

gallery preview

# Paint by Numbers

## During the Summer Months, Galleries Burst With Big, Eclectic Group Shows

By Chris MacLeod

Traditionally, summer is the time when most galleries go with group shows. These groups tend to consist of either known artists already represented by the gallery or new young talent that the gallery hopes will excite their patrons.

We're more fascinated by "Popcorn Palaces: The Art-Deco Movie Theatre Paintings of Davis Cone" at

the Forum Gallery (745 Fifth Ave., 355-4545) than any summer blockbuster movie. Cone mixes photo-realism with impressionism, resulting in paintings that are dynamic rather than static. The juxtaposition between vintage cinemas and street-scenes — replete with late-model autos — positions the popcorn palace as an endangered species. The show runs through June 29 in the Forum's new fourth-floor space.

Since it was founded in 1947, Magnum has set the standard in photojournalism as a cooperative by Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa, David "Chim" Seymour and others. They've always sought to retain editorial control over their photographs, which document conflict and social upheaval the world over.

Early reportage, as well as Gilles Peress' memorable images of genocide in Rwanda and Kosovo will be on view at the Howard Greenberg Gallery (120 Wooster St., 334-0010) from June 15.

Joining several European design exhibits (see our Museum roundup, as well as "Mies" at MOMA and The Whitney, and Czech avant-gardist Karel Teige at NYU's Grey Art Gallery), Ubu Gallery (16 E. 78th St., 794-4444) is mounting a retrospective of "Wendinger: Dutch Design 1918-1932," from June 15.

H. Th. Wijdeveld's periodical enlarged its focus from Dutch design to personalities as diverse as Frank Lloyd Wright and Diego Rivera — always placed in context. That artists contributed design and content adds to the continuing interest in the journal.

Lawrence Rubin-Greenberg Van Doren Fine Art (730 Fifth Ave., 445-0444) has proved prescient in its new talent showcases. This year, from June 6, eight artists will be shown under the banner "Platypus." They resemble this odd creature in that very different parts comprise the whole. But the mix of media, style, scale and approach is bracing indeed. Looking at a slide preview, the wry ambiguity of Laura Mosquera's social encounters stands out.

Israel figures in the work of two female artists who are showing at



Mosquera: 'It's More of What We Love'

the Salander-O'Reilly Galleries (20 E. 79th St., 879-6606) from May 31. A number of Anne Peretz's recent oil paintings offer impressionistic views of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Jaffa and surroundings — their peaceful aspect belies the headlines. Israeli photographer Michal Ronnen Safdie presents bold, large-scale digital prints that fuse the human with the untamed aspects of nature.

As you root, root, root for the home team this summer, don't miss "The Subway Series in the Life of New York City" at the Midtown annex of the New York Transit Museum (Grand Central Station Shuttle Passage, 718-243-8601) from June 14. Here, you'll take mass transit back to the era of Ebbets Field and the Polo Grounds, when we had three top baseball teams and, starting in 1889 (when Brooklyn was a separate city) no fewer than 15 Subway Series. We'll follow the sub-

way and its role in creating neighborhoods and stadiums alike.

In Chelsea, we highly recommend two summer group shows. At Metro Pictures (519 W. 24th St., 206-7100), works by Cindy Sherman, Gary Simmons, Louise Lawler and Martin Kippenberger (among others) will be up from June 23 to July 27.

John Elder has an eye that serves him well in all areas of what is known as art furniture, applied or decorative arts, and design accents. At his gallery (529 W. 20th St., 462-2510) from June 14, "New Talent IV" is his annual showcase for his latest finds, some of which will become "stars."

There is no better place to see the most and the best of this type of inspired craftsmanship than at the SOFA show, which runs from May 31 through June 4 at the Seventh Regiment Armory (Park Avenue and East 66th Street, 800-563-7632). ■

