

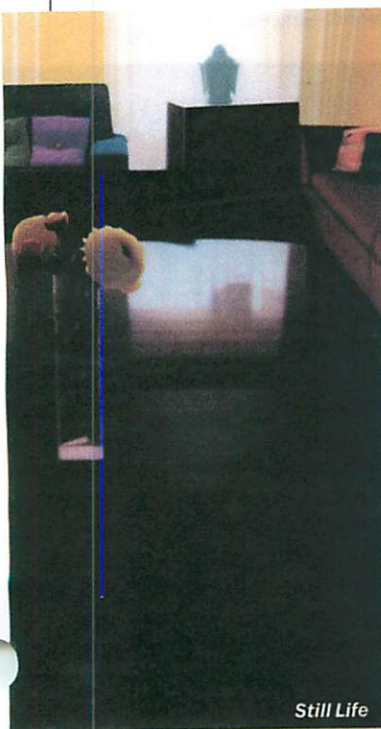
Matvey Levenstein

Larissa Goldston, through Sat 12 (see Chelsea).

The ceremonies of daily life glow in Matvey Levenstein's ethereal paintings, closely observed still lifes of domestic interiors and floral arrangements that find a transcendental poetry in the everyday effort of transforming shelter into sanctuary. In this show, a series depicting the two-room apartment he shared with his wife when they first moved to New York, the Russian-born artist combines Chardin's attention to detail and Vermeer's sense of light with the airbrushed, luxurious quality of an *Elle Decor* photograph.

Accordingly, Levenstein's paintings appear more celebratory than documentary. In *Clementines* (2000), unblemished fruit is perfectly arranged in a bowl on a gleaming tabletop. Two paintings, *Still Life* (2002) and *Flowers* (2004), portray identical arrangements of peonies atop the same table, with the same Jean-Michel Frank-like chair in the background. There is no clue that any time has elapsed between the first canvas and the second—life stands still in Levenstein's jewel box.

In *Self-Portrait* (2005), which is sequestered in the gallery's back room, Levenstein inserts an image of himself in the now-familiar rooms of his apartment. His naked back faces the viewer and his right arm is bent, as if holding a cup of coffee. Standing behind him, we gaze with him at windows covered with gauzy white curtains that block the view but radiate a wintry morning light. It's a moment of morning reverie, captured before the action of the day begins and charging the implied departure from private space to public sphere, if only because there is a refuge to return to at night. —Bridget L. Goodbody



Still Life

Listings

IF YOU WANT TO BE LISTED

Submit information by mail, e-mail (art@timeoutny.com) or fax (646-432-3160) to Emily Weiner. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest subways, telephone number and admission price, if any. **Deadline is 6pm on Monday, ten days before publication date.** Incomplete submissions will not be included, and listings information will not be accepted over the phone.

HOW TO USE THIS ART

The following is a selection of this week's exhibitions and events. For more museums, see the Around Town, Museums Art.

★=Recommended

Museums & Institutions

American Folk Art Museum

45 W 53rd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-265-1040, www.folkartmuseum.org). Subway: B, D, F, V to 47–50th Sts–Rockefeller Ctr; E, V to Fifth Ave–53rd St. Tue–Thu, Sat, Sun 10:30am–5:30pm; Fri 10:30am–7:30pm. Sat, Sun 10:30am–5:30pm. \$9, seniors and students \$7, children under 12 free. Fri 5:30–7:30pm free. ★**Obsessive Drawing.** Five emerging artists (Eugene Andolsek, Charles Benefield, Hiroyuki Doi, Chris Hipkiss and Martin Thompson) share characteristics of earlier self-taught artists like Adolf Wolfli and Madge Gill, creating painstakingly detailed all-over compositions. Through Mar 19.

Asia Society

725 Park Ave at 70th St (212-288-6400). Subway: 6 to 68th St–Hunter College. Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun 11am–6pm; Thu, Fri 11am–9pm. \$10, seniors and students \$7, children under 16 accompanied by an adult and members free. Fri 6–9pm free. ★**Vietnam: Destination for the New Millennium—The Art of Dinh Q. Lê.** The Vietnamese-American artist presents contemporary cultural perspectives with select works from his series of woven photographs, many relating to the past and to the Vietnam War. Also included are newer pieces—like an installation of small mirrored satellites—that concentrate on the country's future. Through Jan 15.

Bronx Museum of the Arts

1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St, Bronx (718-681-6000). Subway: B, D, 4 to 167th St. Wed noon–9pm; Thu–Sun noon–6pm. \$5 suggested donation, seniors and students \$3, members and children accompanied by an adult free. ★**Irreducible: Contemporary Short Form Video.** Two dozen videos by artists from North and South America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean—the majority of which were shot in public places. Work by Mircea Cantor, Aernout Mik, Song Dong, Su-Mei Tse and others, exhibited through Feb 26.

Brooklyn Museum of Art

200 Eastern Pkwy at Washington Ave, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn (718-638-5000, www.brooklynmuseum.org). Subway: 2, 3 to Eastern Pkwy–Brooklyn Museum. Wed–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat, Sun 11am–6pm. \$6, students and seniors \$3, members and children under 12 free. First Saturday of every month, 5–11pm, free. ★**Motherhood 1: Sistah Paradise's Great Wall of Fire Revival Tent** (an installation by Xenobia Bailey). A towering 10-foot-tall, 5-foot-wide sculpture combines colorful beadwork, crochet and other materials to underscore craft traditions and contemporary symbols of African heritage. Through

Jan 5. ★**Manufactured Landscapes: The Photographs of Edward Burtynsky.** Burtynsky seeks out unconventional beauty in landscapes scarred by industry (mining, quarrying, oil refining). This exhibition of 60-odd photographs presents snapshots of altered environments from China to Canada. Through Jan 15. ★**Tree of Paradise: Jewish Mosaics from the Roman Empire.** An exhibition showcasing 21 Roman-period mosaics (half of which were once part of a sanctuary floor in the synagogue in Hammam Lif, Tunisia). The 1883 discovery of these ancient ruins, detailed with Creation scenes and symbolic imagery, began an ensuing flood of archaeology that revolutionized the understanding of ancient Jewish life and religion. Through Jun 4.

Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum

2 E 91st St at Fifth Ave (212-849-8380). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. Tue–Thu 10am–5pm; Fri 10am–9pm; Sat 10am–6pm; Sun noon–6pm. \$10, students and seniors \$7, children under 12 free. ★**Yinka Shonibare Selects: Works from the Permanent Collection.** The British-Nigerian artist chooses from the museum's holdings pieces that suggest travel, like birdcages, travel diaries, boats, shoes and more. Through May 7.

El Museo del Barrio

1230 Fifth Ave between 104th and 105th Sts (212-831-7272). Subway: 6 to 103rd St. Wed, Fri–Sun 11am–5pm; Thu 11am–8pm. \$6, seniors and students \$4, members and children under 12 free. ★**El Museo's Biennial: The (S) Files/The Selected Files.** This exhibition showcases cutting-edge art being produced by Latino and Latin American artists in the New York area. Familiarize yourself with some 40 rising talents including David Antonio Cruz, Delia Gonzalez and Gavin Russom, and Delia Marquez. Through Jan 29.

The Frick Collection

1 E 70th St at Fifth Ave (212-288-0700). Subway: 6 to 68th St–Hunter College. Tue–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun 11am–5pm. \$15, seniors \$10, students \$5; Sun 11am–1pm pay as you wish. ★**Memling's Portraits.** In the 15th century, Netherlandish painter Hans Memling was a sought-after portraitist, receiving commissions from foreign merchants, Flemish patricians and religious figures alike. Nearly two-thirds of his oeuvre of masterfully crafted portraiture is brought to the Frick, where it's displayed to reflect the aesthetics, history and religious life of Memling's times. Through Dec 31. ★**Permanent Collection.** Paintings by François Boucher, Pieter Brueghel, John Constable, Jan van Eyck and El Greco are just a few of the masterworks on view, and with its outstanding sculpture collection (including a great display of small bronzes), the Frick is sure to please any time of year. Ongoing.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

1071 Fifth Ave at 89th St (212-423-3500). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. Mon–Wed, Sat, Sun 10am–5:45pm; Fri 10am–8pm. \$18, students and seniors \$15, children under 12 accompanied by an adult free. Fri 6–8pm voluntary donation. ★**Russia!** This exhibition of Russian art (one of the most extensive to be staged on U.S. turf to date) brings together more than 250 objects—including great Russian masterworks from as far back as the 12th century, examples of Social Realism from the Communist era, present-day contemporary art and more. What else can we say? The title screams it all. Through Jan 11.

International Center of Photography

1133 Sixth Ave at 43rd St (212-857-0001). Subway: B, D, F, V to 42nd St–Bryant Park; N, Q, R, W, 42nd St Sts 1, 2, 3, 7 to 42nd St–Times Sq. Tue–Thu, Sat, Sun 10am–6pm; Fri 10am–8pm; \$10, seniors and students \$7, members and children under 12 free; Fri 5–8pm voluntary contribution. ★**André Kertész.** Kertész's migrations allowed him to reevaluate the nature of his art and culture. This major retrospective—with

more than 100 vintage photos capturing Hungary, Paris and NYC—gives a taste of his travels and the insight they inspired (see also Chelsea, Silverstein Photography). Through Nov 27. ★**Modernist Photography: Selections from the Daniel Cowin Collection.** An overview of the classic period of 20th-century photography (1915–45), with 66 works that exemplify styles from Surrealism to Pictorialism by Berenice Abbott, Brassai, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Man Ray and other illustrious practitioners. ★**El Salvador: Work of Thirty Photographers.** Thirty photographers—including John Hoagland, Eugene Richards and Eli Reed—presented this show for the first time in 1984, raising public awareness of El Salvador's civil strife and related U.S. foreign policy through black-and-white wartime images. All, through Nov 27.

Japan Society

333 E 47th St between First and Second Aves (212-752-3015). Subway: E, V to Lexington Ave–53rd St; 6 to 51st St. Tue–Thu 11am–6pm; Fri 11am–9pm; Sat, Sun 11am–5pm. \$12, students and seniors \$10, members and children 16 and under free. ★**Hiroshi Sugimoto: History of History.** A meditation on time and history in the form of a display of Sugimoto's past and most recent minimalist works, juxtaposed with fossils, religious artifacts and works of art selected from the artist's personal collection. Co-organized with the Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. Through Feb 19.

Jewish Museum

1109 Fifth Ave at 92nd St (212-423-3200). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St; 6 to 96th St. Mon–Wed, Sun 11am–5:45pm; Thu 11am–9pm; Fri 11am–3pm. \$10, students and seniors \$7.50, children under 12 accompanied by an adult free. ★**The Jewish Identity Project: New American Photography.** A thought-provoking show of ten commissioned photography, video and multimedia installation projects challenging conventional representations of ethnicity, Jewishness and multiculturalism in the U.S. Work by Max Becher, Chris Verene and other artists. Through Jan 29.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Ave at 82nd St (212-535-7710). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. Tue–Thu, Sun 9:30am–5:30pm; Fri, Sat 9:30am–9pm. \$15 suggested donation, seniors \$10, students \$7, members and children under 12 free. ★**Vincent van Gogh: The Drawings.** This major retrospective, the first in the U.S. to focus on the painter's drawings, gathers 113 works on paper from private and public collections (including the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam). Through Dec 31. ★**Fra Angelico.** Not long after his death 550 years ago, the Italian Renaissance artist Fra Giovanni was first referred to as "pictor angelicus," the Angelic Painter. Though he's best known for his frescoes and altarpieces, this retrospective highlights more intimate works, tracing the full development of his oeuvre throughout his career. Through Jan 29. ★**Santiago Calatrava: Sculpture into Architecture.** Many of the designs for Calatrava's most celebrated buildings originated in independent artworks, as seen in this exhibition of the distinguished architect's marble and bronze sculptures, drawings and architectural models; included are designs for the new World Trade Center Hub (see Reviews; see also Elsewhere, Queen Sofia Spanish Institute). Through Mar 5.

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

11 W 53rd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (212-708-9400). Subway: B, D, F, V to 47–50th Sts–Rockefeller Ctr; E, V to Fifth Ave–53rd St. Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun 10:30am–5:30pm; Fri 10:30am–8pm. \$20, seniors \$16, students \$12, members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult free. Every Fri 4–8pm, Target sponsors free admission. ★**Stillness: Michael**