

FREE

MARCH/APRIL 2013

art
mag

ART BREAKS

PAINTING
HOLIDAYS AT
HOME + ABROAD

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RIVIERA

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BY HUMAN
HAND

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DUMFRIES +
GALLOWAY

ART NEWS KEEPING YOU IN THE PICTURE

PREVIEWS 100S OF EXHIBITIONS + ART EVENTS



Andy Warhol, 'Birth of Venus', Museum of Classical Art



Léger Museum



Picasso Museum (Photo: J-L Andral)

painted. Guided tours also leave the local tourist office at 10am every Friday.

www.antibes-juanlespains.co.uk

VALLAURIS

Also closely associated with Picasso is the town of Vallauris, where he first learned ceramic techniques in the Madoura workshop of Georges and Suzanne Ramié. Breaking down the barriers between painting, sculpture and ceramics, he produced more than 4,000 ceramic works over the next 20 years, and many of them are on display in the **Magnelli Museum** and the **Ceramics Museum**.

Both are housed in a former Renaissance priory which is also home to the **Picasso 'War and Peace' Museum**, named after the two remarkable murals which are permanently installed in the deconsecrated chapel, turning it into a kind of 'peace temple'.

With its echoes of cave painting, 'War and Peace' was part of the 1950s movement rediscovering sacred art, when Matisse was finishing The Chapel of the Rosary in Vence and Chagall was working on his Biblical Message series in Nice. A far cry from viewing an artist's work in a busy gallery,

it is difficult to sit in the quiet intimacy of the tiny museum, literally surrounded by a cry for peace from the master's soul, and remain unmoved. www.musees-nationaux-alpesmaritimes.fr/picasso

BIOT

Unlike other artists who have museums dedicated to them on the French Riviera, Fernand Léger never actually lived there, although he bought a villa in Biot, but died soon afterwards. His wife Nadia decided to create a museum on the property, and the **Léger Museum** was inaugurated in 1960. It has spacious, airy, white-walled galleries and the vast murals in primary colours covering the outside walls demonstrate why Léger is considered a forerunner of Pop Art. With almost 350 of the artist's original paintings, drawings, oils, stained glass windows and mosaics, it is by far the largest collection of Léger's works in the world.

www.musee-fernandleger.fr

LE CANNET

Pierre Bonnard is perhaps best known as a founder member of a group of post-

Impressionist avant-garde artists known as Les Nabis. ('Nabi' means 'prophet' in Hebrew and Arabic.) Spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, the movement set out to revitalise painting, paving the way for the development of abstract art.

Opened in June 2011 in a former hotel, the **Bonnard Museum** has a permanent collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs, with other pieces on loan from museums and private collections. There are two exhibitions a year exploring various aspects of Bonnard's work.

www.museebonnard.fr

MOUGINS

One of the most picturesque hilltop villages in Provence, the medieval streets of Mougins are like a honeycomb of galleries and artist studios. It has been home to Fernand Léger, Jean Cocteau, Man Ray and Pablo Picasso, who died there in 1973.

Opened in 2011, the **Museum of Classical Art** shows how modern artists have been influenced by ancient art. This is illustrated by the juxtaposition of ancient and modern exhibits, such as a Roman Venus next to Salvador Dalí's surrealist Venus de Milo with a giraffe neck, a blue Venus cast by Yves Klein and 'The Birth of Venus' by Andy Warhol, or Egyptian tomb reliefs and a painted sarcophagus beside Alexander Calder's colourful pyramids and a sphinx by Cocteau.

Other exhibits demonstrate how ancient monuments, coins, mosaics, paintings and sculpture are reflected in the work of a virtual roll-call of modern greats, from Matisse, Dufy, Cézanne, Rodin, Cocteau, Hirst and Chagall to Modigliani, Giacometti, Toulouse-Lautrec, Moore and Braque. In all, there are some 700 works spanning 5,000 years. Outside two cast iron figures by Anthony Gormley stand guard over the road leading up to the village. The museum was named Best Museum 2012 by the Nouveau Tourisme Culture blog, sharing the award with the most revered museum in France, the Louvre. www.mouginsmusee.com

Today the French Riviera continues to attract artists in their droves, inspired by a place which has seen a quantity and quality of artistic endeavour like no other.

HOW TO GET THERE

easyJet flies to Nice four times a week from Edinburgh. Fares from £56.49 one-way Mar 21-Oct 20. Hold baggage & credit card fee extra. www.easyjet.com

FURTHER INFO

www.cotedazur-tourisme.com