Summary of Select Major Press

Directions – Virgil Marti & Pae White


update

Catch these events in February and March

edited by Jen DeRose


2. Shedding light on the design-versus-art debate, "Directions: Virgil Marti and Pae White" adds luster to the lobby of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. Four of Marti's mixed-media chandeliers hang from the ceiling, while three of White's tapestry-covered sofas tempt hesitant visitors to have a seat. March 9-July 29; 202-633-4674; hirshhorn.si.edu.

3. "Crossfire," Christian Marclay's show at London's White Cube gallery, includes Conk, a pigment print on paper; 10 photo collages; and the video Crossfire, a follow-up to 2002's Video Quartet, for which he sampled film clips of people making music. February 2-March 10; 44-20-7730-5373; whitecube.com.

4. Somewhat elucidated by comparison to Joseph Beuys, George Maciunas's multidisciplinary movement is notoriously hard to put a finger on. But put a finger in? "Multiple Strategies: Beuys, Maciunas, Fluxus" at Harvard University's Busch-Reisinger Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts, showcases Ay-O's cardboard Finger Boxes. These two are filled with foam and feathers. Others, sent out as invitations to his 1964 gallery show, contained bristles and nails. February 24-June 10; 617-495-9400; artmuseums.harvard.edu.


Step Into My Parlor

Virgil Marti and Pae White give ‘lobby art’ a whole new meaning

Museums | When Pae White and Virgil Marti met back in 1990, the artists’ program at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture was proving to be something of a letdown. They decided to make their own fun.

“We kind of created this fiction around a room that had a lot of expectation of community,” White explains of the common area where students were expected to gather. “It was a kind of melancholic place.” So she and Marti assembled a semi-regular publication highlighting the creative bonhomie that just wasn’t happening off the page.

Friday, at the Hirshhorn, the artists’ first collaboration since that summer will again strive for a communal space. This time they’re taking charge from the ground up. Strewn throughout the lobby will be White’s white foam-rubber couches, carved Thanksgiving-style with an electric knife. Their upholstery will be digitally rendered cotton tapestries: tinfoil run through a desktop scanner, a pink page from the Financial Times, a collage of newspaper headlines and images.

Curtains of fake-gilt cast bones by Marti will stretch to the ceiling, illuminated by his resin chandeliers of antlers and flowers. White’s colorful lattice decals — abstracted from a dragonfly wing — will line the inner window-wall.

Over the past few years, the Hirshhorn has endeavored to make itself more inviting, whether by staging “Directions” shows in the lobby, as in the cases of Dan Steinhilber and Jim Lambie, or by hosting late-night extravaganzas — a ‘60s-style light show for “Visual Music,” a 24-hour marathon for the Douglas Gordon retrospective.

The new traditions continue Friday, with an “After Hours” event that features a 9 p.m. Q&A with White and Marti and an 11 p.m. tour of “Refract, Reflect, Project” with curator Anne Ellegood. All evening, patrons of the cash bar can help themselves to do-it-yourself Lite-Brite art and the energetic sounds of DJ Ian Svenonius, former leader of the Make-Up and — remember, ladies? — once the Sassiest Boy in America. GLenn DIXON

Hirshhorn, 7th Street & Independence Avenue SW; “Directions” opens Fri., through July 29; “After Hours,” Fri., 5 p.m.-midnight, $10 in advance, $12 at the door; 202-633-1000. (L’Enfant Plaza)
Style on the Go

This Week

The District

Today

[EXHIBIT] Hirshhorn "Directions" Artists on Their Work Pae White and Virgil Marti, who transformed the museum lobby last month with such items as foam couches with newsprint "tapestry" (reminiscent to us of the makeshift newspaper coverings used by the homeless in cold weather) and a chandelier, will discuss their project in one of the museum's Meet the Artist events tonight. Free. 7 p.m. (Tickets are distributed at 6:15, so get there early.) Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Ring Auditorium, Seventh Street and Independence Avenue SW. 202-633-1000.
INTERIOR MOTIVE Artists Virgil Marti and Pae White have adorned the Hirshhorn's minimalist lobby with foam couches draped in wool tapestry "newspapers," curtains strung from gilded plastic bones and windows cocooned in tape. Experience the "immersive environment" by July 29.