct. 24	DiverseWorks, Houston	<i>Jim Isermann</i>
Through Oct. 25	University Art Museum, CSULB, Long Beach	<i>Eileen Cowin: Ordinary Life</i>
Through Oct. 26	Musée d'art Moderne, Nice	<i>Robert Indiana</i>
Through Nov. 1	Whitney Museum, New York	<i>Duane Hanson: His Work from '30s to the '90s</i>
Through Nov. 1	Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art	<i>Sabina Ott</i>
Through Nov. 1	San Diego Museum of Art	<i>Old Masters Brought to Life</i>
Through Nov. 1		<i>11th Biennale of Sydney (Contemporary Art) Australia</i>
Through Nov. 15	Speed Art Museum, Louisville	<i>Ansel Adams</i>
Through Nov. 15	Kunstmuseum Winterthur	<i>Gerhard Richter</i>
Through Nov. 15	Kunsthalle, Basel	<i>Martin Kippenberger</i>
Through Nov. 22	Jeu de Paume, Paris	<i>Pierre Alechinsky</i>
Through Nov. 29	Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf	<i>Max Ernst</i>
Through Dec. 1	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Alexander Calder: 1898-1976</i>
Through Dec. 13	Kunsthalle, Vienna	<i>Komar & Melamid</i>
Through Dec. 27	California Center for the Arts, Escondido	<i>Beyond Still-Life: Acerol and Yoder</i>
Through Jan. 3	Philadelphia Museum of Art	<i>Delacroix: The Late Work</i>
Through Jan. 3	MOCA at the Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles	<i>Richard Serra</i>
Through Jan. 3	Musée d'Orsay, Paris	<i>Jean-Francois Millet/Vincent van Gogh</i>
Through Jan. 4	LACMA, Los Angeles	<i>Picasso: Masterworks from MOMA</i>
Sept. 9 - Dec. 12		<i>Florence Biennial of Fashion, 1998</i>
Sept. 12 - Nov. 2	ARTE ALL'ARTE, Tuscany	(Installations at 6 sites)
Sept. 20 - Jan. 4	LACMA, Los Angeles	<i>Chaim Soutine</i>
Sept. 27 - Dec. 13	North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh	<i>Caravaggio and His Followers</i>
Oct. 1 - 4		<i>Art Forum Berlin</i>
Oct. 2 - 4		<i>San Francisco International Art Exhibition (Art Fair)</i>
Oct. 2 - Dec. 6	St. Louis Art Museum	<i>Charles Long</i>
Oct. 3 - Dec. 6	Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis	<i>Great American Pop Art Store</i>
Oct. 3 - Dec. 6	Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston	<i>Abstract Painting, 50th Anniv.</i>
Oct. 3 - Dec. 13		<i>Bienal de São Paulo</i>
Oct. 4 - Jan. 3	National Gallery, Washington D.C.	<i>Van Gogh's Van Goghs</i>
Oct. 7 - 12		<i>FIAC, Paris (Art Fair)</i>
Oct. 7 - Jan. 3	UCLA/Armand Hammer Museum of Art, Los Angeles	<i>Sunshine & Noir</i>
Oct. 8 - Jan. 3	Philadelphia Museum of Art	<i>Cornell and Duchamp</i>
Oct. 9 - Jan. 19	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Richard Diebenkorn</i>
Oct. 10 - Jan. 3	California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco	<i>Picasso '37-'45</i>
Oct. 10 - Jan. 17	Kunsthalle, Vienna	<i>Louise Bourgeois/Jenny Holzer/Helmut Lang</i>
Oct. 10 - Feb. 21	Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art	<i>Jana Sterbak</i>
Oct. 13 - Jan. 10	Art Institute of Chicago	<i>Mary Cassatt</i>
Oct. 14 - Jan. 3	J. P. Getty Museum, Los Angeles	<i>Degas, Photographer</i>
Oct. 15 - Jan. 17	Tate Gallery, London	<i>John Singer Sargent</i>
Oct. 16 - Jan. 31	Guggenheim Museum, New York	<i>Pompidou/Guggenheim: Rendezvous</i>
Oct. 18 - Jan. 3	Kunstverein, Düsseldorf	<i>Henri Cartier-Bresson "Europäer"</i>
Oct. 18 - Jan. 10	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston	<i>Grand Design: Art of the Victoria & Albert</i>
Oct. 27 - Jan. 17	J. P. Getty Museum, Los Angeles	<i>Man Ray</i>
Nov. 1 - Feb. 2	MOMA, New York	<i>Jackson Pollock</i>
Nov. 8 - 15		<i>ART COLOGNE 1998 (Art Fair)</i>
Nov. 13 - Jan. 17	Menil Collection, Houston	<i>Dan Flavin</i>
Nov. 15 - Jan. 24	Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf	<i>Angelika Kauffmann</i>
Nov. 15 - Feb. 14	San Jose Museum of Art, CA	<i>Gronk x III</i>
Nov. 15 - Feb. 15	National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.	<i>Edo: Art in Japan 1615-1868</i>
Nov. 25 - Feb. 14	Baltimore Museum of Art	<i>Frederick Sommer</i>
Dec. 6 - Feb. 28	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston	<i>Brassai: The Eye of Paris</i>
Dec. 8 - Jan. 31	Speed Art Museum, Louisville	<i>August Rodin</i>
Dec. 15 - Feb. 15		<i>Seventh International Cairo Biennale, Egypt</i>
Dec. 15 - Mar. 21	Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York	<i>Anselm Kiefer</i>
Dec. 17 - Mar. 7	Miami Art Museum	<i>George Segal</i>

Travel Bookshelf: Houston

Guides

Joanne Harrison. *Houston: The Texas Monthly Guidebooks*. 1996.

Houston Restaurants: Zagat Survey, 1998 Update.

Carol Barrington and Shifra Stein. *Shifra Stein's Day Trips from Houston*, 1998.

A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, River Oaks Garden Club, 1989.

Houston's Forgotten Heritage: Landscape, Houses, Interiors 1824-1914, Howe Knox, 1998.

Douglas Milburn. *The Last American City: An Intrepid Walker's Guide to Houston*. An old favorite; look in libraries and 2nd-hand bookshops.

History and Local Color

David G. McComb. *Houston: A History*, University of Texas Press, 1969.

George Fuernann. *Houston: The Once and Future City*, Doubleday.

Louise K. Iscoe. *Ima Hogg: First Lady of Texas*, The Hogg Foundation.

WPA Guide to Texas. First published in 1940, the period of the Great Depression still resonates in this 1986 reprint.

Art and Architecture

Walter Hopps and Dominique de Menil. *The Menil Collection: A Selection from the Paleolithic to the Modern Era*, 1997.

Bela Bibliowicz. *Houston Hispanic Artists: New Views*, 1987.

When in doubt, carry *Art Now Gallery Guide* (monthly, available at most galleries) and shop the museum stores for catalogues and books related to current exhibitions. Also see *ARTexpress*, Vol. 4, No. 4, 1993 for further reading.

Texas Cuisine

Ann Criswell. *Houston is Cooking: The Best*, 1996.

Houston Concierge Cookbook: Favorite Recipes from 45 of Houston's Finest Hotels and Restaurants, 1997.

Virginia T. Elverson. *Houston Fine Arts Cookbook*, 1984.

Frann Fauntleroy. *Houston Gourmet Cookbook 2*, 1989.