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Inside the UN headquarters, a treasure trove of art



The statue 'Good Defeats Evil'



Werner Schmidt of the United Nations discusses artworks at The United Nations. — AFP photos



The Fernand Leger murals in the General Assembly Hall

Marc Chagall, Henry Moore and Fernand Leger. In almost eight decades, the UN headquarters in New York has accumulated numerous artworks, making it home to a little-known but precious collection. The crises that nations deal with inside the center of international diplomacy are expressed through some of the 400 works, which have been donated by 150 of the 193 member countries. "We have an art collection that would be the envy of many museums in the world. And we are not a museum," says Werner Schmidt, who oversees the collection that tourists could partially visit

before the pandemic but which currently remains closed to the public.

The artworks represent historical moments, artistic trends and the particularities of donor countries, some of which have ceased to exist, such as East Germany, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Among the most spectacular is "War and Peace" by Brazilian artist Candido Portinari. The two murals frame the entrance to the General Assembly, the heart of the world body. "At the entrance the delegates see a landscape of war and despair and at the exit, a world in peace and harmony," Schmidt told AFP. It's an allegory of the goal of the UN since its creation in 1945: to settle disputes through dialogue.

Chagall himself went to the UN in 1964 to deliver his "Windows", a stained glass artwork that is now damaged but nobody knows how. It was part of a collection that UN officials put together after the death of former Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld and fifteen employees in a plane crash en route to negotiate a ceasefire in then Zaire in 1961. Sculptor Henry Moore's admiration for Hammarskjöld led him to donate his "Reclining Figure" statue to the UN and is on display in its gardens.

'Positive language'

A monumental work by American artist Barbara Hepworth, a rare woman represented among the artworks, also stands out. Other works include a daily scene from a Saudi desert oasis in solid gold, gifted by Saudi Arabia, and a sculptured gold palm tree with bunches of pearls in place of dates, which was donated by



The statue 'Rising Man'.

Bahrain. African pieces, a gigantic Chinese vase and furniture by renowned designers also enrich the collection. Some works reflect pivotal moments in a country's history such as a tapestry that depicts the horrors of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in 1986.

East German sculptor Fritz Cremer's "The Rising Man" was intended to be a celebration of the communist regime but aroused the hostility of intellectuals in the country. Nearby is the sculpture "Good Defeats Evil." Donated by the Soviet Union, it depicts St. George slaying a dragon and is built entirely from nuclear missile casings.

Two abstract frescoes by Leger flank the General Assembly amphitheater. Ex-

US president Harry Truman remarked that they resembled bacon and eggs and a rabbit being pulled from a hat. No one ever contradicted him, according to Schmidt. A tapestry depicting Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" greeted members at the entrance to the Security Council chamber as a haunting reminder of the horrors of war for almost four decades before it was returned to Nelson Rockefeller's heirs earlier this year. Any country can donate a work, as long as it's not offensive. "It has to be art that does not upset other member states. It has to be art that speaks to all, in the same positive language," says Schmidt. —AFP



A stainless window by Marc Chagall

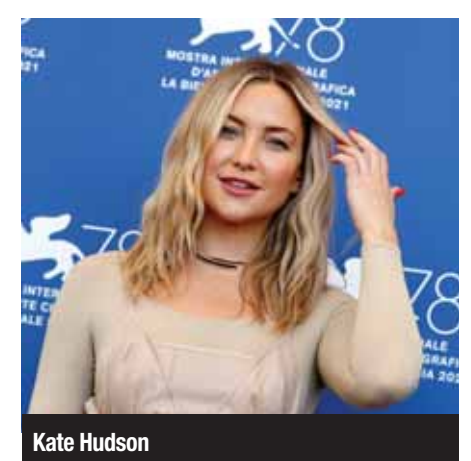
Ariana Grande's beauty line needed to feel 'super authentic' to her

Ariana Grande only wanted to release a beauty line if it felt "super authentic" to her. The 28-year-old Grammy-winner launches R.E.M. Beauty on Friday has admitted she wouldn't have invested herself in the venture if it didn't feel "super intentional". In a Zoom call to promote the brand witnessed by People, she explained: "It has to feel super intentional, super fuelled by passion and feel super authentic to me. "I've spent a lot of time in the make-up chair. Now to re-define my relationship and have my own version of it will hopefully inspire people to express themselves in a new way."



Ariana Grande

The 'positions' hitmaker went on to share how cooking up the products was very similar to writing a pop song "in a weird way". She said: "They're totally different outlets of storytelling but they hold hands in a weird way. When you're writing a song, [you're] spending time with the pre-chorus to make sure that the notes set up the hook in the proper way. Or making sure that the harmonies aren't fighting with the bells in the background. It's the same thing as putting together these formulas and making sure everything is complementary." On why she named the brand after her song of the same name from 2018's 'Sweetener' LP, she said: "I feel like that song really encompasses a lot of my favourite parts of my sound phonetically. Also, with rapid eye movement and focusing on dreams, eyes are our most effective communicators. "You can say more with the way that you look at someone than you can with words sometimes. —BangShowbiz



Kate Hudson

Kate Hudson is 'pre-planning' of her wedding

The 42-year-old actress is preparing to marry Danny Fujikawa and she admitted it takes a lot of organisation, so she's just starting to think about the things she will need to arrange for their big day. The 'Bride Wars' star told 'Entertainment Tonight': "You know what I'm doing? I'm pre-planning the planning. Just kind of thinking of what we want to do and then I'm going back and forth between like, what is this really going to look like? "Obviously, we're so excited. But the idea of planning a wedding is like, a lot, it's a lot. I made a whole movie about it." The 'Almost Famous' star has Ryder, 17, with ex-husband Chris Robinson, Bingham, 10, with former fiancé Matt Bellamy, and Rani, three, with Danny, and all the kids are looking forward to the wedding.

She added: "I think they're really excited. It was something they were really excited for, all of us, and I'm just really happy." Kate makes to-do lists to keep herself on track and thinks "structure" is key for her finding the right balance in her life. She said: "I have one of those crazy lives where I do a lot of things in one day and I'm scheduled to a T. "I don't want too many things happening. I like being with my kids, I like being able to do spontaneous things with my kids, so I think structure is what helps me balance the most." The 'Truth Be Told' actress is excited about a family Thanksgiving later this month. She said: "Thanksgiving, I think, is my favorite holiday, 'cause I love to cook. I love to bake, so I bake pies. "I love Thanksgiving, and I think it'll be really amazing this year because we'll actually be able to celebrate all together, which I'm really excited about." — Bang Showbiz

I Speak Club: Focuses on communication and leadership skills

I Speak Club was launched in 2016 in Kuwait through Toastmasters International Organization, an educational non-profit organization that established from 1924, in the States. The club's focuses advanced curricula offered by the organization in several languages, where the club adopts both Arabic and English. These educational curricula are presented in an interactive way that focuses on human skills, which are:

Communication skills

The abilities that use when providing or receiving various types of information, such as communicating ideas and feelings to other parties, or expressing what is happening around, and includes (public speaking, listening, using words and tone of voice, understanding body language, confidence, etc).

Leadership skills

Personal traits and basic abilities to achieve success and development, which focus on the process of organizing others and working with them to achieve a common goal, and includes (self-management, motivation, planning, responsibility, inspiration, decision-making, delegation, relationship building, Time management, problem solving, assignment of tasks, etc.).

Activity

Volunteer, non-profit, independent, based on community service, focused on providing a healthy educational environment to practice and develop communication and leadership skills in an interactive manner, as its activity is a stimulating and encouraging environment only.

Work style

The working style of the club is (organized and based on methodology). The club meets twice a month (the first and third week of every month throughout the year) in an official capacity, and its members work during those meetings to practice a set of educational roles in an interactive way to develop their communication and leadership skills through the organization's customized curriculum. Which can be followed up and obtained through the organization's website (www.toastmasters.com), where the member walks through educational stages chosen by himself, and works on them with the motivation of the rest of the members and the club officers.

The target audience

The club is open to all, but it is intend-

ed for those over (18) years old. The club focuses on those who suffer from speech challenges such as stammering and stuttering, fears of communicating with others and facing the public, and challenges of personal abilities such as self-confidence, commitment to time, planning, etc.

The future

The club's vision for the future is to expand by attracting more active members, as there will be more activities characterized by educational background and social interaction, as well as supporting members to face their own challenges, and most importantly creating more leaders in various areas of life to serve the community.