



START WITH ART

QUICK CULTURE'S NEWSLETTER

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FEATURED QUICK CULTURE TOUR - BCAM

In this newsletter, we are featuring our tour of BCAM (The Broad Contemporary Art Museum), the new building on the campus of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). This exciting venue houses a large selection of art objects by renowned artists including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, John Baldessari, Jeff Koons, Jasper Johns, Damien Hirst and many more. Our tour provides an **entertaining look** at the art collection and gives you pointers on how to appreciate these varied artworks while giving you an overview of the contemporary collection. We have received great feedback. Here are some quotes from tour participants: *"The tour was great!" "I am not gushy about this style of art but hearing the background on the artists made the museum visit very worthwhile and fun."* *"The guide added little known tidbits you'd never get on a regular tour! I am definitely going on another one of their tours!"*



*John Adams:
Emmy Winner for
Costume Design,
Mini Series*

MOVIE & TV COSTUME DESIGN EXHIBITS

We just finished touring the 3rd Annual Outstanding Art of Television Costume Design Exhibit at FIDM. The exhibit showcased costumes from current TV shows & recent mini series such as *John Adams*, *The Tudors*, *Mad Men*, *Dexter* & *Pushing Daisies* as well as costumes from some great shows from yesteryear such as *Moonlighting* & the *Carol Burnett Show*.

This entertaining & informative tour is offered both as a scheduled tour & as a private tour. For details call 310-800-6710 visit our website:

www.quickculture.com

The Movie / Oscar Costume Exhibit opens in late January . . . mark your calendar!

EDITORIAL: "I DON'T GET IT" OR

"HOW CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS LAUGH ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK"

While Wall Street was crumbling and everyone was ready to put their money under a mattress, Damien Hirst, the British bad boy and contemporary shock artist rocked the art world on September 17, with a record two-day sale that raked in over \$200 million. The auction, held at Sotheby's in London, thumbed its nose at the economic downturn and so did Damien Hirst by bypassing his art dealers whose percentage of the take is generally 40%. Wow! What could be so exciting, innovative and art-worthy in his 223-piece offering that could outshine and surpass the Picasso sale of \$20 million for 88 works in 1993? WHAT??? Dead carcasses suspended in formaldehyde? Say it isn't so. Would you like a calf, or how about a shark in your living room?



The Golden Calf



The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living

Complete the experience by adding that foreboding *Jaws* soundtrack. To its credit, *The Golden Calf* does have its hooves and horns cast in solid 18K gold and that is definitely worth **something**.

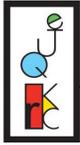
As most of you know, Quick Culture has recently started touring the "museum within a museum", The Broad Contemporary Art Museum or, as it is affectionately called, BCAM (be-cam). It is quite a structure. And, it has its very own Damien-Hirst-pickled art piece, *Away from the Flock*.



Away from the Flock

Oh, and isn't that a beautiful stained glass...er...let me get closer. Why, it's not glass at all. Those are pieces of dead butterflies. In fact, everything that is in this gallery is about death and life, save the revolving disc. The disc is titled *Beautiful, Cataclysmic Pink Minty Shifting Horizon Exploding Star With Ghostly Presence Wide, Broad Painting*. Catchy title, don't you think? I could go on and on. I could tell you about Hirst's "art" titled *Two Fucking and Two Watching* and how it was banned by New York public health officials because they feared it would cause nausea and vomiting among visitors. The piece consisted of a rotting cow and bull.

(continued on page 3)



↑ Lisa Fittipaldi – One Way

BLIND ARTISTS - *A Brush with Darkness*

Lisa Fittipaldi tells her story of becoming legally blind in 1993 at age 47. In the ensuing years her vision dropped below measurable levels. To view her lively, colorful canvasses is to suspend the belief that she is a blind painter! She cannot see color or distance, dimension or print. Read about her story and order her book at: <http://www.lisafittipaldi.com/>

Did you hear about the two little boys who found themselves in a modern art gallery by accident?
"Quick," said one, "Run! Before they say we did it!"

Watch this Discovery Channel video of an artist with no eyes!

<http://www.mytopclip.com/play.php?vid=882>

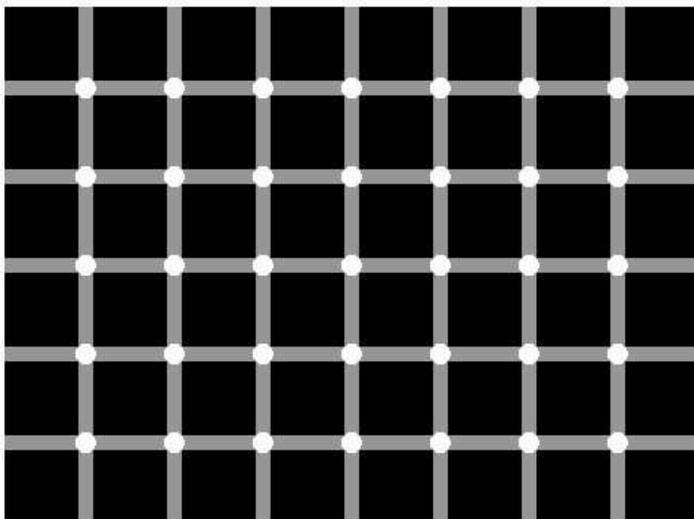
Check out this creative waterfall!

<http://www.noob.us/miscellaneous/creative-waterfall/>

Twinkle, twinkle - The Blinking Effect

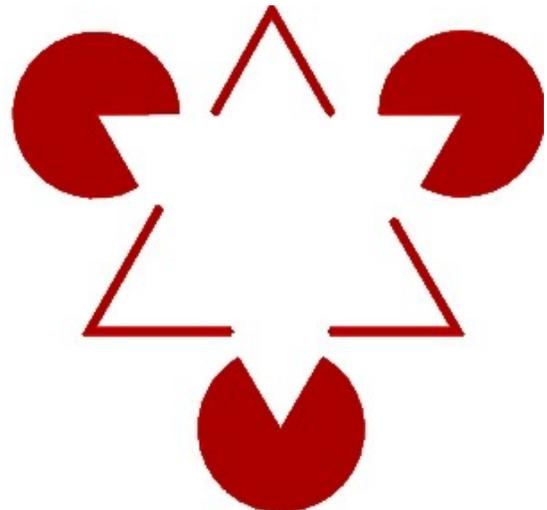
Challenge yourself to try and count the dots in the diagram below. Despite a static image, your eyes will make it dynamic attempting to "fill-in" the white circle intersections with the black of the background. Quite an amazing effect!

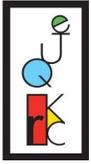
Instructions: Simply stare at the white circles and notice the intermittent blinking effect.



Recognition of Patterns

Although there are no actual triangles that appear on your eyes' retinas, your brain will somehow interpret the following image as two overlapping triangles. Is this imagination? Are you losing your mind? No, the notched circles and angled lines merely suggest gaps in which objects should be. The brain does the rest by triggering a sort of pattern recognition phenomenon.





EDITORIAL (continued from page 1)

Or, I could tell you about his shocking comments regarding the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks, claiming that "... they were visually stunning and terrorists achieved something which nobody would have ever have thought possible, which is why they allegedly needed congratulating..." He later issued a statement apologizing for the remarks. I congratulate him for branding himself and becoming one of the richest and most financially savvy artists in the world despite accusations of copyright infringement and poor taste. Damien Hirst is in the league of artists who believe that the idea and imagination behind the art are more important than the hands that create it; otherwise known as "concept artists". And, he is not the only artist to talk about. But, hey, stay with me on this...I have a method to my madness and antagonism.

Jeff Koons is America's answer to Britain's Damien Hirst in that regard. And, BCAM has quite a display of Koon's art. So, what does it take to "get" Koon's art? What's the deal with those floating basketballs, huh? Michael Jackson and Bubbles? A vacuum cleaner in a Plexiglas case? You've got to be kidding. A huge puppy made out of metal? Where would one display it? What would a burglar do if he broke into my house? He wants TVs, guns, drugs, silver, jewelry and money. One could suppose that he might feel sorry for my art-collecting and for being so witless as to put my money into such un-fence-able "art".



Three Ball Total Equilibrium Tank

Michael Jackson & Bubbles



New Hoover Deluxe Shampoo Polishers, new Shelton Wet/Dry 10-Gallon Displace Tripledecker



Trans Fixed



BUT, you see, it's thought-provoking. You've got to put forth a little more effort to understand art today. So, maybe experiencing Chris Burden's (it's his streetlamps in front of BCAM) performance art of being wheeled out of a garage crucified to the hood of a VW Beetle (*Trans Fixed*) is quite disturbing. BUT, maybe he's making a social statement --- maybe he's against organized religion or maybe he just inspires you to think of something you hadn't thought of before.

Blue Yellow Red IV



How about Ellsworth Kelly's work, the great minimalist? Let's say you say, "That painting that's got equal widths of three colors is stupid." And I reply, "Why do you think it's stupid?" As articulate as a defense attorney, can you give an argument? "It's redundant and boring." That's a good argument but it hasn't won the case. Perhaps a better argument would be: I don't want to be bored or try to get into an artist's head. I also don't only want to be shocked, lectured to, shown a simulated ritual or a (too) politically incorrect position. I want to see something I can take home with me and think about --- something that changes the way I look at things. For instance take Magritte's *Treachery of Images*: I thought about it, talked to others about it and digested it as a philosophical bit of whimsy.



Treachery of Images

Suffice to say, art doesn't have to only shock or only be huge or only be excessive to engage the viewer. Let us in on the joke ---- let us laugh with you -----. Jokes - like art ---can be thought-provoking, witty, simple or complex, cynical, satirical, in good or bad taste, offensive, upsetting, reassuring and sometimes, just plain bad! What's the gut reaction when you first view a piece --- without the reference from the artist? A feeling arouses you based on what it looks like, the materials and fabrication, and the context within which it is presented. What was going on in the world when it was made? For instance, Marcel Duchamp's ready-made (found art) *Fountain* (a ceramic urinal which he signed "R. Mutt") can be understood as being a work of art, but also an unpleasant and deliberately offensive joke on the art-going public of the time (1917).



Fountain

If you decide that you "appreciate" the joke, it is then worth considering other factors in order to decide if it has art value. But even more than "getting it" is to establish whether or not you can laugh *with* the work of art, or whether the joke is on you and the public!

Liz goes to her first show at an art gallery and is looking at the paintings. One is a huge canvas that has black with yellow blobs of paint splattered all over it. The next painting is a murky gray color that has drips of purple paint streaked across it. Liz walks over to the artist and says, "I don't understand your paintings." "I paint what I feel inside me," explains the artist. "Have you ever tried Alka-Seltzer?" she asked!



OCTOBER ART HAPPENINGS

Off-Axis 2008 - celebrates contemporary art, culture, performance, and design with a month-long series of special events, exhibitions, and public programs. Offered as a unique collaboration between the community's art institutions, galleries, artists, non-profits, and civic organizations, **Off-Axis** highlights Santa Barbara's diverse cultural and artistic resources.

For full event listings and descriptions please visit <http://www.sboffaxis.org>

Q: What did the Mona Lisa say to the Van Gogh forgery?

A: You, sir, are an impostor!

Black Maria Gallery
3137 Glendale Blvd., Atwater Village, CA 90039
Contact, Zara Zeitountsian
(323) 660-9393
www.blackmariagallery.com
E-mail, info@blackmariagallery.com
Tue – Sat, 12-6pm; and by appointment

9/27 TO 10/18



Kent Williams, As Icarus (Detail), 2008, oil on linen mounted between distressed wooden beams with poured wax, 37" x 74".

Merry Karnowsky Gallery
170 South La Brea Avenue (in the Art 170 Building), Los Angeles, California 90036
323.933.4408
Contact person: Merry Karnowsky
E-mail: mkgallery@mindspring.com
Website : <http://www.mkgallery.com>
Gallery hours: Tue- Sat 12-6pm

ONGOING TOURS

We are continually posting new scheduled tours for our 2 most popular tours...the **Museum Tour for Kids** and our "**Entertaining**" **Tour of the Broad Contemporary Art Museum**.

Visit our website: www.quickculture.com for dates & times. And don't forget, you can always schedule a private tour.

UPCOMING COSTUME EXHIBIT TOUR 17th Annual Art of **Motion Picture Costume Design**

at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM) Museum & Galleries

Tuesday January 27th through Sunday March 29, 2009.