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ART ATTACK

A wave of new exhibitions hits the city

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**ART
ATTACK**

by Tiffany Parks

April is bursting into life with a slew of new exhibits hitting the Capital. Rome is a contemporary art-lover's dream this month with photography shows, 21st-century sculpture and painting exhibitions, and fascinating works of art from around the globe coloring this already rich city. Here's our guide to the best of the best.



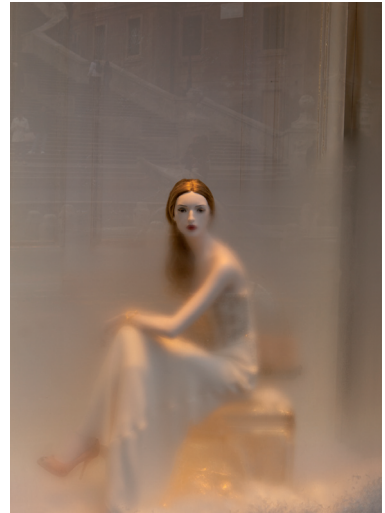
You may never have heard of **Hannu Palosuo** before, but after visiting his exhibition, **Obliterated Memory** (opposite page), at the Hendrik Christian Andersen Museum, he might just become your new favorite artist. Born in Helsinki in 1966, Palosuo has worked all over Europe and now lives permanently in Rome where he works in both painting and sculpture. His new exhibit showcases colorful works of striking beauty that are at the same time rich with symbolism. Flowers, chandeliers, and individuals are represented almost as though in a dream, with blurred edges and ambiguous lines. Using the technique of subtraction, Palosuo depicts everyday objects that conjure up memories, dreams, and even nightmares, by juxtaposing reality and illusion, horror and beauty.



Passing from a world of mesmerizing color and fantastical symbolism into one of stark reality that nevertheless has its own kind of beauty, we come to **Roma Città Scattata**, an exhibition of photographs by **Christoph Brech** at the House of Goethe. The German photographer developed a fascination with Italy in 2006 when he was a fellow at the German Academy of Rome at Villa Massimo. The works in this show present Rome from unusual angles, capturing snippets of the realities of ordinary life in an extraordinary city. The images are sharp and at times acerbic, but with a just a touch of magic that renders the city timeless and poetic. Things you may have seen a thousand times are brought to life anew, making you feel like you are seeing them with fresh eyes. Brech combines the usual with the

unusual, creating photos that are a far cry from the postcard-perfect images that are so ubiquitous in this sometimes overly picturesque city. The exhibit also includes the artist's own photo diary as well as images of the glorious ruins of Ninfa, with its spectacular garden.

On occasion of the year of cultural exchange between Italy and Hungary, 90 exquisite works of glass, on loan from the Museum of Applied Arts in Budapest, are on display at Palazzo Caffarelli in the Capitoline Museums all month. **Tiffany & Gallé and the Masters of Art Nouveau** showcases hanging and table lamps, iridescent decorative jars, blown glass



"paintings," statuettes, vases, and many more pieces by the great glass geniuses of the turn of the last century, including Emile Gallé, the Daum brothers of Nancy, René Lalique, and of course, the legendary Louis Comfort Tiffany. The Art Nouveau movement, with its technological innovations and its mélange of different genres and artistic influences, which took place between 1889 and 1911, heralded an explosion of visual splendor and stylistic freshness that perfectly balanced abstraction and reality. The exhibit unfolds in six themed sections, ranging from nature, with fanciful floral, animal, and insect motifs; to distant cultures, such as the mystique of Japan; to symbolism, evoking the fantasy world of classical Hungarian mythology.

The big new show at the PalaExpo honors **Helmut Newton**, the prolific German-Australian photographer who redefined fashion photography. One hundred eighty of his most iconic images are taken from the pages of his first three books, published in the late '70s and early '80s, *White Women*, *Sleepless Nights*, and *Big Nudes*, which also lend their names to the title of the exhibition. When it was released in 1976, *White Women* shocked the fashion world with its startling and provocative images, and revolutionized the entire



concept of fashion photography. *Sleepless Nights*, released two years later, also focused on women, their bodies, and their clothes, but transformed those images from fashion photography into photojournalism, with models portrayed outside the studio, in the street, often in sensual positions, using fashion photography as a means to create something much more personal. With the 1981 publication of *Big Nudes*, which depicted powerful Amazonian women in stark, honest nakedness, Newton became one of the most influential names in late 20th-century photography.

Images and words: that is the theme for the new exhibit at Rome's Gallery of Modern Art. **Connections and Correspondence** brings together 100 paintings and sculptures by artists active in Rome in the 1900s, all of them directly inspired by the written word. From the turn of the last century to the 1960s, Rome experienced an intense correlation and interaction between literature and visual art. This vibrant exchange of ideas created a reciprocal font of inspiration that led, in part, to the birth of many important movements, such as the Scuola Romana di Via Cavour, Futurism, and Metaphysical art. The exhibit is divided into six sections, each one dedicated to a great Italian writer of the 20th century, such as Pirandello, Ungaretti, and Moravia. The poems and literature of each writer are illustrated with works of art by masters like Nino Costa, Giorgio De Chirico, Gerardo Dottori, Antonietta Raphael and Mario Mafai, Scipione, Renato Guttuso, and many more.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rome's Institute of Japanese Culture, the National Gallery of Modern Art is presenting Italy's first major exhibition dedicated to 20th-century Japanese



art. With loans from the major museums of Tokyo and Kyoto, as well as the Japanese Embassy in Rome, **Art in Japan 1868–1945** explores the period of intense transformation that took place from the restoration of Emperor Meiji in 1868 to the end of the Second World War. During that time, which followed more than two hundred years of feudalism and near complete isolation, Japan experienced a radical surge in technical, economic, and social modernization, as well as the first direct influences of European culture. In the context of this profound renewal, the country witnessed an artistic rebirth and, at the same time, the revival of traditional iconography, returning to an aesthetic vision of the ancient Japanese civilization. Marvel at Nihonga-style paintings as well as works of applied art, such as paper or silk Kake-mono scrolls, decorated screens, lacquers, ceramics, fabrics, kimonos, vases, wood carvings, and many other masterpieces that inspired the European fashion of japonica.

Visiting Information (See Museums for Addresses)

- ❑ Hanno Palosuo: Obliterated Memory. [Hendrik Christian Andersen Museum](#). Via Pasquale Stanislao Mancini, 20. Free entry.
- ❑ Christoph Brech: Roma Città Scattata. [Casa di Goethe](#). Via del Corso, 18. €5 (€3 reduced).
- ❑ Tiffany & Gallé and the Masters of Art Nouveau. [Musei Capitolini, Palazzo Caffarella](#). Piazza del Campidoglio, 1. €6 (€5 reduced).

- ❑ Helmut Newton: *White Women*, *Sleepless Nights*, *Big Nudes*. [Palazzo delle Esposizioni](#). Via Nazionale, 194. €12.50 (€10 reduced) includes all current exhibits.
- ❑ Connections and Correspondence: Images and Words in the Rome of the 1900s. [Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Roma Capitale](#). Via Francesco Crispi, 24. €6.50 (€5.50 reduced).
- ❑ Art in Japan: 1868–1945. [Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna](#). Piazzale delle Belle Arti, 131. From 4 April. €12 (€9.50 reduced).