DOROTHEA LANGE | EXPO CHICAGO | PATRIZIA SANDRETTO

ARAUCTION

FALL SEASON PREVIEW

BELGIAN COLLECTORS TO WATCH

Remaking the Surrealist Landscape

EXPLOSIVE GROWTH: Four Decades of Auction Action

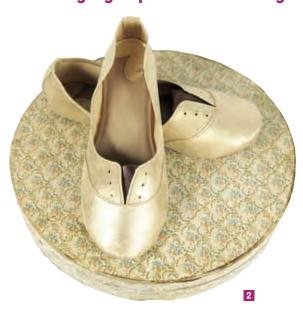
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Karl Lagerfeld's Must-See Paris Biennale



When in Chicago

After shuttering the long-running Art Chicago last spring, the Windy City carves out a new place for itself on the art-fair circuit with this month's debut of Expo Chicago, bringing top international galleries back to Navy Pier. By Raphael Kadushin



GO

EXPO CHICAGO

WHEN: September 20-23 WHERE: Festival Hall at Navy Pier **HIGHLIGHTS**: This event, showcasing 100 top modern and contemporary art galleries from around the globe, is poised to refresh the city's reputation as a major arts player. The inaugural outing will take place in Navy Pier's Festival Hall, redesigned by the local Studio Gang Architects to house large-scale installations, site-specific pieces, and performance works alongside the booths.

Adding a youthful punch to the event's A-list exhibitors will be about 20 emerging galleries, open five years or less. expochicago.com

STAY

PUBLIC CHICAGO

When Ian Schrager took over the Ambassador East Hotel in 2011, he eschewed the usual luxe embellishments for a focus on communal living. While the 285 rooms are all done in a restrained palette, the public spaces have joined the ranks of Chicago's favorite glossiest hangouts—from the revived Pump Room,

featuring a menu by Jean-Georges Vongerichten, to the library-lounge (coffee by day; cocktails by night), to the screening room that hosts poetry readings and performance art.

1301 N. STATE PKWY.

888-506-3471

RATES: FROM \$175

publichotels.com

RADISSON BLU AQUA

The first of Radisson's boutique Blu brand to appear in the U.S. when it opened in November of last year, this hotel occupies the first 18 floors of the 81-story Aqua Tower, an instant landmark whose facade

seems to undulate. thanks to concrete projections. The interior attempts to match that drama with lots of big numbers: There is an 8,000-square-foot fitness center and spa. In the end, though, it's the hotel's six-acre park, complete with running track, lap pool, and fire pits, that makes for the most compelling amenity. 221 N. COLUMBUS DR. 800-333-3333 RATES: FROM \$261 radissonblu.com

WAI DORE ASTORIA

When the Waldorf Astoria took over the Elysian Hotel this past February,

FROM TOP: RMLOWE VIA FLICKR; ELE HANDMADE

1 Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate, 2004 (a.k.a. "The Bean"), in Millennium Park, is just one landmark in a city filled with them. 2 Shoes by Ele Handmade, available at Milk Handmade. 3 Rhona Hoffman will feature Spencer Finch's lightbox Desert Light [Sahara], 2012, at Expo Chicago. 4 A composed grilled salad from Jean-Georges Vongerichten's Pump Room at the Public Chicago hotel. 5 Elegance pervades the lobby of the Waldorf Astoria hotel. 6 Jessica Stockholder's Color Jam takes over a corner of the Loop.









it left the contemporary classic alone. That's because the hotel was Waldorf-ready, from its Lucien Lagrange building-a salute to a Parisian grand hotel-to the 188 Coco Chanelinspired guest rooms with fireplaces and a dedicated art collection. Also giving the hotel some serious swag are its spa, done up in a neoclassical style, and its prime Gold Coast location. 11 E. WALTON ST 800-500-8511 RATES: FROM \$415 waldorfastoria3.hilton.com

EAT

GOOSEFOOT

Veteran chef Chris Nugent's restaurant, which opened in 2011, offers two optionstasting menus of 8 or 12 courses that show off his seamless marriage of haute French technique and homey artisanal produce. Recurring

dishes such as duck breast infused with ginger anchor the inventive offerings, and the вуов policy means you choose your wine pairings. 2656 W. LAWRENCE AVE. 773-942-7547 goosefoot.net

GRACE

One of the most anticipated debuts on the fall culinary calendar, Grace will be the first independent kitchen from vaunted chef Curtis Duffy, who left Avenues trailing two Michelin stars. The cavernous, two-level West Loop restaurant will feature a 75-seat dining room serving a prix fixe menu, as well as a more casual lounge. 623 W. RANDOLPH ST. 312-928-9200 grace-restaurant.com

NEXT

Part theater, part art installation, this shapeshifting, time-traveling restaurant gets reconfigured every three

months as legendary Alinea chef Grant Achatz chooses a new culinary theme. The current fantasia (after such iterations as haute cuisine à la Escoffier and Asian street food) is Sicilian, with sea urchin bucatini served on rustic ceramic plates. If you can't wrangle a seat (tickets are sold in advance), drown your disappointment at the Aviary (theaviary.com). adjacent to Next. where the canapés are little works of art and the deceptively dainty designer cocktails pack a boozy punch. 953 W. FULTON MKT. 312-226-0858 nextrestaurant.com

SEE

COLOR JAM

Splashing buildings, streets, and sidewalks at the intersection of State and Adams streets with neon-colored vinyl, Jessica Stockholder's

eye-popping installation turns a mundane corner into pure playland whimsy. Qualifying as the largest public art project in Chicago history, the pulsating work stays up through September 30.

STEPPENWOLF THEATRE

Running September 13 through November 11, Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire's play Good People continues Steppenwolf's reputation for gritty domestic drama. The portrait of a fractured South Boston neighborhood is part character study, part searing examination of class fault lines in America today. 1650 N. HALSTED ST. 312-335-1650 steppenwolf.org

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHICAGO

"Skyscraper: Art and Architecture Against

Gravity," on view through September 23, features the work of international 20th- and 21st-century artists (Jennifer Bolande, Jakob Kolding, Andy Warhol, and others) who take up the skyscraper as either subject or inspiration. The result: an homage to Chicago's soaring contribution to architecture. 220 E. CHICAGO AVE. 312-280-2660 mcachicago.org

SHOP

IKRAM

Ikram Goldman, famous for outfitting the first lady, opened this red-fronted Gold Coast boutiquecum-department store in July 2011, making space for more socialite-worthy designers from Viktor & Rolf to Proenza Schouler, as well as a housewares alcove, an art gallery, and a locavore café. 15 E. HURON ST. 312-587-1000

MILK HANDMADE Stocked exclusively with handmade women's clothing and accessories by mostly indie designers, this Andersonville boutique has already won a devoted following for its pashmina-soft tees, structured party dresses, and clutches from Chicago-based CHC handbags. 5137 N. CLARK ST. 847-833-6309 milkhandmade.com

RANDOLPH STREET MARKET

This very stylish indooroutdoor flea market is more curated nonstop gallery than grandma's exploding attic. More than 200 vendors sell an avalanche of just about everything, from Eames chairs to Expressionist canvases to artisanal ice cream to reclaimed farm machinery. Visit its Web site for schedules. 1340 W. WASHINGTON ST. 312-666-1200 randolphstreetmarket.com