

# Overnight

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW 94 DAY 3: ART/ARCHITECTURE

## SPACES AND PLACES



**ALL EARS:** Jonathan Borofsky's *Self Portrait with Big Ears* (above) was featured at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, while an elaborate cross (right) was among the works included in "African Zion: The Sacred Art of Ethiopia," an exhibition at the African American Museum.



### JANET KUTNER'S TOP TO ART EXHIBITS

1. "Impressionist Masterpieces from the Barnes Collection: Cezanne to Matisse" at the Kimbell Art Museum — A once-in-a-lifetime exhibition of paintings that are unlikely to leave their Merion, Pa., home again, including 21 Cezannes, 17 Renoirs and 18 Matisse, for starters.
2. "Silver in America, 1840-1940: A Century of Splendor," on view through Jan. 29 at the Dallas Museum of Art — One of the most dazzling shows the DMA has ever organized, and one of the most significant historically, given the keen insight it provides into the life of the times.
3. "Tomb Treasures from China: The Burial Art of Ancient X'pan," on view through Feb. 12 at the Kimbell Art Museum — Spectacular objects from the tombs of ancient Chinese royalty, including six warriors and one horse from the remarkable life-size terra-cotta army made to guard the tomb of China's first emperor 2,000 years ago.
4. "Origins of Impressionism," on view through Jan. 8 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York — An exciting glimpse of the very moment when artists such as Degas, Monet and Renoir abandoned the academic traditions of Salon painting and set out in their own direction.
5. "William de Kooning: Paintings," on view through Jan. 8 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art — Fifty years of major accomplishments by a towering figure who is one of the last surviving members of the Abstract Expressionist generation.
6. "Jesse: A Grand Collage, 1951-1993," at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York — A long-overdue tribute to an eccentric Bay Area artist whose enigmatic paintings are a microcosm of contemporary culture.
7. "Drawing Rooms: Jonathan Borofsky, Bol Lewitt, Richard Serra," on view through Dec. 31 at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth — Three of the most important American talents to emerge during the 1970s III look-to-calling with their site-specific artworks, charging the nondescript building with new vitality.
8. "African Zion: The Sacred Art of Ethiopia" at the African American Museum — Vibrant panel paintings, imposing processional crosses and elaborate illustrated manuscripts reflecting the rich religious and cultural history of a country that has endured many hardships in recent years.
9. "Dale Chihuly: Installations 1964-1992" at the Dallas Museum of Art — Spectacular fests in blown glass by the pre-eminent master of the craft — and a crowd-pleaser that kept them coming back for more, even in the dog days of summer.
10. "Spanish Polychrome Sculpture 1500-1800 in United States Collections" at the Meadows Museum — The first U.S. exhibition ever devoted to these images of weeping virgins, suffering Christs and pensive saints, and also several art installations and events.

### New venues, purchases highlight the year in art

By Janet Kutner  
Art Critic of The Dallas Morning News

The most exciting event this year was the November opening of the new alternative space known as the McKinney Avenue Contemporary. Free of the constraints imposed on larger institutions, the multidisciplinary facility instills new vitality into a lagging contemporary-art scene. This frees the museums to do more in the way of major exhibitions and collection building. The past year's record will be hard to beat.

The Kimbell Art Museum's spectacular Barnes Collection exhibition drew 430,000 visitors, topping all previous attendance records for an art show in Texas. The Dallas Museum of Art's Dale Chihuly glass exhibition attracted 55,000 visitors, making it the DMA's seventh-largest attraction in 10 years. More than 54,000 people saw the African American Museum's exhibition of Ethiopian Christian art, giving the new Fair Park facility the higher visibility it deserves.

Despite a depressed art market, the Kimbell sold a Tintoretto painting for \$910,000 at auction. It also did some heavy buying. Acquisitions included an African terra-cotta head and modernist paintings by Joan Miro and Piet Mondrian.

The DMA significantly expanded its Asian holdings when it acquired 54 Japanese objects from the renowned John R. Young Collection of Dallas. The museum also got an ancient Egyptian coffin, a 19th-century landscape by John Frederick Kensett, an early abstraction by Georgia O'Keeffe, a dramatic sculpture by contemporary artist Anish Kapoor, and a painting by Houston artist Brian Portman.

The Amon Carter Museum added another Remington bronze to its extensive collection of Wild West art; the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth bought major Georg Baselitz and Philip Guston paintings; the Meadows Museum acquired a baroque canvas by Juan Bautista Maíno.

Few disruptions were felt, but lots of museum staff changes took place. At the DMA, deputy directors Clay Johnson and Susan Barnes resigned, decorative arts curator Charles Venable was named chief curator, and Ramona Austin of Chicago became curator of African art. Kimbell senior curator Colin Bailey was named chief curator at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa; Carter curator Doreen Bolger became director of the Rhode Island School of Design's Museum of Art; Carter assistant director Irvin Lippman is now director of the Columbus (Ohio) Museum of Art. Taking his job is Robert Workman of New York's American Federation of Arts.

Dallas artists Tom Orr and David Szafrański had a good year. Mr. Orr won \$50,000 in a Japanese sculpture competition; Mr. Szafrański received a \$10,000 fellowship from Northern Telecom.

Although the new MAC is run by Dallas Artists Research and Exhibition (DARE), it isn't taking a provincial approach. Current exhibitions of paintings by former East Village artist George Condo of Paris and of kitsch sculptures and wall collages by Larry Mantello of Los Angeles are exposing area audiences to works that haven't been seen here before.

This fresh approach bodes well for the future.



Kimbell Art Museum