Hany Armanious, "Birth of Venus"

Foxy Production, through June 26 (see Chelsea)

During my visit to Hany Armanious’s "Birth of Venus," gallery director Michael Gillespie leapt up from behind his desk to make sure I knew that every object in the Australian-based artist’s show was not what it appeared to be. The heads-up was judicious; even a close inspection of these wryly malleable works might not reveal that, with one or two exceptions, their components are cast from polyurethane resin. Aligning the quasimagical instantiation of the casting process with the mythical emergence of beauty depicted in Botticelli’s titular canvas, Armanious attempts to trump the comparative pulchritude in present-day flotsam and jetsam. His primary tool in eliciting this inner light is an extraordinary verisimilitude that throws the entire enterprise of object-making into question by confusing origins with ends.

Party Pooper is typical, a lopsided three-legged table supporting the avatars of an old ashtray, a large shellfish and other humble tomens. Effigy of an Effigy with Mirage features a large, Picasso-esque bust, sitting next to a table draped with a hole, the top of which has something resembling a crystal vase taped into place. Only a quartet of “Sneeze Paintings” breaks the mold. Though also made in part from resin, they’re not casts but rather the results of a more “active” process, in which the transparent material is frozen in splashed-like forms that trace the explosive force of human reflex. Armanious’s choices might sound arbitrary, but his combination of impeccable technique and sensitive arrangement amplifies an effectively countervuitive poetry.—Michael Wilson

Listings

If you want to be listed
Submit information by mail or e-mail (art@timeoutnewyork.com) for T.J. Garlin. Include details, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest subways, contact information and admission price, if any. Deadline is 6pm Monday, ten days before publication date. Incomplete submissions will not be included, and listings information will not be accepted over the phone.

Listings are chosen at the discretion of the editors. TONY does not accept compensation of any kind in exchange for listing events or venues.

How to use this section
The following is a selection of this week’s exhibitions and events. For more museums, see the Own This City, Museums section.

Recommended
Cheap
Video For video clips, reviews and more, log on to timeoutnewyork.com/video.

Art museums & institutions

FOR OTHER MUSEUMS AND INSTITUTIONS, SEE OWN THIS CITY

American Folk Art Museum
45 W 53rd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-265-1040, folkartmuseum.org). Subway: E to Fifth Ave–53rd St, or T, S to 59th St–Columbus Ave. Hours: Tue–Sun 10am–5:30pm. Closed Jan 1, Thanksgiving, Dec 24–25. $7, seniors $6, students $5, children under 12 free. Fri 5–9pm.

Private Collection of Henry Danger
The pieces this inclusive artist woke up to every morning constitute the work in this show. Through Sept 18.

Folk Art by Female Hands
Through Sept 12.

Asia Society
725 Park Ave at 70th St (212-288-6400, asiassoc.org). Subway: 6 to 68th St–Sutton Place, T–Q. Hours: Tue–Sun 10am–5:30pm. $10, students $8, seniors $7, children under 12 free. Fri 5–9pm.

Mariko Mori: Kumano
One of Mori’s early video works demonstrates her sustained interest in spiritual belief systems. Through Aug 11.

Brooklyn Museum
200 Eastern Pkwy at Washington Ave, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn (718-638-5000, brooklynmuseum.org). Subway: 2, 3 to Eastern Pkwy–Brooklyn Museum. Hours: Wed–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat, Sun 11am–5pm. $8, seniors $5, students $4, children under 12 free. Fri 5–9pm.

American High Style: Fashioning a National Collection
On display are a selection of pieces from the Met’s Costume Institute’s holdings that highlight fashion throughout the ages, with an emphasis on women designers. Through Aug 1.

Bleu Smith, Sojourner
The cycle of life, particularly as it relates to the female body, is the subject of this installation. Through Sept 12.

Andy Warhol: The Last Decade
Warhol produced some of his most iconic works in the last ten years of his life, including screened pieces and oxidized paintings. Through Sept 12.

Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum
2 E 91st St at Fifth Ave (212-849-4000, cooperhewitt.org). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St–Mon Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–6pm. $15, seniors and students $10, children under 12 free.

National Design Triennial: Why Design Now?
This installment of the Design Triennial will present individuals whose works solve basic human problems in the 21st century. Through Jan 9.

The Frick Collection
1 E 70th St between Fifth and Madison Aves (212-289-0700, frick.org). Subway: 6 to 68th St–S. Hunter College. Hours: Tue–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–5pm. $18, seniors and students with ID $15, children under 10 not admitted, teenagers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Sun 11am–1pm pay what you wish.

Mansion to Museum: The Frick Collection Celebrates Seventy-Five Years
In 1931, following his wife’s death, Henry Clay Frick ordered a renovation of his home so that his superb art collection might be available to the public. Through Oct 15. These beautiful illustrations depict the plans to change the building into what we know today as the Frick Collection. Tue 22–Sept 5.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
1071 Fifth Ave at 89th St (212-423-3500, guggenheim.org). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St–Mon–Wed, Fri, Sun 10am–4:45pm, Thu 10am–7:45pm. $18, seniors and students with ID $15, children under 12 free. Fri 5–9pm.

Haunted, Contemporary Photography/Video/Performance
All the work in this show, while widely varying in scope, embodies the idea of the past in some way. Through Sept 6.

Malevich in Focus: 1912–1922
Through June 30.

Julie Mehretu: Grey Area
These large paintings were inspired by Berlin, where the artist was living when she made them. Through Oct 6.

Kenneth Noland, 1924–2010: A Tribute
This small group of paintings includes one from each of Noland’s major periods of creation. Through Oct 2.

Hilla Rahav: Art Educator
Through Aug 22.

The Jewish Museum
1109 Fifth Ave at 92nd St (212-423-3200, thejewishmuseum.org). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 96th St; 6 to 96th St–Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat 11am–4:45pm; Thu 11am–9pm. Fri 11am–4pm, $12, seniors $10, students $7.50, children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult. Saturdays free.

Modern Art, Sacred Space: Motherwell, Ferber and Gottleib
The synagogue as cultural center is the subject of this exhibition, which focuses on the art created for Congregation B’nai Israel in Millburn, NJ. Through Aug 1.

The Monarchy: A History of Royal Portraits
Videos by Dor Guza
In a series of videos, the artist explores his complicated lineage, which contains both a Christian Arab tradition and a Jewish one. Through Sept 7.

South African Photographs: David Goldblatt, 60 Years
Goldblatt’s lens captures apartheid. Through Sept 19.

Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Ave at 82nd St (212-535-7710, metmuseum.org). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St–Tue–Thu, Sat 9:30am–5:30pm; Fri, Sun 9:30am–9pm. Suggested donation $20, seniors $15, students $10, members and children under 12 free.

In these works by the famed street photographer, his compassion for his subjects shines. Through Oct 17.

Critics’ picks

PAINTING
Fairfield Porter
Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, see 57th Street area
Nothing is quite as pleasing to the eye as a bright bouquet of flowers, several painted versions of which are on view here alongside landscapes.

David Salle
Mary Boone, see Chelsea
This painter helped to put the postmodern into postmodern.

DESIGN
Alex Dodge
Klaus von Nittaygall Gallery, see Soho
In tech-savvy worlds, the artist explores the potential for a symbiotic relationship between man and machine.

MIXED MEDIA
Ben Sack
P.W.O., see Chelsea
The poet’s first solo exhibition features colorful works that are at once comical and innocent.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Andy Goldsworthy
Galerie Lelong, see Chelsea
These suites of images depict the random, everyday movements of people and things on the streets of New York.

PERFORMANCE
Joan Jonas
Guggenheim Museum, see Events
Full-length mirrors enhance the choreographed movements of the performers in a re-creation of Jonas’s seminal work Mirror Piece I.

“South African Projections: Films by William Kentridge”
Through Sept 19.

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