

CULTURE

Greater Outdoors

Old and new, in formal gardens, lush countryside or untamed wilderness, sculpture parks dedicated to modern and contemporary art are now found around the globe, displaying monumental works in harmony—or in eye-opening dissonance—with the natural beauty of their surroundings. Here are five to put on your wish list. —*Judy Fayard*



MARK DI SUVERO/SPACETIME C.C./JERRY L. THOMPSON

ART WALK Mark di Suvero's 'Mozart's Birthday' (1989), left, and 'Frog Legs' (2002) at Storm King

▲ STORM KING ART CENTER, NEW YORK

Covering 200 hectares in the Hudson River Valley, 97 kilometers north of Manhattan, Storm King was founded in 1960 by local businessmen Ralph E. Ogden and H. Peter Stern and now houses 100-plus sculptures dating from post-World War II to present day. Landscaping is key here: A number of the works are site-specific; others are precisely placed in sites tailored for them. There are also earthworks, for which landscaping is the artist's medium, including Maya Lin's sumptuous, 4.5-hectare "Storm King Wavefield" (2009), a joyously undulating seven-row sea of grass. Visit on foot, by tram or bike (*rentals from \$8 an hour*) to take in works by artists including Louise Bourgeois, Mark di Suvero, Barbara Hepworth, Sol LeWitt, Alexander Liberman, Henry Moore, Roy Lichtenstein, Louise Nevelson, Isamu Noguchi, Nam June Paik and Beverly Pepper. *\$15, open Wed.-Sun., hours vary from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., April-November; Old Pleasant Hill Road, Mountainville; stormking.org*



CLAUDE LALANNE/DOMAINE DU MUY/J.C. LEIT

AN APPLE A DAY Claude Lalan's 'Pomme de New York' (2006) at Domaine du Muy

▲ DOMAINE DU MUY, FRANCE

Officially opened this week, this new sculpture park was created by Jean-Gabriel Mitterrand (nephew of the former French president), whose Paris gallery has focused on sculpture since its founding in 1988. Near the town of Le Muy, north of St. Tropez, the 8-hectare private park offers a rugged, 1.6-kilometer-long trail through pine trees, cork oaks and herb-scented shrubs, dotted with almost 40 sculptures, some site-specific. The opening exhibition, assembled by artistic director Edward Mitterrand and curator Simon Lamunière, includes works by John Armleder, Antony Gormley, Subodh Gupta, Keith Haring, Carsten Höller, Yayoi Kusama, Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, Arik Levy and Sol LeWitt. A house, redesigned by architect India Mahdavi, and gardens by celebrated landscape architect Louis Benech are set to open on the ground next year. *By appointment only May-October; 83490 Le Muy; domainedumuy.com*

OLIVER RANCH, CALIFORNIA ►

Steve and Nancy Oliver bought this 40-hectare ranch in Sonoma County in 1981 to graze a herd of sheep. The couple began supplying restaurants with organic lamb, built a weekend house, and commissioned their first sculpture, Judith Shea's "Shepherd's Muse," in 1985. Since then, 18 site-specific works have been specially commissioned. Tours, which Mr. Oliver often leads, are used to help fund nonprofit organizations and the two-and-a-half-hour walk takes in works by Terry Allen, Bill Fontana, Bruce Nauman, Richard Serra, Ursula Von Rydingsvard and Roger Berry, whose 3.5 meter-long "Darwin" steel arch tracks the summer and winter paths of the sun and casts precise shadows on solstices and equinoxes. *Donation, by appointment only, April 15-June 1, Sept. 15-Nov. 1; 22205 River Rd., Geysersville; oliveranchfoundation.org*



OLIVER RANCH/BRUCE NAUMAN

STEP TO IT
Bruce Nauman's "Untitled" (1998-99)
cuts through Oliver Ranch



CULTURE



PLAY SPACE Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam's 'Knitted Wonder Space 2' (2009)

▲ HAKONE OPEN-AIR MUSEUM, JAPAN

Japan's first open-air museum, Hakone was founded in 1969 on a 7-hectare site near Mount Fuji. The permanent collection of some 120 works basks in a setting that makes the most of seasonal shifts, from blossoming cherry trees to fiery autumn foliage. Along with a major cache of 26 Henry Moores, the lineup includes Rodin, Miró, Maillol, Léger, Zadkine, Noguchi, Saint-Phalle, Barry Flanagan, Lynn Chadwick, Antony Gormley, Carl Milles and French sculptor Gabriel Loire, whose "Symphonic Sculpture" is an 18-meter tower lined in stained glass with a circular staircase rising inside. The younger-set fave: "Woods of Net," an immense, brilliantly colored hand-knit net by Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam. Meant for kids to jump in and bounce around, it's strung inside a timber dome built using ancient temple techniques. 1,600 yen (€12), open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Ninotaira 1121, Hakone; hakone-oam.or.jp

▼ EKEBERG PARK, NORWAY

High on a bluff overlooking the city center and its fiord, the Ekeberg area was marked by prehistoric rock carvings as early as the Iron Age. A large abbey farm in the Middle Ages, it eventually became a city park, and gained fame as the viewpoint for Edvard Munch's 1893 painting "The Scream." (Today visitors can create their own "Scream" using a frame from a performance in 2013 by Serbian artist Marina Abramović, marking Munch's 150th anniversary.) Set in thick woods and grassy clearings populated by deer and foxes, the Ekebergparken Sculpture Park, funded by Norwegian collector and businessman Christian Ringnes, opened in 2013 with an eclectic collection of some 30 works by artists including Rodin, Renoir, Dalí, Maillol, James Turrell, Jenny Holzer, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Damien Hirst and Louise Bourgeois. Free, open daily; Kongsveien 23, Oslo; ekebergparken.com



Julian Schnabel's 'Silencio' (1988)

What's Hot in Provence? Art

The South of France is the country's art hub this summer

BY JASON CHOW

THIS MONTH, art watchers in France are looking south—from Paris to the olive groves and ruin-bedecked cities of Provence. The longtime Rencontres d'Arles photography festival kicked off with a focus on two American greats. In Avignon, just 44 kilometers north, a recently founded museum with works by Cy Twombly, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Anselm Kiefer reopened after two years of renovations.

Sam Stourdzé, director of the Arles festival, believes the two events are putting the region—long known for summer theater and music events—on the art-world map. "For a visitor, the question today is, 'Where am I going to spend three days and see great culture?' This part of Provence is now in the game, and we're happy with that," he says.

It's Mr. Stourdzé's first year at the helm of the festival, which has been going since 1970. With the art world watching, he's focused two of the largest of his 35 exhibits, featuring around 3,500 works overall, on American photographers Walker Evans and Stephen Shore.

The Evans show dives deep into his legacy as a journalist. Known best for impromptu portraits of ordinary and often impoverished Americans, Evans worked for several magazines including Life, Harpers Bazaar, Vanity Fair and Fortune, a publication that employed him from 1945 to 1965.

The Arles exhibition, curated by Mr. Stourdzé and longtime Evans expert David Company, looks at the photographer as a pioneer in modern magazine design and places his prints next to the final magazine page to show how journalism and art intertwine.

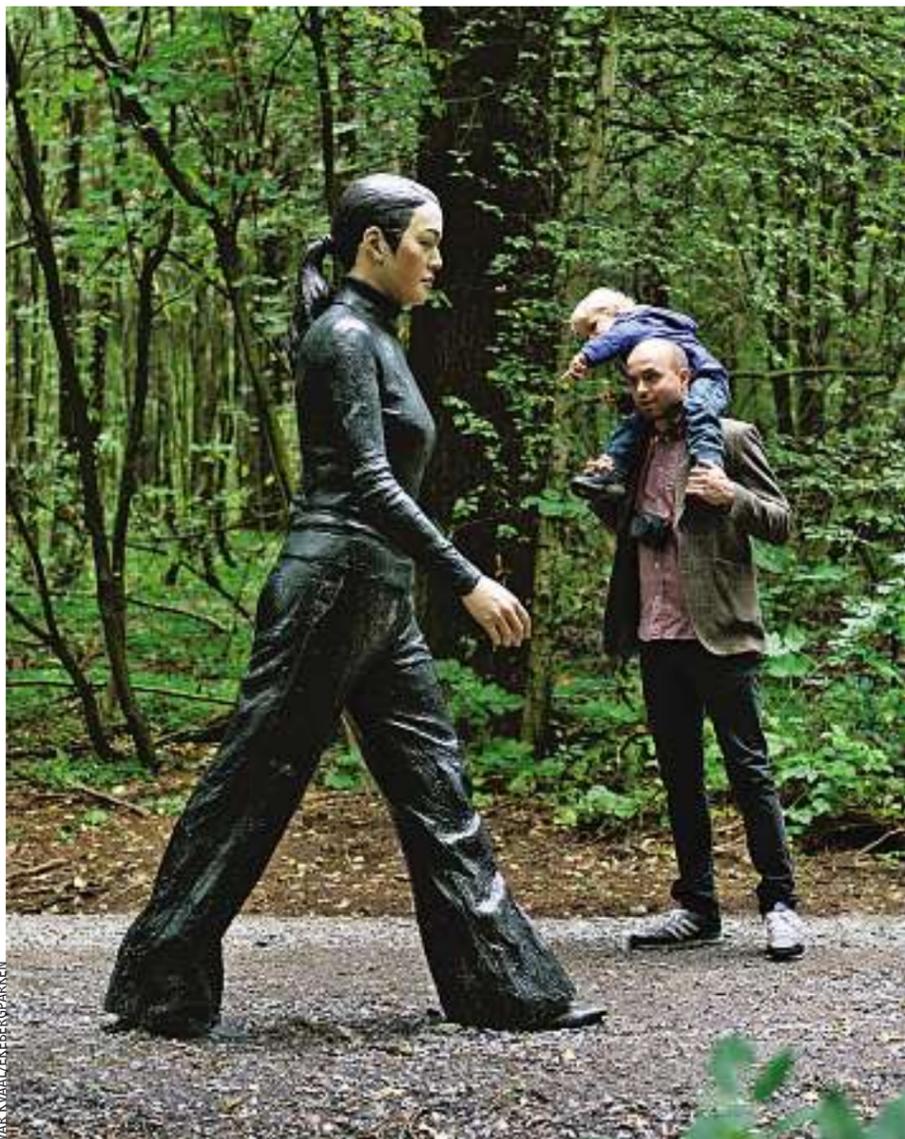
The exhibit on the 67-year-old Mr. Shore, the director of the photography program at Bard College, includes around 400 prints and spans his career, including several from his "Uncommon Places," a series of early color photographs of 1970s Americana, with a focus on the motel rooms, rusting neon signs and car culture of the time. The artist says that while making the series, "I was trying to understand how photographs function, how a three-dimensional world is translated into a flat image."

In Avignon, Paris-based dealer Yves Lambert had been showing his collection in a mansion in the old city since 2000. In 2012, he donated the art to the French state—the most artworks donated to the French government since 1906. Then came two years of renovation of the mansion and expansion into the adjacent building, costing €15 million. The 556-work collection of late-20th century art, one of France's most significant, reopened on July 10. Avignon is already famed for its summertime performing-arts festival.

"I don't have the means for a private museum, but I wanted to keep the collection intact. Donating to the state was my best solution," Mr. Lambert says.

The museum inaugurated a new space for temporary exhibitions with a show focusing on Patrice Chéreau, a French opera and theater director and filmmaker who died in 2013. There's also an exhibition featuring pieces from the main collection, including works by Christo, Richard Serra and Julian Schnabel.

"I'm from the South of France, and I wanted the art to be based in the south," Mr. Lambert says. "I wanted to decentralize us away from Paris. On a train, we're less than three hours away from Paris. It's really not far."



INTO THE WOODS Sean Henry's 'Walking Woman' (2010)