

FEATURES



Visitors to the American Museum of Natural History view a diorama of a shark swimming above a coral reef in the exhibit "Cuba!" Tuesday in New York.



A visitor to the American Museum of Natural History views posters in the show, "Cuba!"



A 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air is displayed in the exhibit "Cuba!" at the American Museum of Natural History.— AP photos

American Museum of Natural History to host Cuba exhibit

The American Museum of Natural History is presenting a bilingual exhibit that explores Cuba's biodiversity and culture. The exhibition is called "Cuba!" and opens Nov 21. It was developed in collaboration with Cuba's National Museum of Natural History under an agreement signed in the summer in Havana. The wide-ranging exhibition includes photographs and quotes from Cubans, a display on the cultivation of tobacco, a film about Cuba's history and lifelike models representing the island's wildlife.

"What we wanted with this exhibit is to take people beyond the headlines to what they may not know or expect about Cuba," said curator Ana Luz Porzecanski, director of the museum's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation. "Cuba is much more than its wonderful music or Cuban cigars or old cars. Cuba is also a fascinating nation of remarkable biodiversity." The exhibit discusses a shrew-like mammal called an almiqui, which

secretes venomous saliva through a groove in its front teeth, and the bee hummingbird, considered the smallest bird in the world, among other creatures.

The United States and Cuba, a Caribbean island nation, are just 90 miles apart but had frigid relations for decades. They announced in December 2014 that they were restoring diplomatic ties, which were broken in 1961 after Fidel Castro took power in Cuba and installed a communist government. Porzecanski said the exhibit is not necessarily a result of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the nations although "that was helpful to our joint work." The museum, she said, has been collaborating with Cuban colleagues for more than 100 years. Esther Perez Lorenzo, director of the Cuban museum, said that cooperation will continue. The exhibit will run through Aug 13, 2017. — AP



A Cuban Carnival costume is displayed at the American Museum of Natural History exhibit, "Cuba!"



Green anoles rest on a branch in a terrarium at the American Museum of Natural History in the exhibit "Cuba!"

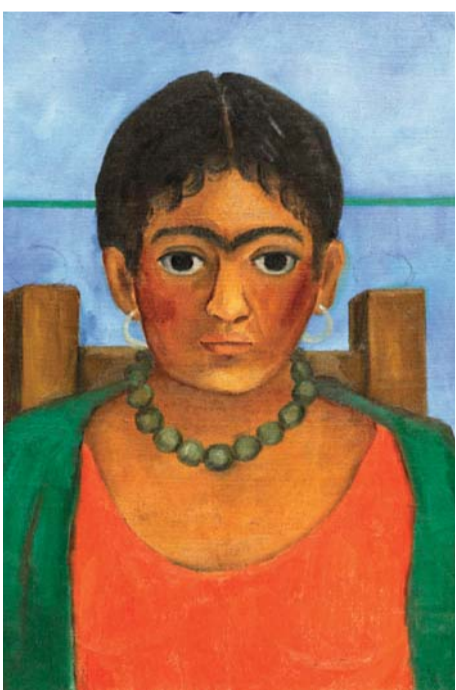


School children play dominoes at the exhibit "Cuba!"



A visitor to the American Museum of Natural History views a display of a tobacco harvest in the exhibit "Cuba!"

Rediscovered Kahlo painting is going to auction in NY



This undated image provided by Sotheby's shows a rediscovered painting by Frida Kahlo that is going to auction in New York. — AP photos

A rediscovered painting by Frida Kahlo is going to auction this month in New York. The 1929 portrait, called "Nina con collar" or "Girl with necklace," will be part of Sotheby's Latin America: Modern Art sale on Nov 22. Its pre-sale estimate is \$1.5 million to \$2 million. Kahlo's husband, artist Diego Rivera, gave the work to her personal assistant in 1955, the year after she died. Until it surfaced over the summer, the only record of the portrait had been a black-and-white photo.

The work was painted before Kahlo and Rivera were married; they had no children, according to Axel Stein, Sotheby's head of Latin American Art. The unknown, unsmiling, wide-eyed model, perhaps 14 or 15 years old, appears to represent a young Kahlo. She is wearing the artist's jade necklace and possibly her earrings, said Stein. The subject also is depicted with dark, distinctive eyebrows resembling Kahlo's. The painting is about 22 inches by 18 inches. "I never imagined it would surface and turn out to be such a beautiful and warm painting," Stein said. "The blues are strikingly beautiful and intense," he said. "The vermilion is very, very sharp."

The owner hung it in a darkened bedroom in Sunnyvale, California, for six decades; because of her art expertise, she knew it should be kept out of the light. "The sun is the worst enemy of paintings," Stein said. "When she took it out it was beautifully preserved, like it was made yesterday." — AP

Experts disagree on authenticity of new Van Gogh sketches

Art experts are disagreeing as to whether a book of previously unpublished drawings reported to be by Dutch master Vincent Van Gogh is authentic or fake. The book, "The Lost Arles Sketchbook," collated by eminent Canadian art historian Bogomila Welsh-Ovcharov, is being published internationally after reportedly being found in the southern French city of Arles near a hotel where Van Gogh used to stay.

Welsh-Ovcharov said the sketches appeared in an account book belonging to Mister and Missus Ginoux, owners of the "Cafe de la Gare," to whom Van Gogh gave numerous works. "I started to look through all the drawings and each one

had his fingerprint," she said, calling it an "OMG moment" at Tuesday's press conference in Paris.

According to the University of Toronto website, Welsh-Ovcharov has taught art history for 25 years and has created several Van Gogh exhibitions, including one at the Musee d'Orsay in Paris. However, Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum Director Axel Ruger says its experts have been aware of these drawings since 2008 and after examination they have repeatedly concluded that the previously-unknown sketches are complete fakes. The museum said the drawings don't reflect Van Gogh's development at the time. He says the drawings use original brownish ink when Van Gogh used only black or purple ink that only later appeared brown because of age. The museum also said its experts deemed the drawing style "monotonous, clumsy, and spiritless" with basic topographic errors.



Copies of the book titled 'Vincent Van Gogh The lost Arles Sketchbook' are displayed.



Art historian and Van Gogh specialist Bogomila Welsh-Ovcharov poses with the book 'Vincent Van Gogh The lost Arles Sketchbook', during a press conference held in Paris, France. — AP photos

Splash 'Into the Wild'

Winter '16 fashion show at Fashion Forward Dubai

Fashion explores the wild side of the urban lifestyle this winter. It's fascinating to know that within the urban landscape that we live in exists different people who represent varied aspects of fashion. This season the recently concluded Splash 'Into the Wild' show explored various trends that really captured the essence of the urban jungle dweller.

A highlight event at Fashion Forward Dubai, Season 8, the Splash runway was replete with artistic tree installations and all black background which set the mood for the incoming season. Keeping it in sync with the band's true style, the show was followed by an after-party.

The dominant trends featured at Winter '16 fashion Show for women were: Global Traveler- the 70's vibe is strong with long lines in rich spice tones like burgundy, burnt orange and teal. Be a glamorous nomad in pieces that highlight folklore and hand-crafted prints in suede and patchwork fabrics. Mix&Mix - Print on print in sporty elements is the all new rage and this trend is not for the weak-hearted. Think bright hues, mix and matched bold prints with embellished and very luxe details. Bombers jackets and pinafore are the key pieces in the line. Studio 54- The name says it all! All glam and fabulous dressed in sequins and shimmer. This trip down memory lane will leave of nostalgic of this roaring era

and the disco age. Metallics and shiny fabrics will rule the collection. All Black collection - The grunge inspired collection has an array of fabrics to experiment with. You will find leather, satin, silk georgette and spandex in key pieces like jackets, skirts, dresses and shirts.

The dominant trends featured at Winter '16 fashion Show for men were: Anti-fashion + future utility- As the name suggests this trend leans towards Normcore, clean lines and tone on tone looks for a more functional and practical approach to fashion. Oversized silhouettes, drop shoulder pieces are key in earthy tones like sand, black and olive. Tough 90's- This trend is DIY at its best. Flaunt your personal style and create pieces that is essentially you! Busted knee denims, DIY tracker jackets and tartan shirts are your staples which can be highlighted with grunge elements. Studio 54- This range is for the very dapper man who can carry of plush fabrics with Elan. Clean and sophisticated, the range is all about the glamour from the era and not exactly OTT. Outerwear is print heavy and luxe fabrics in key pieces like polos and blazers.

The collection presented on the runway will be available across all Splash stores in Centrepoint at Splash -The Avenues, Phase II and at Salam Mall- Salmiya.

