



ART FOR ALL AGES

Cherry Blossom Day Tuesday at the Freer and Sackler: The Mayor's Cherry Blossom Festival Poster Contest is at 10 a.m. And at 1 p.m., artist-in-residence Kenny Endo will begin a monthlong series of Taiko Drum demonstrations. And while you're there, see the Hokusai exhibit.

AROUND TOWN » GALLERIES

MAX LIEBERMANN: WORKS ON PAPER

In a two-city retrospective, the German impressionist's paintings are in New York with his prints, etchings, lithographs and pastels right here in D.C. **Venue:** *Through April 28 at the Goethe-Institut, 812 Seventh St. NW; Tix: Free; Info: 202-289-1200; goethe.de/washington*

SPRING GLASS EXHIBITION



The Art Glass Consortium at Glen Echo will hold an art glass exhibit, featuring the four studio artists and their unique and varied glass works that are inspired by the arrival of spring. **Venue:** *On view through April 1, with the opening reception 6 p.m. Saturday, at the Consortium's Glass Gallery in the Arcade at Glen Echo Park; Tix: Free; Info: 301-634-2222; glenechopark.org*

ZENITH GALLERY 28TH ANNIVERSARY

The exhibit closes March 26, so hurry and see this anniversary celebration of works by 36 artists in all media. **Venue:** *Zenith Gallery, 413 Seventh St. NW; Tix: Free; Info: 202-783-2963*

AROUND TOWN » MUSEUMS

HARPIES, MERMAIDS, AND TULIPS

Embroidery of the Greek Islands and Epirus Region. Showcasing 70 hand-embroidered cloths from bridal trousseaus of the 17th to 19th centuries. **Venue:** *On view through Sept. 3 at the Textile Museum, 2320 S St. NW; Tix: Free; Info: 202-667-0441; textilemuseum.org*

AROUND TOWN » EVENTS

DUPONT CIRCLE ART GALLERY, WINE AND FOOD TOUR

A three-stop cultural and palatable whirlwind around Dupont Circle. The tour will make stops at three galleries, each one featuring a different food and Greek wine. **Venue:** *7 p.m. Thursday beginning at Studio Gallery, 2108 R St. NW; Tix: \$45; Info: 202-244-3700; tastedc.com*



What's your favorite gallery?
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MUSEUMS » NEW EXHIBIT

Equal Rites

Women rule in these artifacts from ancient Mexico and Peru

By Robin Tierney
Special to The Examiner

Forget sugar and spice and everything nice. "Divine and Human: Women in Ancient Mexico and Peru" unearths from the rubble of lost civilizations women with influence, supernatural powers and, occasionally, fangs.

The exhibition, which recently opened at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, is the first to scrutinize the roles women played in ancient Mesoamerican and Andean societies, including the Aztec, Mayan, Olmec, Inca and Moche cultures. Nearly 400 artifacts give clues to life from 2000 B.C. to the early 1500s A.D.

In pre-Columbian cultures, women served as healers, priestesses, artists, warriors, governors and goddesses. This came to light with the 1971 discovery of women's tombs in Zapotal, Mexico. Twenty years later, excavations at San José de Moro, Peru, uncovered tombs of Moche priestesses whose accoutrements indicated they enjoyed a lofty social status.

"Divine and Human" delivers dozens of neat little treats. A speech bubble from antiquity carved in a commemorative stone tablet. A clay miniature of a house where comical figures kick back and a dog lounges out front. The colorful, whimsically inventive pitcher topped by tiny sculpted females. An intricate border of hummingbirds embroidered on a remarkably well-preserved textile, an example of nature motifs adorning items from burial cloths to knapsacks. Then the astonish-



Anne Rowland's "Kitchen," above, and Corinne May Botz's "Three Room Dwelling (gun in kitchen)," below, are on view at Hemphill on 14th Street.

ing woman-doll cloaked in a shawl, seated on a cushion weaving on a waist loom — the all-fabric construction endured the passage of centuries thanks to the arid Andean air.

As for the charming figurines with outsize heads, cranial creative license was taken to mark an individual's rank on the social ladder.

Other highlights: amazing terra-cotta figures retrieved from the Zapotal burial site in Veracruz, Mexico. These are cihuateo, deified women who served as guides to the next world. They're displayed in a terraced tumble, some intact, some broken. Startling in a different way are R-rating-worthy works that

provoke debate about viewing archaeological finds through the lens of American neo-prudism. Folks of lost cultures clearly possessed a sense of humor and robust libidos.

A pot found in Casa Grandes, in Mexico's Chihuahua state, bears four breasts, proving that when it comes to body-part art, our generation has nothing on artisans of ages past.

Other novelties include dishes with sculpted nude figures molded into their centers. Why was a hole placed at the, well, anatomically correct point? One scholar surmised that these orifices allowed liquid to settle surreptitiously into the figure's hollow, resulting in a splashy surprise when an unsuspecting diner tipped the dish. Those ancient Peruvian pranksters!

Wall narratives reveal history about daily life, rituals, body adornment, textiles, foods, religion, mythology — exhausting, but fascinating. Until 1971, it was presumed that only guys got the treasure-laden tombs. Here we learn otherwise, along with beliefs of pre-Columbian cultures: Goddesses wielded power in the heavens and the underworld; earth mother Pachamama nourished mortal beings; women who died during childhood were honored as warrior deities. Long-buried lessons of lost civilizations are brought to life by these fascinating objects.

This is the exhibition's only U.S. destination — perhaps your only chance to explore ancient Latin American empires.

WHERE TO SEE 'DIVINE AND HUMAN'

Venue: On view 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sundays through May 28 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave. NW
Tix: \$8 adults, \$6 students and seniors, free for 18 and younger; Free admission every first Wednesday and Sunday
Info: 202-783-5000; For details about talks, music and hands-on activities related to the exhibition, visit nmwa.org

ARTSCAPES

Contemporary art and 'other than art' near Logan Circle

By Robin Tierney
Special to The Examiner

Fifteen years of color-coded New York Times headlines. Video of a pivoting zeppelin. Disembodied tresses. The Logan Circle area has attracted great venues for contemporary art, many of them hosting openings later today.

There's "Other Than Art," a show so comprehensive that it's spread among G Fine Art and Curator's Office at 1515 14th St. NW, and Provisions near Dupont Circle at 1611 Connecticut Ave. Curator Milena Kalinovska from the Hirshhorn hand-picked work from 15 artists who explore "the utopia in the everyday." Evoking conceptual art of the '60s and '70s, the selections' subjects include interior design, product design, architecture and social structures.

Also opening this weekend at 1515 14th St. is a superb collection of digital pigment prints at Adamson Gallery, and nearby at Transformer (1404 P St.), Itsy-Bitsy Bollocks presents the work of four artists who pair rebellion with humor. It packs a big visceral punch in a compact space.

Three go-see photo exhibitions opened recently. At Hemphill (in the 1515 14th St. complex), Corinne May Botz's "Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death" make you witness to 18 fascinating crime-scene models built in the '40s and '50s by a Baltimore criminologist. ... and Anne Rowland documents rural landscapes falling victim to egomaniacal construction. Across the street, Gallery plan b's group show tickles the irises.

Two tips: Start at Hemphill, which closes at 5 p.m., before swinging by plan B and Provisions. Circle back to Transformer and the other venues, which remain open on reception night until 9 p.m. It's all free — and mind-freeing.

On Sunday, return to Transformer for a free artists' talk at 3 p.m.

