

The List

FIVE FESTIVALS WHERE OUT-OF-THE-MAINSTREAM ART IS IN

1

THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE, SCOTLAND
www.edfringe.com

The world's oldest fringe festival formed in 1947, when artists not invited to the Edinburgh International Festival chose to stage their own event "on the fringe" of the official one. Since then, it has spawned scores of other fringe fests in Europe and beyond, has become the world's largest overall arts festival, and is Europe's top tourist destination. Aug. 2-26

2

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL, ALBERTA
www.fringetheatreadventures.ca

As North America's largest and longest-running fringe festival, since 1982, the Edmonton event stages more than 130 new plays and 60 international street performers in the historic arts and entertainment district of Old Strathcona. Aug. 15-25

3

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL
www.orlandofringe.org

Even the hometown of Mickey Mouse hosts an offbeat festival. Orlando Fringe, launched in 1992, bills itself as the longest-running US fringe fest, offering "100 percent unjured, uncensored" theater, music, dance, and art. May 15-28

4

NEW ORLEANS FRINGE FESTIVAL
www.nofringe.org

One of the country's youngest festivals, since 2008, is in a city that embraces outsider art year round. Every November, alt-artists converge for a "Fringe Free-For-All," while family-friendly events include tamer shows and the GoodChildren Fringe parade. Nov. 20-24

5

BOULDER INTERNATIONAL FRINGE FESTIVAL, COLORADO
www.boulderfringe.com

Downtown art galleries, coffee shops, libraries, churches, rooftops, taxis, and parks provide the setting for a high-altitude mix of adult and family-friendly performances and workshops. Sept. 18-29

DIANE DANIEL



EDMONTON TOURISM

The Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival is the largest and longest-running (since 1982) in North America.

The Tip

TREASURE HUNTING AT THE LOUVRE

PARIS — On the first Sunday of every month, the Louvre transforms from a vast, somewhat overwhelming art museum into an adrenalin-pumping treasure hunting ground. THATLou (Treasure Hunts at the Louvre), created by US expat Daisy de Plume, offers a themed treasure hunt taking participants around the world's largest art gallery in search of treasure (artwork) in hopes of winning a prize and maybe learning a thing or two along the way.

If you won't be in Paris on the first Sunday of the month, don't despair: Occasional Friday evening hunts are offered, and private hunts are available.

Upcoming themes include Beauty and the Beast (July); March 3; an Easter-themed hunt March 31; Fish + Water for Poisson d'Avril, France's April Fool's Day, April 7; Food + Wine May 5; Angels + Wings June 2; Love + Marriage July 7;



JAMES FEES

Treasure hunters (from left) Tara Byrne, Wan Yan, and Susan Feess finding Simon de Vos's "Gathering of Smokers and Drinkers."

and a Bastille Day hunt July 14.

Meets at 2:30 p.m.; 18 euros (\$24, includes a drink after the hunt). Entry to the Louvre is free the first Sunday of the month, so arrive early. Must sign up beforehand; for details visit www.thatlou.com.

CAITLIN HURLEY

Curator savors a past seen, felt in Venice

By Stephen Jermanok
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Frederick Ichman, the Museum of Fine Arts curator of paintings, art of Europe, talks about Venice and its allures.

PASSPORT CHECK

Q. When we last spoke in 2009, you were traveling back and forth to Venice for your fabulous Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese show at the MFA. What do you find most enticing about Venice?

A. I love the palpable sense of the past in Venice. You can really feel the layers of history. That it's one of the largest cities unchanged by the existence of the automobile. Particularly in the early morning or late at night, it's as if you're still in Renaissance times and Tintoretto could come around the corner at any minute. My own specialty is Italian Renaissance art and Venice is full of that. The tranquility, by being in a city without automobiles, and the quantity of historic architecture are some of the great draws.

Q. Describe your perfect day in Venice.

A. Certainly a perfect day in Venice would include lots of walking. Whether I'm spending time with friends or doing art appointments, I like to dip in and out of buildings to look at a



MATTEO DE FINA

MFA curator Frederick Ichman on Murano in Venice last summer.

white polenta. You can go a week without seeing a tomato.

Q. Do you have a favorite place to dine?

A. I like Vini da Gigio [www.vinidagigio.com], off Campo San Felice in Cannaregio, not far from my old apartment. The seafood risotto there is just heaven, and particularly appealing is that they have wines from small Italian producers. Around the corner is the Osteria Ca' d'Oro ("La Vedova"). "La Vedova" means "the widow" and she left us a generation ago, but the nickname stuck. Great cicchetti. Cantinone Già Schia-

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