Stephen Friedman Gallery

The Guardian Constable hits Stonehenge, Hogarth does Europe and witches get a makeover – the week in art Jonathan Jones 29 October 2021



Constable hits Stonehenge, Hogarth does Europe and witches get a makeover – the week in art



Image: Courtesy of RA

The Royal Academy shows a new side to the landscape artist, Tate Britain takes Hogarth to the Continent and Deborah Roberts is in a fragmented mood in Liverpool – all in your weekly dispatch.

Exhibition of the week - Late Constable

A tremendous gathering of Constable's intense, expressive paintings that will open all eyes to his genius. Royal Academy, London, from 30 October until 13 February.

Also showing - Deborah Roberts

Powerful and disturbing images of fragmented identity in today's America. Bluecoat, Liverpool, until 23 January.



Image: Deborah Roberts: Laying My burdens down (2021). Photograph: Mark Blower/Courtesy the artist and Stephen Friedman Gallery, London.

Hogarth and Europe The first self-consciously "British" artist gets a continental makeover. Tate Britain, London, from 3 November until 20 March.

Chioma Ebinama

Dreamy paintings that mix African folklore and the fiction of Italo Calvino. Maureen Paley Gallery, London, until 19 December.

Petrit Halilaj

An installation that remembers the artist's refugee childhood. Tate St Ives until 16 January.

Image of the week



Image: Vic Oh

Based on a tarot card, this painting of a symbolically decorated witch by French artist Vic Oh comes from a new book, published just in time for Halloween, that seeks to rescue witches from the warty, green-skinned and haggard stereotypes and recast them as typically young and glamorous practitioners of highly sexualised magick. Read more about it here.

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What we learned Constable's England was not as bucolic as you may think

Oslo's mega Munch museum is a Scream

Some photographs can be life-changing

Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is memorialising Covid victims with sand and robots

Grayson Perry wants to know what normal is

A new show reveals Warhol's Catholic side ...

... while a trove of drawings by Franz Kafka show his sunny side

Civil rights-era photographer Doris Derby reported from the frontline of the struggle for racial equality

Afghanistan's female graffiti artists are planning a show in exile ...

... while a new generation of female British painters are getting due recognition

Ai Weiwei has published his memoir

The Roman villa with the world's only Caravaggio mural is up for sale

Veronese painted the sultans of the Ottoman empire

Archaeologists made a remarkable discovery at Fountains Abbey

Six art forgers have been sent to jail in Spain

Queer culture has produced its own variants on the traditional family portrait

Sculptor Ron Mueck shows that size isn't everything

Brazilian Artivist' Thiago Mundano used ash from Amazon fires to paint a vast mural

Clifford Prince King's best photograph captures an intimate moment in a public place

Photographer Greg Williams was on the set of the new film by Edgar Wright ...

... whose fans are an artistic lot

New York photographer Richard Rothman has documented life in small-town Colorado

The first penny black is going under the hammer

John Giorno's was not the only Dial-a-Poem service

Australia's archivists are keeping the nation's memories alive ...

... while its Indigenous art is brightening up Plymouth

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The African and Caribbean locals of east London are celebrated in a street exhibition

Masterpiece of the week - Jacob van Ruisdael, Vessels in a Fresh Breeze c 1660-5



Image: The National Gallery, London

Jacob van Ruisdael: Vessels in a Fresh Breeze (c 1660-5)

When you look at British paintings of looming skies and roiling seas by Constable and Turner it's easy to forget that the Netherlands too is on the North Sea (and the North Sea is often on the Netherlands). Dutch artists were tasting its salt air

long before there was even a British landscape school to speak of. This painting by one of the great Dutch landscapists of the 1600s dwells with melancholy acceptance on the power of the waves and the menace of a black raincloud looming high over fragile sailing boats. Simon Schama shows in his book The Embarrassment of Riches how Dutch culture at this time imagined itself in a moral contract with the waters, reclaiming land through virtue, being punished for vice by storm, flood and shipwreck. In this painting, the moral universe that Schama describes is held just about in balance but the little boats could be in serious trouble very quickly if the weather gets any worse.