

HANGING AROUND

AUC's Book Fair

THE American University in Cairo's (AUC) Holiday Book Fair Week starts tomorrow and runs till December 10 from 10am to 6pm daily at the AUC Press bookstores in Downtown, Zamalek and the New Cairo Campus. The Holiday Book Fair Week features new publications, gift books and bargain books.

Japanese traditional art at the Opera

A JAPANESE traditional arts concert is being held in the Main Hall, Cairo Opera House, (2739-0144 - 2390-7707), tonight at 8:00.

Sawy activities

SAWY Cultural Wheel, end of 26 July St., Zamalek, is holding a ceremony to commemorate children's literature pioneer Kamel el-Kelany, who died fifty years ago. The ceremony will take place in the Wood Hall at 6pm.

The Earth Hall, meanwhile, is hosting a plastic arts exhibition entitled 'Between Doubt and Uncertainty', by artist Islam Mohamed. The exhibition runs until December 9 and is open from 9am to 8pm daily.

Paper voyage at Bibliotheca Alexandrina

THE Great Hall of Bibliotheca Alexandrina will be the venue for a concert by Rezodanse Centre tonight at 8:00.

The Multipurpose Hall is hosting an exhibition entitled 'The Paper Voyage'. The exhibition displays paper through history and includes a workshop about paper manufacturing. It's open from 11am to 7pm.

The end of the world is nigh!

NEVER before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, religions, scientists and governments. A global cataclysm brings an end to the world and tells of the heroic struggle of the survivors. The new Hollywood production 2012 gives you an idea what the end of the world might look like. The movie 2012 is now showing at the Odeon Cinema (02-2575-8797).



A scene from 2012

Dear readers, you are welcome to contribute your ideas and feedback to Friday's Weekender page. Please contact us at: weekendergt@gmail.com



'Il Corpus Homanus': A painting entitled Nostalgia by Sami Abou el-Azm (L) and three works by Ibrahim el-Dessouqi: Living Cairo (R), Sleeping in Green (bottom L) and Portrait in Yellow (bottom R).



A very human exhibition

Yousra el-Sharkawy

PRIMITIVE man lived in his cave. Like humans today, he was sensitive and had feelings, although he didn't always know how to express himself. But he was able to do sketches with the theme of the human body.



Later on, the Pharaohs, Romans and peoples of the other great empires were all interested in the same theme. Ancient temples and palaces all have paintings of the human body on their walls.

And now, in December 2009, 'Il Corpus Homanus' (The Human Body) is the theme of an exhibition being held in Behler's Mansion in Zamalek.

"The human body has been a rich source of inspiration for artists since the dawn of time, starting with prehistoric rock art. Then there was Ancient Egyptian Art, followed by the art of many different civilisations and cultures - Coptic, Persian, Far Eastern, European and many more. All of this has had an influence on contemporary artists," says Waleed Abdel-Khalek, the founder of Al-Masara Gallery.

This exhibition features works by exceptional artists, which take the audience by

stem. The human body, this exhibition's theme, is by no means new, but what is new is the different, contemporary style, never seen before in Egypt.

The featured artists all have great vision, inspired by their Egyptian heritage, the Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt.

"I believe that even Islamic calligraphy has a close connection with the human body. The way the words and letters move has something to do with the human form. That's why we've also got Arabic calligraphy in the exhibition," Abdel-Khalek explains.

Capitalising on 20 years of experience in curating and promoting modern and contemporary Egyptian art, Abdel-Khalek has transformed this turn-of-the-last-century space into a unique exhibition venue.

"The gallery is located in the famous Behler's Mansion in the heart of Zamalek, a district much loved by Cairo's literati, as it's home to a wealth of bookstores, theatres, fine arts and music universities, the Opera House, the Cairo Library and the National Museum of Modern Arts," he adds.

Seven artists are participating in Al-Masara's 12th exhibition, 'Il Corpus Homanus'. "Working with artists makes you learn more about them and their works. So the first thing I do is to think of an idea, then about the artist who will suit this idea," stresses Abdel-Khalek, who has held many exhibitions in Egypt and abroad.

The seven artists

Ibrahim el-Dessouqi was born in 1969 in Cairo, where he still lives and works. The artist is a painter with a highly condensed style in portraiture, still-life painting and landscape.

Essam Darwish was born in 1970 in Cairo. He holds a PhD in art, specialising in sculpture, and is one of the most prominent and promising names in this field.

His presence has graced many exhibitions, with his statues of Taha Hussein and Saleh Selim, the Egyptian football star, holding pride of place. The human body has always been one of Darwish's inspirations.

Sami Abul Azm, born in 1967 in Cairo, graduated from the Faculty of Fine Art. He is

a member of the Fine Art Artists' Association and has participated in many group exhibitions nationwide.

Nermin Hanmam is a young woman who has studied fine arts and filmmaking. Her photographic works are exceptional.

Haytham Nawar was born in 1978 in el-Gharbia Governorate in the Delta. Nawar, a fine arts graduate, specialising in printmaking, is now working on a Master's in media arts in Zurich.

Karim el-Quraishi, born 1982 in Cairo, graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, specialising in painting. El-Quraishi has participated in several group exhibitions nationwide.

Sameh Ismail, born in 1974, can best be described as a master of calligraphy on canvas. "Al-Masara Gallery holds exhibitions which define contemporary Egyptian art," says Abdel-Khalek proudly.



The exhibition 'Il Corpus Homanus', being held in Al-Masara Gallery of Contemporary Art, Behler's Mansion, 157B, 26 July St., ground floor, side entrance, Zamalek (02-2736-8537), is open daily from 11am till 9pm except today. It runs until next Monday.

Dutch and Belgian treats

Ihab Shaarawy

THIS month the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo is organising two important cinematic events. The first will be the screening of the Dutch movie *As a Fly Drawn to the Flame*, by the Dutch director Barbara Haas.

The 67-minute film will be screened on December 8 at 6:30pm at Netherlands-Flemish Institute, Dr Mahmoud Armi St, Zamalek.

The movie explores the life of the exceptional 19th century Dutchwoman Alexandrine Timme, an affluent young lady

who flew in the face of all societal convention by setting off for the deserts of Africa.

Through archival photographs, the film constructs a portrait of this enthusiastic traveller, who was the first European woman to attempt to cross the Sahara. Tragically, her incredible life was cut short when she was murdered by robbers at the age of only 35.

The director will introduce the film and she will take questions from the audience.

The film 'As a Fly Drawn to the Flame' is made from the perspective of one who stayed at home, and who, having read Alexandrine's

letters, imagines what happened. Photography dictates the form of the film.

The second event will take place on December 22, when the Netherlands-Flemish Institute will organise a screening of one-minute films in co-operation with the One Minutes Belgian Open Film Festival.

This novel genre consists of films of exactly 60 seconds.

A selection of one-minute movies in different categories (art, narrative, documentary, animation, self-portrait, visual effects) will be screened, starting at 6:30pm.

DINING OUT IN TOWN

Lounging around the Asian way

ENJOY the Asian food concept at the CityStars InterContinental Lounge. The Lounge is a unique and impressive air-conditioned outdoor outlet and night spot offering tantalising flavours, along with Mediterranean snacks and tapas, as well as an extensive selection of cocktails and wines, all with live DJ music.

Besides the Lounge, the InterContinental Citystars Hotel also offers all kinds of restaurants, bars, coffee shops, a casino, health clubs and swimming pools. It's located right next door to Stars Centre, the largest retail and leisure complex in the Middle East.

The restaurants include the Maestro Italian restaurant for Italian Cuisine and the Shogun Japanese restaurant for Sushi Teppanyaki and Sashimi.

If you fancy something from the Levant, then don't miss out on the Fayruz Lebanese restaurant where you can discover the wonderful taste of Lebanese cuisine.

Cairo:

Museum and Restaurants Taj Al Sultan Royal flavours of Arabia and India, 1, Al-Azhar square, Al-Husseini, Cairo. Tel: 27877273-27877275

Koshary Abou Tarek

Serves koshary, one of Egypt's main dishes, 16, Maarouf St., Champollion, downtown Cairo. Tel.: 2576-1911 - 2577-5935 www.aboutarek.com

Rainforest Cafe

An American theme restaurant with an amazing international menu that serves all ages and different tastes. City Stars Centre, 5th floor. Tel: 2480-2560 / 2480-2561.

Massala

Authentic Indian cuisine prepared by Indian chefs. Mohamed Ebeid St., off Nozha St., Heliopolis. Tel: 2690-6453 - 2690-6457.

Il Pennello Cafe

Serves Italian dishes, Heliopolis: 2241-7603. Mohandiseen: 3303-8696.

Condetti

Italian international restaurant 10, Road No. 82 off Road No. 6 - Maadi Tel: 2359 2440.

Torii Japanese Restaurant

Serving nutritious sushi, sashi-miand noodle dishes Open daily for lunch & dinner Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino. Tel: 2739-4631.

Alexandria:

Athinos

One of the oldest patisseries in Alexandria, featuring Greek food. Tel.: (03) 486-8131- (03) 486-0421.

Delices

Serves pastries and cakes. Tel.: (03) 482-1432 - 481-5460.

Christina's

Delightful Gemra n-style restaurant with a small, cozy garden. Tel.: (03) 433-2014.

Wake up to The Gazette

The Egyptian Gazette and its weekly edition the Egyptian Mail have the pleasure to inform their readers that subscription rates are as follows:

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GAMES

Shakespeare: Macbeth

Find and circle all of the words relating to Macbeth that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message - a quotation from Macbeth.



ANGUS
APPARITIONS
BANQUO
BIRNAM WOOD
BLOOD
CAITHNESS
CAPTAIN
CASTLE
CAULDRON
CAWDR
COLMKILL
CONSCIENCE
CUMBERLAND
DAGGER
DOCTOR
DONALBAIN
DUNCAN
DUNSINANE
ENGLAND
FLEANCE
GENTLEWOMAN
GLAMIS
GUILT
HEATH
HECATE

INVERNESS
IRELAND
LADY MACBETH
LADY MACDUFF
LENNOX
MACBETH
MADNESS
MALCOLM
MENTEITH
MURDERERS
NORWAY
PORTER
PROPHECY
QUEEN
REGICIDE
ROSS
SCONE
SCOTLAND
SEYTON
SWARD
SLEEPWALKING
SOULLOQUY
THANE
WEIRD SISTERS



Spot the differences
Can you spot the 11 differences between these pictures?