

Exhibits

BY MIKE MAY, Executive Editor

Plan ahead: There's lots to see and do during the year's shortest month.

"THE ROAD TO IMPRESSIONISM: BARBIZON LANDSCAPES FROM THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM": FEB. 7-MAY 24

February serves as a bridge between winter and spring, and the second month of the new year provides an opportune time to open an exciting exhibition that examines a period in art history that spans Romanticism and Impressionism. Plus, the paintings should provide us with some visual refreshment during this dreary time of the year.

"The Road to Impressionism: Barbizon Landscapes From the Walters Art Museum," comprising works by the mid-19th-century Barbizon School and beyond, travels to the Frick Art Museum from one of Baltimore's cultural gems. Like Henry Clay Frick, William Walters, a Pennsylvania native who made his fortune in Maryland, amassed an impressive art collection, including work by the Barbizon School. His son Henry Walter carried on his vision, and the collection was eventually housed in a handsome museum that was bequeathed to the city of Baltimore.

Such an urban location, as well as Pittsburgh, seems an ironic place for these paintings to be on view, considering the artists of the Barbizon persuasion—Barbizon is a rural village in France—left the cosmopolitan and tempestuous metropolis of Paris to embrace and record the bucolic countryside along with its rustic inhabitants among other subjects. In another touch of irony, technological achievements such as the railroad made travel to the countryside cheaper and easier. Also, American artist John G. Rand's invention of air-tight, collapsible metal tubes for paints allowed artists greater ease and flexibility—including working on-site and out of doors.

The 32 works of art in the show include major Barbizon figures such as Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, Jean-François Millet, Charles-François Daubigny, Jules Dupré and Théodore Rousseau, who "heard the voices of the trees and wanted to put his finger on the secret of their majesty."

Now, more about the title of the show: "The Road to Impressionism" also features work by Claude Monet and Alfred Sisley, Impressionist painters most deeply influenced by the Barbizon painters, who preceded them on art's highway.

A variety of programs has been planned to complement this show.

(Frick Art & Historical Center, 7227 Reynolds St., Point Breeze. Feb. 7-May 24: Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free, but a suggested contribution is requested for this special exhibit. Info: 412/371-0600, thefrickpittsburgh.org)

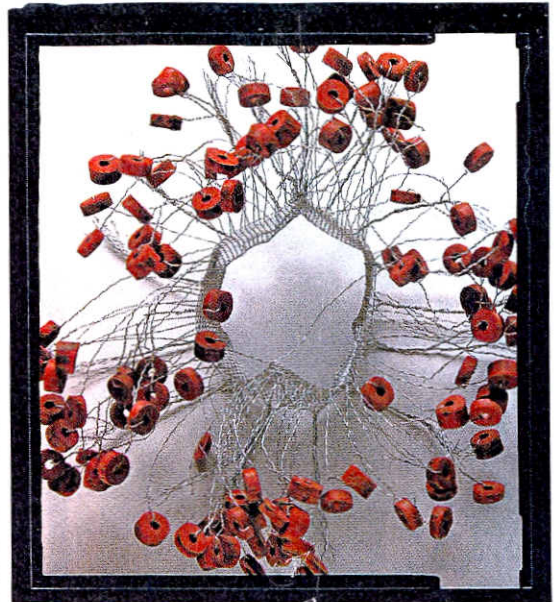
PITTSBURGH CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Premieres in February at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts make for a visually rich month—and continuing beyond:

- **"99"**: Celebrate the 99th anniversary year of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh with recent work from AAP members. Feb. 7-March 15.
- **"Casey Reas/Marius Watz: New Generative Form"**: Computer and electronic art, prints, sculptural work and video projections make up this joint show by Casey Reas, a Los Angeles-based artist, and Marius Watz from Berlin. Feb. 7-April 19.
- **"ZOO.Logic+"**: Large-scale paintings featuring animal imagery are informed by research as well as "intuitive ideas" by local artist Patricia Bellan-Gillen. Feb. 7-April 19.
- **"Transformations"**: The Society of Yoruba Bead Artists, a group of local and national bead artists, presents this focus on bead art inspired by Yoruba, a West African ethnic group, and its traditions. Feb. 7-April 19.
- **Video Room**: Beginning Feb. 7, PCA designates a gallery space as a special location for videos during 2009. Andres Tapia-Urzuva of Chile is the featured artist. The space will also include video work by AAP artists as a complement to the exhibit "99." (Fifth and Shady avenues, Shadyside. Free with donation. Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. Reception Feb. 7, 5:30-8 p.m. Info: 412/361-0873, pittsburgharts.org)

MORE EXHIBITS + EVENTS

- **Society for Contemporary Craft**: "Bridge 10 Exhibition Series" is the 10th installment of this biennial event. It comprises solo exhibitions by Christina Y. Smith (small metals), Tom Loeser (furniture) and Robert Briscoe (ceramics) that "focus on contemporary ideas and follow the artists' creative journeys as expressed through their work." Jan. 30-April 11. 2100 Smallman St., Strip District. 412/261-7003, contemporarycraft.org.
- **American Jewish Museum**: "Love/Fences/Nests: Projects by Ally Reeves, Ben Schachter and Anna Divinsky" is an ongoing series featuring multidisciplinary installations and collaborations, yet each project is presented independently. This current focus is Ben Schachter, chair and professor of fine arts at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, who explores



Local artist Atticus Adams chose aluminum mesh and rubber beads to create "epiphany" in the "Transformations" exhibit at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

Photo by David Smith

the Hebrew term "eruv," which translates as "to mix or join together." Through March 24. Jewish Community Center, 5738 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill. 412/521-8010, jccpgh.org/museum.asp.

- **The Art Center**: Fifth annual "Age of Aquarius" event showcases art and music from the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Jan. 23-Feb. 21. 344 S. Main St., Butler. 724/283-6922, butlerartcenter.net.
- **Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona**: "Kamal: His Passion, His People" features 59 paintings by local Egyptian-American artist Kamal Youssef, whose contemporary style is inspired by his Egyptian heritage. Through March 14. 1212 11th Ave., Altoona. 814/946-4464, sama-art.org.
- **Future Tenant Gallery**: Coinciding with the 2009 presidential inauguration, "Sworn In" includes work by 10 American visual artists presented in a setting created to resemble a White House parlor by guest curator Lauri Mancuso. Through Feb. 14. 819 Penn Ave., downtown. 412/325-7037, futuretenant.org.
- **Box Heart Gallery**: Works on paper by 2009 Artist of the Year Erin Treacy are showcased in "Visual Catalogs, Not Alphabetically Arranged." Feb. 3-March 1. 4523 Liberty Ave., Bloomfield. 412/687-8858, boxheart.org.
- **Westmoreland Museum of American Art**: Art historian Josie Piller's lecture "Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series" addresses the history and contributions of African-American painter Jacob Lawrence, including this series, completed in 1941. Wed., Feb. 18, noon. Free. 221 N. Main St., Greensburg. 724/837-1500, wmmuseumaa.org.