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New York

The obsessive guide to impulsive entertainment
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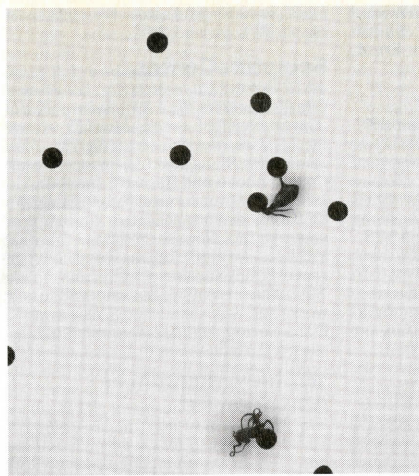
SPECTACULAR FINISH
Per Se takes the prize for Best
Presentation (Campari jelly with
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Shahzia Sikander, detail of "51 Ways of Looking."

Shahzia Sikander
Brent Sikkeema, through Apr 16 (see Chelsea).

Wielding a sharp pencil and unfettered powers of invention, Shahzia Sikander puts both to impressive use in a labor-intensive series titled "51 Ways of Looking" (2004), 51 framed drawings (each 12" x 9") that wrap around the gallery walls in a single row. Since her participation in the 1997 Whitney Biennial, Sikander has received accolades for her paintings and installations, which reflect her training in Lahore, Pakistan, as a painter of classical miniatures. The series brings together techniques associated with the miniature—precise delineation,

minutely rendered details—and mathematically based forms associated with the Euro-American movements of Constructivism and Minimalism.

Sikander exuberantly explores the circle and the rectangle, both as geometric figures that dominate compositions and as motifs in more intricate arrangements. In the process, she raises questions about accepted art-historical categories. For example, when we are faced with two drawings of grids, one composed of squares filled with delicate linear patterns and the other of stylized flowers, the terms *abstract* and *representational* could easily apply to both.

Tightly hung, the drawings read as frames from a film that we are viewing in slow motion. A sequence that demonstrates the evolution of forms over time, this cinematic approach connects the drawings to *Pursuit Curve* (2004), a witty projected digital animation, also on view, in which objects—birds, turbans, figures—metamorphose within colorful schematic landscapes. An exceptional testament to the vibrant contemporary South Asian art scene in New York, "51 Ways of Looking" demonstrates that, at least when it comes to ways of looking at art, the categories of culturally specific and universal have become totally irrelevant. —Eugenie Tsai

Yves Klein, "Air Architecture"
Storefront for Art and Architecture, through Apr 23 (see Soho).

The conceit has a Seinfeldian ring to it: an architecture about nothing. To be fair, Yves Klein's little-known project, "Air Architecture," is not actually about nothing; it is about air, intended to billow up from inside inflatable platforms and blow across the city, creating an invisible roof to fend off precipitation and maintain consistent temperatures. The resulting cityscape would provide the optimal conditions for a "new Eden," a temperate, open-air space with utopian potential. Given Klein's obsession with nudity (see, for example, his "Anthropometries," paintings created with the inked-up bodies of nubile young women), it's not hard to imagine that this Eden would, like the original, be clothing-optional.

The show is as austere as you might imagine. A single vitrine runs the gallery's length, starting thin and gradually widening to accommodate letters related to the project, patent certificates for Klein's air blowers and large-scale drawings by

Klein in collaboration with architect Claude Parent. (Parent, along with fellow-architect Werner Ruhnau and engineer Roger Tallon, must be commended for enabling some of Klein's more far-flung ideas, and for helping to make them, if not quite feasible, at least conceptually sound.)

The audacity of "Air Architecture" will come as a surprise to no one familiar with Klein's brash oeuvre. Others may be put off by his tightrope walk between the inspired and the inane. Still, the show is worth seeing for its contribution to a period—mid-1960s French experimental architecture—that has been criminally overlooked. —Noah Chasin



Yves Klein & Werner Ruhnau, *Fire Wall Experiment*, Kupperbusch Factory, Germany, 1958

Listings

IF YOU WANT TO BE LISTED

Submit information by mail, e-mail (art@timeoutny.com) or fax (646-432-3160) to **Julia Westerbeke**. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest subways, telephone number and admission price, if any. **Deadline is 6pm on Monday, ten days before publication date.** Incomplete submissions will not be included, and listings information will not be accepted over the phone.

HOW TO USE THIS SECTION

The following is a selection of this week's exhibitions and events. For more museums, see the Around Town, Museums section.

★=Recommended

Museums & Institutions

Asia Society

725 Park Ave at 70th St (212-327-9276). *Subway:* 6 to 68th St—Hunter College. *Tue–Thu, Sat, Sun 11am–6pm; Fri 11am–9pm. \$7, students and seniors \$5, children under 16 accompanied by an adult and members free.* **"Imperial Elegance: Chinese Ceramics from the Asia Society's Rockefeller Collection."** Approximately 40 ceramics, porcelains and stonewares designed to please the regal eye, dating from the late 11th to the early 18th century. Through Apr 24. ★**Michael Joo, "Bodhi Obfuscatus (Space-Baby)."** An installation inspired by the museum's collection of sculpture. Through May 1. ★**"Edge of Desire: Recent Art in India."** Works produced by Indian artists in their native country since 1993. **Nilima Sheikh** and **Atul Dodiya** are included. Curated by Chaitanya Sambrani (see also Queens Museum of Art). Through Jun 5.

Bronx Museum of the Arts

1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St, Bronx (718-681-6000). *Subway:* B, D, 4 to 167th St. *Wed noon–9pm; Thu–Sun noon–6pm. \$5 suggested donation, students and seniors \$3, children under 12 accompanied by an adult and members free; Wednesdays free.* **"Collection Remixed."** **"S-T-E-R-E-O-V-I-E-W: Javier Téllez in Collaboration with Patients of the Bronx Psychiatric Center."** An animated photonovella that includes 19th-century stereoscopic cards featuring images of African-Americans. **"Romare Bearden: New York Scenes."** Watercolors that were commissioned for the opening credits of Casavetes's 1980 film *Gloria*, set in the Bronx and upper Manhattan. All, through Jun 5.

Brooklyn Museum

200 Eastern Pkwy, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn (718-638-5000). *Subway:* 2, 3 to Eastern Pkwy—Brooklyn Museum. *Wed–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat, Sun 11am–6pm; first Saturday of each month 11am–11pm. \$6, students and seniors \$3, members and children under 12 free; first Saturdays 5–11pm free.* ★**Basquiat.** What started with graffiti poetry in lower Manhattan became a skyrocketing—if short-lived—career for Jean-Michel Basquiat, an art star of the 1980s who died at the young age of 27. Approximately 70 of his Neo-Expressionist paintings, which are informed by sources as diverse as Leonardo da Vinci and hip-hop, are installed at the museum. Through Jun 5.

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

2 E 91st St at Fifth Ave (212-849-8400). *Subway:* 6 to 96th St. *Tue–Thu 10am–5pm; Fri 10am–9pm; Sat 10am–6pm; Sun noon–6pm. \$10, students and seniors \$7, children under 12 free.* **"Extreme Textiles: Designing for High Performance."** Artists, designers, scientists and engineers come together for an

exhibit that highlights the spectrum of contemporary design, with a heavy emphasis on innovative textiles. Peruse future apparel for explorers, while contemplating a winged suit designed for "sky-flying." Curated by Matilda McQuaid. Fri 8–Jan 15, 2006.

Dahesh Museum of Art

580 Madison Ave between 56th and 57th Sts (212-759-0606). *Subway:* B, D, F, V to 47–50th Sts—Rockefeller Ctr. *Tue–Sun 11am–6pm; first Thursday of each month 11am–9pm. \$9, students with ID and seniors over 62 with ID \$4, children and members free, first Thursdays are pay-what-you-wish 6–9pm.* **"First Seen: Photographs of the World's Peoples, 1840–1880."** Snapped in the nascent stages of photography, these 250 photographic portraits represent some of Westerners' earliest looks at people from around the globe. Curated by Karen Sinshemer and Kathleen Stewart Howe and organized by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Through May 1.

The Frick Collection

1 E 70th St at Fifth Ave (212-288-0700). *Subway:* 6 to 68th St—Hunter College. *Tue–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun 1–6pm. \$12, seniors \$8, students \$5. No children under 10.* ★**"Renaissance and Baroque Bronzes from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge."** The Frick hosts its own British invasion with 36 of the Fitzwilliam Museum's bronzes from Renaissance and Baroque masters, among them **Alessandro Algardi**, "Animals in Combat," **Giovanni Francesco Susini**'s late-Renaissance bronzes *Lion Attacking a Horse* and *Leopard Attacking a Bull* are the focus of this ferocious exhibit, which also bares its claws with a selection of contemporary prints, drawings and books. Both, through Apr 24.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

1071 Fifth Ave at 89th St (212-423-3500). *Subway:* 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. *Sat–Wed 10am–5:45pm; Fri 10am–8pm. Closed Thursday. \$15, students and seniors with valid ID \$10, children under 12 accompanied by an adult free. Fri 5–8pm voluntary donation.* ★**"The Hugo Boss Prize 2004: Rirkrit Tiravanija."** Tiravanija gets us involved in the artistic process, whether he's cooking us a dish or letting us enjoy a little downtime in one of his environments. Here, a micro-television station is featured. Through May 11. **"Kandinsky Gallery: An Inaugural Selection."** Pieces from the largest U.S. collection of Vasily Kandinsky's work, in a permanent gallery devoted to the artist. Through May 11. ★**"Recent Acquisitions: Slater Bradley's Doppelgänger Trilogy."** The artist restages performances by Michael Jackson, Kurt Cobain and Ian Curtis of Joy Division in his video installation. Through May 22. ★**"The Eye of the Storm: Works in Situ by Daniel Buren."** Buren's mirrored installation rises from the floor of the rotunda to the top of the sixth ramp, inserting a bit of the city's grid inside Frank Lloyd Wright's spiraling architecture. Paintings and works installed in windows are also exhibited (see Reviews). Through Jun 8.

International Center of Photography

1133 Sixth Ave at 43rd St (212-857-0001). *Subway:* B, D, F, V to 42nd St—Bryant Park; N, Q, R, W, 42nd St S, 1, 2, 3, 9, 7 to 42nd St—Times Sq (W weekdays only). *Tue–Thu 10am–5pm; Fri 10am–8pm; Sat, Sun 10am–6pm. \$10, students and seniors \$7, members and children under 12 free; Fri 5–8pm voluntary contribution.* ★**"Larry Clark."** Director of *Kids* and longtime photographer Clark gives an unflinching look at teenage sex, violence and masculinity. From his early Tulsa shots, which owe a debt to Diane Arbus and Robert Frank, to his later series of NYC skater kids this show of photos, collages, films and more is sure to shock and enthrall (see also Chelsea, Clamp Art). Through Jun 5.

Japan Society

333 E 47th St between First and Second Aves (212-752-3015). *Subway:* E, V to Lexington Ave—53rd St; 6 to 51st St. *Tue–Fri 11am–6pm; Sat, Sun 11am–5pm. \$5, students and*