



Mona Lisa covered in cake in Louvre stunt

The Mona Lisa was smeared with cake at the weekend by a man in a woman's wig who jumped out of a wheelchair and said artists should focus more on the planet. Officials at the Louvre Museum in Paris, where the enigmatic portrait holds pride of place, declined to comment on Monday on the bizarre incident, which was captured on several phones and posted on social media on Sunday. The treasured work by Leonardo da Vinci, which has been the target of vandalism attempts in the past, was unharmed thanks to its protective bulletproof glass case.

A Twitter user identified as Lukeee posted a video showing a museum employee wiping what he says is cake off the glass and another showing a man dressed in white being escorted away by

security guards.

"A man dressed as an old lady jumps out of a wheelchair and attempted to smash the bulletproof glass of the Mona Lisa. Then proceeds to smear cake on the glass and throws roses everywhere, all before being tackled by security," Lukeee wrote. Speaking French, the man says: "There are people who are destroying the Earth... All artists, think about the Earth. That's why I did this. Think of the planet."

No image have emerged showing the actual incident. The Mona Lisa has been behind glass since a Bolivian man threw a rock at the painting in December 1956, damaging her left elbow. In 2005, it was placed in a reinforced case that also controls temperature and humidity. In 2009, a Russian woman threw an empty



teacup at the painting, which slightly scratched the case. The Louvre is the largest museum in the world, housing hundreds of thousands of works that

attracted some 10 million visitors a year before the Covid-19 pandemic. — AFP

Ukraine's Eurovision winners auction trophy for army

Ukraine's Kalush Orchestra, which won the Eurovision this year, has auctioned its trophy for a \$900,000 donation to a foundation that helps the Ukrainian army. The trophy—a large crystal microphone with the song contest's logo—was put up for auction on Facebook. The bidding ended Saturday night and was won by WhiteBIT, a Ukrainian bitcoin company. "You guys are amazing!" Kalush Orchestra wrote on Facebook late Sunday announcing the winner.

"Special thanks to the WhiteBIT team

who bought the trophy for \$900,000 (837,000 euros) and are now the rightful owners." The band said that funds raised in auction, which could be entered using cryptocurrencies, will be donated to the Prytula Foundation, which helps the Ukrainian army. The group Kalush Orchestra won the European contest on May 14 with its song "Stefania" mixing hip-hop and traditional music. Russia, which invaded Ukraine on February 24, was excluded from the competition. — AFP



36 years later, 'Top Gun' again tops N America box office

Much-anticipated action film "Top Gun: Maverick" was expected to have a big opening and it did not disappoint, taking in an estimated \$151 million in North America for the four-day Memorial Day weekend, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported. Viewers had to wait 36 years to see the sequel to the original "Top Gun," but critics say the Paramount/Skydance production was worth the wait, with some calling it superior to the original film. "The source material remains strong, the execution is excellent, and Tom Cruise makes it work impeccably well," said analyst David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

The film—whose release had been delayed two years by the Covid-19 pandemic—notched \$124 million for the first three days of the holiday weekend and took in the same amount overseas, despite not playing in China or Russia. It was Cruise's first opening to top \$100 million.

He again plays cocky (if grayer) navy test pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, now a captain, as he trains to bomb a rogue nation's uranium enrichment facility. A strong supporting cast includes Ed Harris, Jennifer Connelly, Miles Teller and Jon Hamm; original "Top Gun" veteran Val (Iceman) Kilmer appears briefly.

place, with \$5.9 million for three days and \$7.5 million for four. Based on the hugely popular British series, it again stars Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern and Michelle Dockery. And in fifth was Universal's family-friendly animation "The Bad Guys," at \$4.6 million for three days and



Slipping a notch to second place was "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," which in its fourth weekend took in \$16.4 million for the Friday-through-Sunday period and \$21.1 million for the full four days. The Disney film, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, had opened to a year's best \$187 million. In third spot was 20th Century's new "Bob's Burgers Movie." The animated film, based on a popular television show, earned \$12.6 million for three days and \$15 million for four. Focus Features' "Downton Abbey: A New Era" took fourth

\$6.1 million for four. Rounding out the top 10 were:

"Sonic the Hedgehog 2" (\$2.5 million for three days; \$3.1 million for four)
 "Everything Everywhere All at Once" (\$2.5 million; \$3.1 million)
 "The Lost City" (\$1.8 million; \$2.3 million)
 "Men" (\$1.2 million; \$1.5 million)
 "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore" (\$905,000; \$1.1 million)

—AFP



Rut Larsson and her tandem partner Joackim Johansson from Linköping's parachute club pose for a picture before their jump in Motala.

Rut Larsson and her tandem partner Joackim Johansson from Linköping's parachute club perform their parachute jump.

Daredevil granny, 103, beats record for parachute jump



A 103-year-old Swedish woman on Sunday set the world record for the oldest person to complete a tandem parachute jump, saying she planned to celebrate "with a little cake". "It was won-

derful to do this, I've been thinking about it for a long time," Rut Larsson told Swedish news agency TT, adding: "It all went as planned."

With family and friends waiting on the

airfield below, Larsson completed her jump harnessed to parachutist Joackim Johansson in Motala, 240 kilometers (150 miles) southwest of Stockholm. The pair sailed down to the ground smoothly, as helpers rushed to Larsson's side with her walker to help her get up.

Asked what she saw and felt as she came down, Larsson replied: "Nowadays I don't see so well, but it felt good". She said she liked "that you slowly glide down from above, I think it feels nice." An official from the Guinness Book of World Records was on hand to record the jump. Larsson, who is 103 years and 259 days old, beat the previous record of 103 years and 181 days. — AFP



Rut Larsson and her tandem partner Joackim Johansson from Linköping's parachute club complete their parachute jump on a field in Motala.



103-year-old Rut Larsson (center) from Mjölby is given her record certificate by Joanne Brent (right), controller at Guinness world records, and celebrates with parachutists from Linköping's parachute club after she completed her jump in Motala, Sweden. — AFP photos