

What's on & Where to

by Linda Bordini

Exhibitions

Rome

Paul Klee. 12 March-27 June. A comprehensive retrospective with over 180 works, this is the first major exhibition dedicated to Klee in the capital in over 20 years. Complesso del Vittoriano, Via S. Pietro in Carcere, tel. 066780664. Mon-Thurs 09.30-19.30. Fri-Sat 09.30-23.30. Sun 09.30-20.30.

I Tesori degli Aztechi. 20 March-18 July. Works from Mexico offer a comprehensive insight into the culture and history of the Aztec civilisation. Palazzo Ruspoli, Via del Corso 418, tel. 066874704, www.palazzoruspoli.it. 09.30-19.30. Sat 09.30-21.30.

Velázquez, Bernini, Luca Giordano. Le Corti del Barocco. 12 Feb-2 May. The exhibition, which comes to Rome from Spain, includes work by Velázquez and Bernini, as well as tapestries, sculpture and medals. Scuderie del Quirinale, Via XXIV Maggio 16, tel. 0639967500, www.scuderiequirinale.it. Sun-Thurs 10.00-20.00. Fri-Sat 10.00-22.30.

La Pietà. 18 March-23 July. Photographs by Robert Hupka of Michelangelo's *Pietà*, taken when it was on display in New York in 1965. Braccio di Carlomagno, Piazza S. Pietro. Mon 14.00-19.00. Tues-Sun 10.30-19.00.

Fotografia. Festival Internazionale di Roma. 2 April-19 Sept. This is the fifth edition of a growing festival that involves museums, galleries and other spaces all over the city. The programme is vast and articulate, and events have different dates, but suddenly photography, which used to be a prerogative of the Milan scene, is now here in Rome. For information see www.fotografia.festivalroma.org.

The tribes of southern Ethiopia and Sites Specific. Roma 04. 1 April-6 June. For *FotoGrafia*, the first exhibition presents a vast photographic reportage by Don McCullin on the Horn of Africa; the latter is a site-specific exhibit commissioned from Olivo Barbieri. Mercati di Traiano, Via IV Novembre 94, tel. 0682077304. 09.00-19.00. Mon closed.

Erwin Wurm, Gabriel Orozco and Richard Wentworth. 23 April-15 June. For *FotoGrafia* works by the three photographers. H.C. Andersen Museum, Via P. S. Mancini 20, tel. 063219089. 09.00-19.00.

Sugar in the Petrol. 6 April-4 June. For *FotoGrafia*, an exhibition dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the end of apartheid in South Africa. British School of Rome, Via Gramsci 61, tel. 063264939. Mon-Sat 15.30-19.30.

10 anni 10 voci. Fotografi contemporanei sudafricani. 5 April-3 May. For *FotoGrafia*, ten contemporary South African photographers give their views on the new South Africa. Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Via U. Aldrovandi 16, tel. 06328551. 09.00-13.00. Tues and Thurs 09.00-17.00.

Guy Tillim "Kunhinga portraits". 3-29 April. For *FotoGrafia*, the South African photographer Guy Tillim presents a series of photographs taken in Angola in February 2002. They illustrate the people of the province of Bie, who were forced to leave their homes in the months prior to the end of the civil war in April 2002, when the Angolan government decided to punish citizens accused of protecting UNITA militants. Sala 1, Piazza di Porta S. Giovanni 10, tel. 067008691. 16.30-19.30. Sun and Mon closed.

Arte Natura, sabbie ghiacciate, rocce, giunchi e riflessi. 21 April-21 May. Photographs by Laura Sonnino Jannelli. Galleria Giulia, Via Giulia 148, tel. 066861443. Mon 16.00-19.30. Tues-Sat 10.00-13.00. 16.00-19.30. Sun closed.

Franco Dellerba. 27 March-18 May. Ceramics. Galleria Alessandra Bonomo, Via del Gesù 62, tel. 0669925858. 15.00-19.00. Sun closed.

Roland Barthes, intermezzo. 11 March-9 May. The exhibition is a tribute to Barthes and includes drawings, photographs, documents, as well as recordings of his voice. Palazzo Venezia Museum, Via del Plebiscito 118, tel. 06699941. 10.00-19.00. Mon closed.

Giancarlo Limoni. Hortus Conclusus: il giardino dipinto. 22 March-17 April. About 15 recent works and a series of small watercolours. A.A.M. Architettura Arte Moderna, Via dei Banchi Vecchi 61, tel. 0668307537. 16.00-20.00. Sat and Sun 14.00-20.30. See Reviews.

I più bei libri tedeschi del 2003. 23 Feb-15 May. A selection of the most beautifully bound or composed books published by German editors during the past year. There is also a section dedicated to precious and rare books. Casa di Goethe, Via del Corso 18, tel. 0632650412. 10.00-18.00. Mon closed.

Alessandro Anselmi. Piano superfice progetto and Roberto Schezen. Atleti dello Stadio dei Marmi e Palazzo della Civiltà Romana. 13 March-16 May. Anselmi is an important architect, and Schezen is an architectural photographer. MAXXI Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo, Via Guido Reni 2, tel. 063202438. 11.00-19.00. Mon closed.

Masbedo. 13 March-18 April. Video installations by the Masbedo duo focus on the connection between aesthetics and technology, using music, cinema and literature. MACRO al Mattatoio, Piazza Giustiniani 4, tel. 0667107900. 16.00-24.00. Mon closed.

Nicola De Maria, Elisabetta Benassi, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Nanni Balestrini. 30 Jan-9 May. Four contemporary Italian artists on show. MACRO, Via Reggio Emilia 54, tel. 0667107900. 09.00-19.00. Mon closed. See Reviews.

Villa Borghese. I Principi, le Arti, la Città tra '700 e '800. Until 16 May. This exhibition in the newly-restored Villa Poniatowski tells the history of Villa Borghese through paintings, drawings, objects and costumes on loan from private and public collections. Villa Poniatowski, Via di Villa Giulia 34. For information tel. 0632111617. 09.00-19.00. Mon closed.

Album di Famiglia. I romani a Villa Borghese. Until 16 May. A selection of around 1,000 photos taken by Romans in Villa Borghese during the last 100 years. Villa Poniatowski, Via di Villa Giulia 34. For information tel. 0632111617. 09.00-19.00. Mon closed.

Ritratti della famiglia Bonaparte. 21 Feb-25 April. Museo Napoleonico, Piazza di Ponte Umberto I 1, tel. 0668806286. 09.00-19.00. Mon closed.

La doppia elica del DNA 50 anni dopo. Until 2 May. Exhibition about the discovery of DNA, and the contributions of Italian researchers to its development. ACEA (Montemartini) Art Centre, Via Ostiense 106, tel. 0639967800. 09.30-19.00. Mon closed.

Bologna

Il nudo fra ideale e realtà. 22 Jan-9 May. Over 400 works, including paintings, sculptures and drawings, trace a history of figurative art from neo-classicism to the present. Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, tel. 051502859.

Cremona

Pittori della realtà. 14 Feb-2 May. This exhibition, which will move to the Metropolitan Museum in New York after its Italian run, traces the development of realist art from Leonardo Da Vinci to Caravaggio. Museo Civico, Palazzo Affaitati, tel. 037231222, www.cremonamostre.it.

Ferrara

Gli Este a Ferrara. 14 March-13 June. After two years of restoration, the Castello Estense reopens with an exhibition tracing the history of Ferrara and the Este family. Castello Estense. For information tel. 0243353522.

Florence

Sandro Botticelli. 11 March-11 July. This vast and comprehensive exhibition also includes a section dedicated to Botticelli's teacher, Filippino Lippi, and work by some of his contemporaries. Palazzo Strozzi. For information tel. 0552660278, www.botticellipalazzostrozzi.it.

Genoa

L'Età di Rubens. 20 March-11 July. Genoa was in its golden period when Rubens lived there in the early 17th century; this exhibition explores some of the most important art collectors, their commissions, portraits and their homes, in the city at the time. Palazzo Ducale, tel. 010562390, www.palazzoducale.genova.it.

Milan

Van Dyck. Riflessi italiani. 19 Feb-20 June. This show traces the Italian influences in the Flemish painter's work, especially in his portraits of Italian gentry and paintings of religious scenes. Palazzo Reale, tel. 02875672.

Perugia

Perugino il divin pittore. 28 Feb-18 July. This is the first of a series of exhibitions in Umbria celebrating the work of Pietro Vannucci, better known as Perugino. Here, a selection of paintings traces the milestones of his artistic development, from the production of his youth to his Roman, and then Florentine and finally Umbrian periods. Galleria

Nazionale dell'Umbria. For booking and information tel. 0254919, www.perugino.net.

Turin

Depero. 19 Feb-23 May. Paintings, drawings, furniture, tapestries and other objects give a good idea of the work of one of the most eclectic artists of the 20th century. Palazzo Bricherasio, tel. 0115711811.

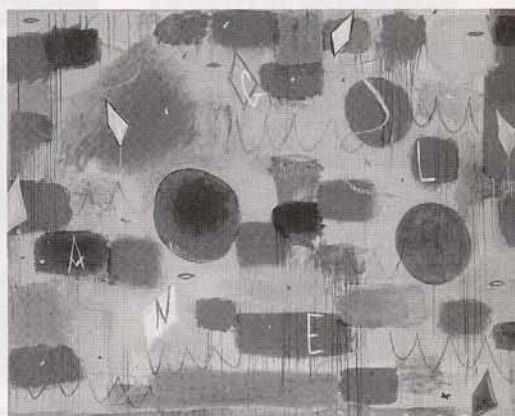
Marc Chagall. Un Maestro del Novecento. 24 March-4 July. This exhaustive retrospective on the work of Chagall comes exactly 50 years after the artist organised a show in Turin to celebrate the end of his long exile in the United States. Galleria d'Arte Moderna, tel. 0114429518.

Venice

Michelangelo. 28 Feb-16 May. 80 masterpieces by Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci and Raffaello. Peggy Guggenheim Collection, tel. 0412405411.

Reviews

Nicola De Maria, Elisabetta Benassi, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Nanni Balestrini. 30 Jan-9 May. With disarming frankness, Nicola De Maria wholeheartedly embraces the world of colour. Toy-like, kitschy dots, wheels, arrows



Nicola de Maria's work is full of unabashed happiness. See Reviews.

and dripping lashes of paint traverse his breathing abstractions. Unabashed happiness, not like that of children, but mimicking it, makes up landscapes, skies or gardens.

One of the *Transavanguardia* boys, De Maria does his business. He is not afraid of a bit of awkwardness or emptiness, things too playful for a grown man. When his painting-fields are too big they are hard to take. He painted four mural-size works especially for this show. But the smaller ones are all brimming with sheer paint and refreshingly simple gesture to the edges. The small works are all full of careless painterliness, terribly pleasing in our era so heavily seeded with cruelly cold technological art. The critic Bonito Oliva hits the mark with a flash: "De Maria is a new Peter Pan," he declares in the catalogue.

Most of the beautifully restored old Peroni factory, now MACRO, a sleek glass and steel building, is taken over by the De Maria retrospective. But the entrance court is full of the tall metal columns and cubes of Nanni Balestrini, a poet who came to the fore in the late 1960s as an exponent of "Visual Poetry". This movement, which owed much to Marinetti and other Futurists, flowered in Rome and Bologna in the politically turbulent 1970s.

Here fragments of poems, sentences and declarations in bold clean letters are scattered and fragmented over aluminium surfaces. It's handsome but obscure and busy. The letters are decorative but hard to read and recompose.

On a large screen, Elisabetta Benassi shows her video "Tutti morimmo a stento", slow moving takes of a Roman demolition site. Corpses of cars lie around like old beetles, with artificial manikins, like anti-heroes, lying half-squashed between them, neither dead nor alive. The disastrous graveyards of inorganic hard-to-break vehicles have long been used in countless commercial films to deal with one of the bleakest phenomena of our civilisation. Here the filthy metal refuse could work as an elegiac reflection or as a somber pattern – as a parable of our endless cannibalism of nature.

Pascale Marthine Tayou from Cameroon exhibits an elaborate photo and video installation based on his own letters to his mother in Africa, in which he invites her to Rome to see the pope. He calls it "Omnes viae Romam ducunt" (all roads lead to Rome), of course. Later there will be an installation to record what happens on the accomplished visit to Rome. Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Roma (MACRO), Via Reggio Emilia 54, tel. 0667107900.

Giancarlo Limoni. Hortus Conclusus: Il Giardino Dipinto. 22 March-30 April. Viva la pittura! Nice juicy painting again from this veteran of the so-called "Nuova Pittura Romana" of the 1980s. Leaves and slices of squishy thick paint spin, roll, sail, fly apart and gather again, to hang on wide, frail canvases. Each is a shield, a splintery cloud, a woosh of petals, in all the colours of the rainbow. There are reminders of late Monet here, and also of the heavily trowelled paint reliefs of Al Held in the United States and Morlotti in Italy in the 1950s.

When Limoni, in the vast expanses of bright paint, leaves a smooth space at the top – the sky – or at the bottom – a pond – he flirts with a kind of perspective and is less happy and convincing than he is in all-over vivid paint mosaics.

"Fiori oltre il muro" of 2003 is an Odilon Redon jewel-like wonder. And "Lo stagno" of the same year is a fabric of quince yellows and poppy reds strung on horizontal streaks and chinks of green and blue, is a lush and successful tapestry.

All this play of primary paint might be read as joyful exuberance. But it is not that at all. It is coolly constructed and deconstructed melancholy views – bits of brilliant, rain-washed weather, flashing just before the cutting world of the evening. A.A.M. Architettura Arte Moderna, Via dei Banchi Vecchi 61, tel. 0668307537.

Edith Schloss

Music

15 April

Oratorio del Gonfalone. Violin and piano recital by Marco Fiorini and Irene Franceschini. Music by Mozart, Beethoven, Prokofiev (21.00).

Accademia Filarmonica Romana. Fiddler on the Roof by and with Moni Ovadia. Ovadia is undoubtedly the best-known cantor of Yiddish culture in Italy. In this beautiful reinterpretation of the famous musical, a company of retired Ukrainian dancers, Eastern European musicians, Ovadia and his theatre-orchestra, bring sentiment and emotion to eternal politi-

addresses

Addresses and telephone numbers for this arbitrary selection of events are listed below.

Accademia Filarmonica Romana. Concerts at Teatro Olimpico, Piazzale G. da Fabriano, tel. 063265991. For information tel. 063201752, www.filarmonicaromana.org.

Accademia Nazionale di S. Cecilia. Concerts at Auditorium-Parco della Musica (see below), www.santacecilia.it.

Auditorium-Parco della Musica, Viale P. de Coubertin, tel. 068082058-0680242350/1, www.musicaperroma.it.

Festival Musicale Italiano. Concerts at the Auditorium Tito Brandma, Via G. A. Filippini 1. For information tel. 065073889.

I Concerti di Primavera. Concerts in the church of SS. Quirico e Giulitta ai Fori, Via Tor de' Conti 23.

Istituzione Universitaria dei Concerti. Concerts are ????. For information tel. 063610051-063512146.

Oratorio del Gonfalone. Via del Gonfalone 32, tel. 066875952.

Orchestra di Roma e del Lazio. Concerts at Auditorium-Parco della Musica (see above). For information tel. 0697260261.

Per Piano Solo. Concerts at Sala Baldini, Piazza Campitelli 9, for information tel. 0635453120.

Stagione di Primavera. All Saints' Anglican Church, Via del Babuino 153/b, tel.

Teatro Ghione. Via delle Fornaci 37, tel. 066372294.