

displays of passion



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PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Whoever said New York City gets sleepy in August hasn't checked out the current roster of exciting museum shows. Old Masters? Check. Emerging art stars? Check. Giant dinosaurs, tiny dolls and furious volcanoes? Triple check. Fueled by the inspiration and energy of top curators and artists, exhibits are designed to push both boundaries and buttons.

By Michael Kaminer



Austrian Ingenuity

Housed in architect Raimund Abraham's ingeniously slim tower, Midtown's **Austrian Cultural Forum New York** (11 E. 52nd St., 319-5300) is dedicated to international cultural exchange—and the exhibit *Fünf Räume* (thru Sept. 5), meaning “five rooms” in German, fulfills that mission. For their U.S. debuts, six European artists were requested to create site-specific works that responded to the building's distinctive architecture. “Each completed that task very uniquely,” says Curator David Harper, “but the process was a challenge. We were asking these artists to create new and quite large works in just a few days, sourcing materials from places unfamiliar to them. There are no Home Depots in Austria.”

Money Talks

You could accuse conceptual artist Hans-Peter Feldmann of cashing in on his art—and the German provocateur might cheerfully agree. After winning last year's \$100,000 Hugo Boss Prize for “significant achievement in contemporary art,” Feldmann is flaunting the honor at the **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum** (1071 Fifth Ave., 423-3500) in an exhibit, *The Hugo Boss Prize 2010: Hans-Peter Feldmann* (thru Nov. 2), in which he covers the gallery walls with 100,000 one-dollar bills. “I began making art in the 1950s,” he recently told *The New York Times*. “At that time, there was no money in the art world. For me, \$100,000 is very special, and I would like to show the quantity of it.” After viewing a dense curtain of greenbacks (actual money that's been withdrawn from circulation), you may reconsider the true value of those printed paper rectangles.

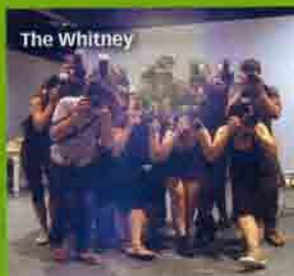
Quiet Collectors

Henri Matisse affectionately called them “my two Baltimore ladies.” Indeed, to the early-20th-century art world, that's all they were: Sisters Claribel and Etta Cone kept low profiles while amassing a breathtaking collection of mod-



ern paintings. Now, in *Collecting Matisse and Modern Masters: The Cone Sisters of Baltimore* (thru Sept. 25), **The Jewish Museum** (1109 Fifth Ave., 423-3200) showcases more than 50 works from their trove, including iconic pieces by Gauguin, Renoir and Courbet. “What's fascinating is how the artworks tell the story of the personal relationship the Cones had with artists including Matisse and Picasso,” says Curator Karen Levitov. “Visitors can see

Multimedia Is the Message



Some of this month's most adventuresome shows are off the wall, literally. Expanding how we experience art, these edgy exhibits break convention to incorporate video, online components, performance and immersive environments in which viewers are part of the action.

Actors create Xavier Cha's *Body Drama* at the **Whitney Museum of American Art** (945 Madison Ave., 570-3600) by wearing video cameras while they perform. Their footage is simultaneously projected on the gallery walls, creating multiple perspectives in a montage of real and

reproduced movement that leaves viewers wondering where to look. Performances take place every hour on the hour, beginning at noon.

One of the season's most talked-about museum events is the **BMW Guggenheim Lab** (33 E. 1st St., 423-3500), described as “part urban