



NEW YORK CITY OPERA BAM
THE TURN OF THE SCREW BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN
FEB 24 - MAR 2 [CLICK FOR VIDEOS, TICKETS & MORE](#)

The Miami Herald  **Visual Arts**

Tuesday, 02.26.13

Current: 84°
84° / 73°
[Weather](#) | [Traffic](#)

GET Sunday's Miami Herald

SUBSCRIBE - 92¢ PER WEEK!

[HOME](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [LIVING](#) | [OPINION](#) | [JOBS](#) | [CARS](#) | [REAL ESTATE](#) | [SHOP](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#)


[People](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Movies](#) | [Music & Nightlife](#) | [Performing Arts](#) | [Visual Arts](#) | [Books](#) | [TV](#) | [Comics & Games](#)

[The Miami Herald](#) > [Entertainment](#) > [Visual Arts](#)

Posted on Monday, 02.25.13

[A](#) [A](#)

[email](#) [print](#) [comment](#) [reprints](#)

 Web Search powered by **YAHOO!SEARCH**

Search: [Horoscopes](#) | [Comics & Games](#) | [Data Sleuth](#)

At the Bass on Miami Beach, the Renaissance lives on

Like 0



Fullsize

Image 1 of 2

[previous](#) | [next](#)

IF YOU GO

"The Endless Renaissance" runs through March 17 at the Bass Museum of Art, 2100 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; www.bassmuseum.org. Open noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Tickets \$8 adults, \$6 seniors and students with I.D. Free for members and children under 6.

BY ANNE TSCHIDA
SPECIAL TO THE MIAMI HERALD

The Endless Renaissance, now at the Bass Museum, is an ambitious exhibit. It combines masterpieces from the permanent collection with contemporary video, sculpture and painting from six international artists, who incorporate ideas, concepts or imagery first forged in the Renaissance into their 21st century creations. This means there are some direct references, such as religious iconography in the work, and more highly conceptual and abstract connections that still attempt to thread a history of art throughout.

The most fascinating and enjoyable pieces in the exhibit are on the first floor, from Thailand's Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook. They include large photographs and a delightful video, where the artist plays with co-mingling Western art and Eastern culture. She took paintings so well-known to a Western audience, such as a Rembrandt and a Van Gogh, and put large prints of them in front of Thai villagers, both men and women. The juxtaposition posed within the photos is simply beautiful. In one we see only the backs of the farmers, sitting on the ground in a lush green bamboo forest, staring at Manet's *Luncheon on the*

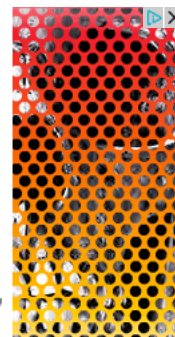
Grass enclosed in a baroque frame.

She has rightly named the work *Two Planets*. It's incongruous to see this painting positioned in the open in tropical Southeast Asia — not how most Westerners view our classic art, usually in museums. What are these villagers to make of the French Impressionist's depiction of fully dressed men and a naked woman? The settings are both pastoral — but worlds apart.

We get to hear what the villagers have to say in the darkened video room. While looking at a Van Gogh, they question and exclaim things such as "their ox carts look different from ours." Or, "what, no bamboo. How do they do it?" "Is that a beard, is that a man?" And then they try to figure out how the French farmers are "thrashing the rice" when they are hauling hay. In this case, the 19th century farmer in Europe and in today's Thailand do not appear too distant from each other; they would have similar concerns, and humorous observations, about everyday rural life.

On the ramp leading to the second floor we are fed examples of the real deal from over the last 500 years. From the Bass collection, there are paintings from the Flemish, Austrian and Florentine schools, each with their own tell-tale marks and coloring. Hanging here are a Rubens, El Greco, a Botticelli, and a huge tapestry covering one wall, from the 1500s. Most of these paintings depict scenes from the Christian Bible, with the ubiquitous inclusion of the Virgin Mary and various saints.

NEW YORK CITY OPERA BAM
THE TURN OF THE SCREW BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN
FEB 24 - MAR 2
[CLICK FOR VIDEOS, TICKETS & MORE](#)



Get the Deal!

\$99 for 2 sessions of Fractional full-face laser rejuvenation at Vanity Cosmetic Surgery (a \$999 value)



dealsaver.com

\$99.00

Buy Now!

Value: \$999
Discount: 90%
You Save: \$900

That easy familiarity with famous works dissipates as you walk onto the second floor. Barry X Ball's portrait busts draw directly from a Renaissance heritage, but these are disturbing sculptures, ones not likely found in a Tuscan villa. The California native uses an amazing array of materials to make these busts, which can seem to be in frightening pain as they sit on their pedestals or hang from the ceiling. Crafted from unusual stone and steel, they appear to be melting or disintegrating.

Some of the portraits are based on famous sculptures that you'll recognize; others are based on contemporary art-world figures such as Matthew Barney. There are some very lovely moments in Ball's room too: The first duel grouping of busts that hang from the ceiling as you enter the room throws off incredible shadows. A shiny black figure of Belgian black marble reclines in the corner, looking so sensuous to the touch. The figure has breasts and a penis, and is called *The Sleeping Hermaphrodite*.

Figurative form altogether disappears in the next space, and so too does the clear connection to a Renaissance art history. But London-born Walead Beshty's abstract, conceptually complex pieces are a highlight. There is a lot about process here. For instance, his copper panel sculptures are installed without gloves, leaving smudge marks all over them. The white "paintings" have a similar quality and look dirty from a distance, but the more you study them, the more interesting they become. His FedEx boxes also record a process, a journey, that has not changed much since the time of Michelangelo: artwork has always been shipped, bought, resold, ending up in a time and a place far removed from its origin.

Han-Peter Feldman and Ged Quinn's paintings are a complete departure that can be difficult to digest. Liverpool native Quinn's surreal allegorical paintings are in vogue across Europe. Scenes set in Romantic-era forests might include a bubble house, historical figures, a bleeding martyr or a crucified cat. The link to art history is overt here, intentionally over-the-top, but they aren't to everyone's taste.

You'll need to take some time to figure out all that is going on in three large video screens that make up *The Annunciation*, from Finland's Eija-Liisa Ahtila. Like the video on the ground floor, this is special for its simplicity of its everyday "characters." Of course, the annunciation is one of the most depicted scenes in art since the dawn of Christianity, the gospel of how the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that her child will be the son of God. Here on screen it is reenacted in a studio by some friends (not actors). They too look at classic paintings and discuss them — how much did the angel really scare Mary? — along with talk of why donkeys are wondering around Finland ("don't they belong in warm countries?" one asks).

The Bass came up with a nice mix of styles and forms for this exhibit, from some important artists on the world stage today. It might be hard for the viewer to keep up with the *Endless Renaissance* thread; each room feels like its own show, and, in fact, they are described as six solo projects. That's OK. In fact, when exhibits try and force a theme, lead an audience down one path, it often doesn't work. These speak for themselves, individually, and out of the broad scope of the artists' work, you can take away what you want.

Like 0 0 0

READ MORE VISUAL ARTS STORIES FROM THE MIAMI HERALD

BROWARD

Bagpipes and kilts come to South Florida on Saturday

PATRICIA AND PHILLIP FROST MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

A year in, a space for sharks and stars is taking form at Miami's new Museum of Science

ADVERTISEMENT

Penny stocks might be the secret to becoming rich overnight...	Surprisingly simple solution to help your joints. See why these ingredients are flying off shelves	New York : New trick allows New York drivers to get auto insurance as low as \$9	(New York): This 1 weird "loophole" has become the car insurance companies worst nightmare!	New York - New rule allows many New York residents to get car insurance at half-price.

Get the Miami.com Weekend Concierge

VIA EMAIL

Enter email address

GET Sunday's Miami Herald

 SUBSCRIBE - 92¢ PER WEEK!

Join the **DISCUSSION**

The Miami Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere on the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively,

Sign up for the daily deal email:

MORE VISUAL ARTS

Bagpipes and kilts come to South Florida on Saturday

At the Bass on Miami Beach, the Renaissance lives on

A year in, a space for sharks and stars is taking form at Miami's new Museum of Science

Photographer Bunny Yeager takes another shot with new Wynwood pinup gallery

At Miami Dade College, Arnold Mesches retrospective explores circus of modern life

Miami auction house withdraws Banksy art

More

VIDEOS

VIDEO FROM OUR PARTNERS

NDN VIDEO

"Honey Boo Boo" Goes Global

Buzz:60»



ON FACEBOOK

Find us on Facebook



The Miami Herald

44,381 people like The Miami Herald.



Facebook social plugin

open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

The Miami Herald uses Facebook's commenting system. You need to log in with a Facebook account in order to comment. If you have questions about commenting with your Facebook account, click [here](#).

Have a news tip? You can send it anonymously. Click [here](#) to send us your tip - or - consider joining the [Public Insight Network](#) and become a source for The Miami Herald and el Nuevo Herald.

[View comments](#)



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Lee Smith ([Change](#))

Facebook social plugin

QUICK JOB SEARCH

Enter Keyword(s)

Enter City

Select a State

Select a Category

Advanced Job Search
Search by Category

powered by **careerbuilder.com**

Mortgage Rates Hit 2.50%

If you owe under \$729k you may qualify for 2.90% APR Govt Refi Plans. [SeeRefinanceRates](#)

\$79/Hr Job - 434 Openings

Make \$79/hr Working From Home. Requirements: Computer. As Seen On MSN. [findtherightjob.com/](#)

US Postal Jobs (Hiring)

Salary Starting is \$51,000 a Year. No Experience Necessary. Start Now! [PostalExam473.com](#)

ADS BY VALUE

- NEWS
- SPORTS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- BUSINESS
- LIVING
- OPINION
- CLASSIFIEDS
- SERVICES
- Site Map

[RSS](#) | [My Yahoo](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Mobile](#) | [Alerts](#) | [Twitter](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About our ads](#) | [Copyright](#) | [About The Miami Herald](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Work for Us](#)

Partners: [El Nuevo Herald](#) | [Newspaper in Education](#) | [WLRN](#) | [Miami Herald News](#) | [CBS4 WFOR-TV](#) | [More](#)

Copyright 2013 Miami Herald Media Co. All rights reserved