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Acoustiguide eNewsletter

December 21, 2010

Dear Friends,

Here are a few of the wonderful temporary exhibitions currently on view and accompanied by Acoustiguide developed audio and multimedia tours. We hope you'll have an opportunity to see these marvelous shows and experience the accompanying multimedia guides as well. Enjoy!

2010 Temporary Exhibitions

Houdini: Art and Magic at The Jewish Museum
Cleveland's Treasures of Heaven: Saints, Relics, and Devotion in Medieval Europe

SAM's Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris

Baltimore's Warhol: The Last Decade
Kimbell's Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea

Houdini: Art and Magic at The Jewish Museum



Master escape artist and consummate showman, Harry Houdini's name is synonymous with acts of great daring and near superhuman strength. But his transformation from son of a poor rabbi to the world's most famous magician may have been his most astonishing feat of all.

Now on view at The Jewish Museum, New York is *Houdini: Art and Magic*, the first major art museum exhibition to examine Houdini's life, legend, and cultural influence. The exhibition features 160 objects, including archival photographs and film clips, theater ephemera, and even Houdini's own personal diaries and magic apparatus. Works by Matthew Barney, Jane Hammond, Vik Muniz, and Raymond Pettibon allow visitors to explore the many ways in which Houdini's legend has inspired contemporary artists. Visitors learn about Houdini's evolution from a fledgling circus performer to a stage magician to a daring escape artist and how he was able to thrill and captivate audiences by infusing commonplace items with a dose of magic.

Acoustiguide's multimedia tour adds another layer of understanding for visitors by including a number of important voices in the discussion. Curator Brooke Kamin Rapaport, magicians David Blaine and James "The Amazing" Randi and artists Vik Muniz and Petah Coyne discuss Houdini's enduring legacy. Neil Patrick Harris, actor and magic enthusiast, narrates the tour with his signature charm and wit. The tour is available at The Jewish Museum on Acoustiguide's Opus devices; in addition, the *Houdini: Art and Magic* Smartour iPhone application allows you to explore the exhibition on-site or remotely.

To listen to the tour and view images and film clips from the exhibition, please click [here](#).

The Houdini: Art and Magic Smartour application is available for purchase through the [iTunes store](#)

Houdini: Art and Magic is on view at The Jewish Museum, New York until March 27, 2011. Following its New York City showing, the exhibition will travel to Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA (April 28 - September 4, 2011); Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA (September 30, 2011 - January 16, 2012); and Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison, WI (February 11 - May 13, 2012).

Image Credit: Houdini in chains, 1903, photograph. Library of Congress, Rare Books and Special Collections Division, McManus Young Division.

Cleveland's *Treasures of Heaven: Saints, Relics, and Devotion in Medieval Europe*

Never before has there been a major exhibition in the United States that explores the history of relics and reliquaries. Premiering at the Cleveland Museum of Art, *Treasures of Heaven: Saints, Relics, and Devotion in Medieval Europe*, showcases 135 objects from private collections and institutions around the world, including the Vatican and the Louvre. Many have not been seen outside of their country of origin.

These powerful works are accompanied by an Acoustiguide tour that leverages the latest in technology to deepen the experience of visitors. The multimedia narrative weaves together commentary from Curator Griffith Mann and Columbia University Professor Holger Klein along with behind-the-scenes images and videos. Visitors would otherwise be unable to access these accompanying visuals, which provide important insights into the relics and reliquaries.



For a multimedia stop on the Reliquary Head of St. Eustace, [click here](#)

Treasures of Heaven: Saints, Relics, and Devotion in Medieval Europe is on view at the Cleveland Museum of Art through Jan. 17, 2011.

Image Credit: Reliquary Pendant of Saint Demetrios with Saint George, 1100s/1200s. Byzantine (Thessalonike?). Gold, silver, silver gilt, enamel; diam. 3.8 cm. The British Museum, London PE 1926,0409.1. © The Trustees of the British Museum

SAM's *Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musée National Picasso, Paris*



The Seattle Art Museum is the first venue to host this landmark exhibition of the work of Pablo Picasso (1881-1973). The exhibition presents iconic works from virtually every phase of Picasso's legendary career, documenting the full range of his unceasing

inventiveness and prodigious creative process.

Drawn from the collection of the Musée National Picasso in Paris--the largest and most important repository of the artist's work in the world--the exhibition features more than 150 extraordinary paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and photographs. This is an unprecedented opportunity made possible due to the Musée Picasso's closure for renovations, allowing a global tour of this full-scale survey to travel for the first and, very likely, the only time. The exhibition will travel from Seattle to the deYoung Museum and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

The companion multimedia tour provides conversational and engaging commentary on selected pieces throughout the exhibition. The tour presents the exhibition in a different light from the points

of view of a variety interview subjects. Participants include Chiyo Ishikawa, the Susan Brotman Deputy Director for Art and Curator of European Painting and Sculpture at the Seattle Art Museum; visual artist Chuck Close; Pepe Karmel, Associate Professor of Art History and Chair at the New York University; and Robert O'Meally, founding director of the Center for Jazz Studies and Professor of English at Columbia University.

This variety of perspectives provides the listener with insight into the cultural resonance of Picasso's works, including how various pieces reflect the politics of the world at that time and the ways in which his art often served as a kind of social commentary.

The Acoustiguide multimedia tour is included with the exhibition admission and is available [here](#).

This exhibition is on view at Seattle Art Museum through January 17, 2011.

Baltimore's Warhol: The Last Decade

The Baltimore Museum of Art is the final site for this exhibition, the first in the U.S. to explore the late works of the iconic American artist, Andy Warhol. On view are more than 50 inventive, experimental, and intensely personal works that reveal Warhol's energetic return to painting and renewed spirit of experimentation during the last decade of his life.

The companion multimedia tour was developed with specific interpretive goals in mind. The goals included helping visitors' understanding of Warhol's production techniques and collaborations while appealing to BMA's core audience, many of whom are nostalgic Baby Boomers, as well as younger arts-interested audiences, such as students, artists, and less-frequent visitors who will be drawn by the Warhol name.

Original interviews provide rare insight into this period of Warhol's career. The BMA's Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman is joined by Kelley Walker, a young New York-based artist influenced by Warhol and is featured in the Guyton\Walker exhibition also on display at the BMA. Lastly, if not most importantly, is your guide - the musician, artist and writer whose early music career was launched by Andy Warhol - Lou Reed.

The audio tour is available with admission on Acoustiguide's Opus Click player and for free download from the [iTunes store](#).

The exhibition will be on view at the BMA through January 9, 2011.

Kimbell's Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea



After a landmark Maya exhibition in 1986, the Kimbell Art Museum revisits this civilization in *Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea* and introduces several recently excavated artifacts, many of which have never been seen in the United States. The versatility of Maya artists is apparent in the galleries that show a broad range of media, including massive, carved stone monuments and delicate hieroglyphs, exquisite painted pottery vessels, charming sculpted human and animal figurines, and a lavish assortment of precious goods crafted from jade, gold and turquoise.

Fiery Pool: The Maya and the Mythic Sea also presents an inaugural Spanish audio tour for the Kimbell, enabling a broader audience to listen to the interpretation. The Acoustiguide tour reveals the exhibition's focus on the sea as a defining feature of the spiritual realm and takes advantage of imaginative sound to reinforce this message through special

████████████████████ effects. The tour features lively commentary from exhibition co-curator Daniel Finamore, of the Peabody Essex Museum. It was also developed by Stephen D. Houston, Professor of Social Science and Archaeology at Brown University.

The exhibition is at the Kimbell Art Museum through January 2, 2011. It travels to the St. Louis Art Museum, where it will be on view along with the Acoustiguide tour in English and in Spanish from February 13-May 8, 2011.

[Click here](#) to listen to a stop from this tour.

Image Credit: Drinking vessel with the Maize God born from the waters of the Underworld, 650-750, Calakmul, Mexico. Ceramic, 6 1/8 x 4 3/8 x 4 3/8 in. (15.5 x 11.2 x 11.2 cm). Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes-Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City. Courtesy Peabody Essex Museum, photograph © 2009 Jorge Pérez de Lara

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