

JOY IN THE WORLD

ARTDESK

CONTEMPORARY ARTS, PERFORMANCE, AND THOUGHT

@readartdesk



JOIE DE VIVRE

Hockney-Van Gogh: The Joy of Nature exhibits David Hockney and Vincent Van Gogh's vibrant visions of nature, showing post-impressionist and contemporary landscapes side-by-side. Hockney's *The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate, East Yorkshire, in 2011 (twenty-eleven)* - 17 May (cover image) and other works are on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston through June 20, 2021.

ArtDesk is a free quarterly magazine published by Kirkpatrick Foundation.

SPRING 2021





Jumping for joy in **Yayoi Kusama's**
Obliteration Room exhibited at the
Queensland Gallery of Modern Art

Don't Hesitate

BY MARY OLIVER

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. *Joy is not made to be a crumb.*

EDITORS NOTE: Issue 24 of *ArtDesk* is dedicated to the notion of **JOY**. To learn more about our organizing principle, see the Magic Eight sidebar on page 23.



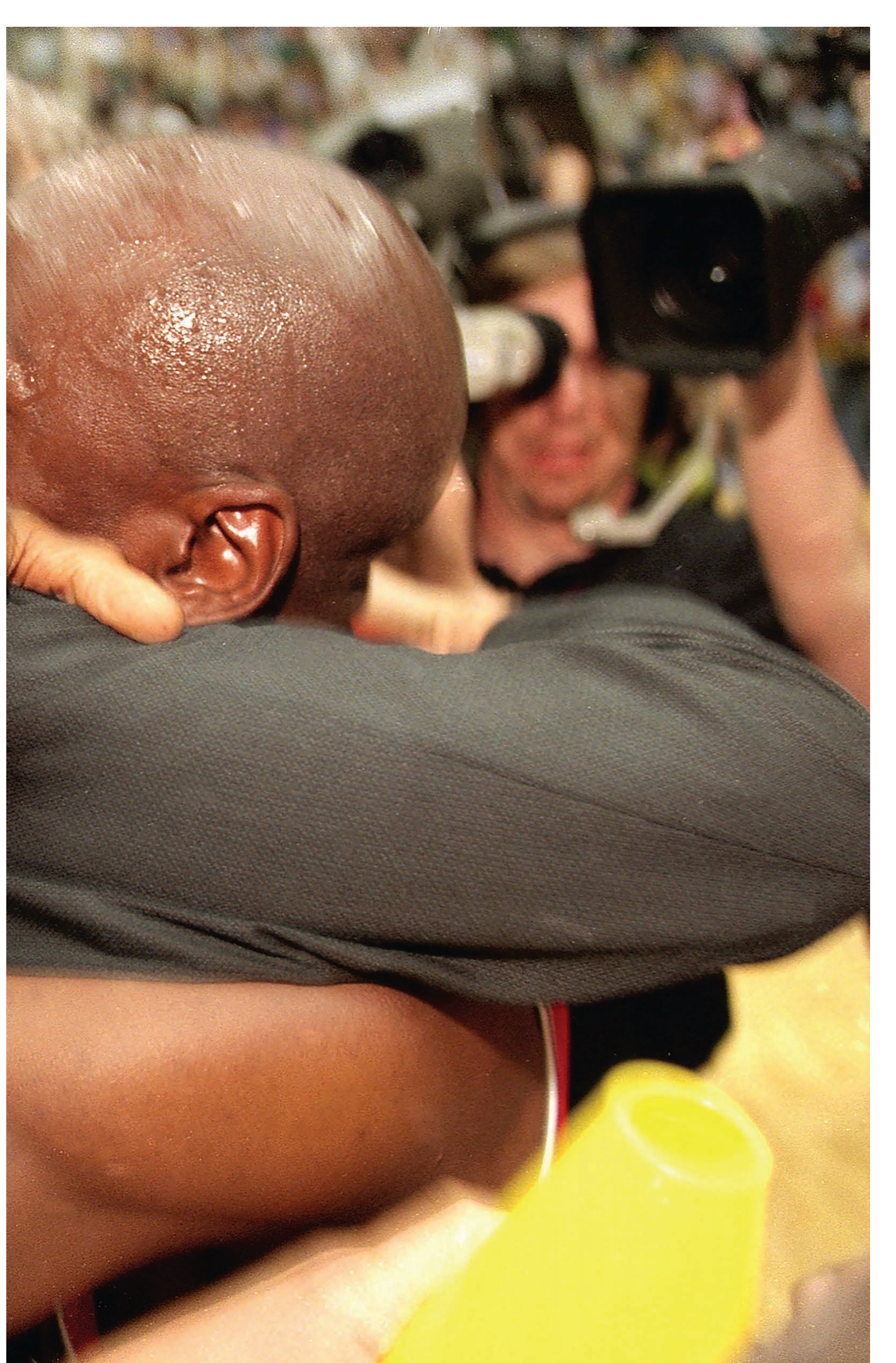
ECSTASY



The front row of the Glastonbury Festival in England. Photograph courtesy of the Photographic Youth Music Culture Archive



TRIUMPH



After their last game as Chicago Bulls, Phil Jackson and Michael Jordan celebrate their 1998 NBA finals win over the Utah Jazz. Photograph by Walter Iooss Jr.



SOLITUDE



Far above the Arctic Circle in Norway, a campfire under the Northern Lights creates an otherworldly spectacle. Photograph by Daniel Ernst



LOVE



The photographer's parents on Long Island, New York. Photograph by Chuck Fishman



FRIENDSHIP



Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner, best friends for more than seventy years. Photograph by Damon Casarez



COMPANIONSHIP



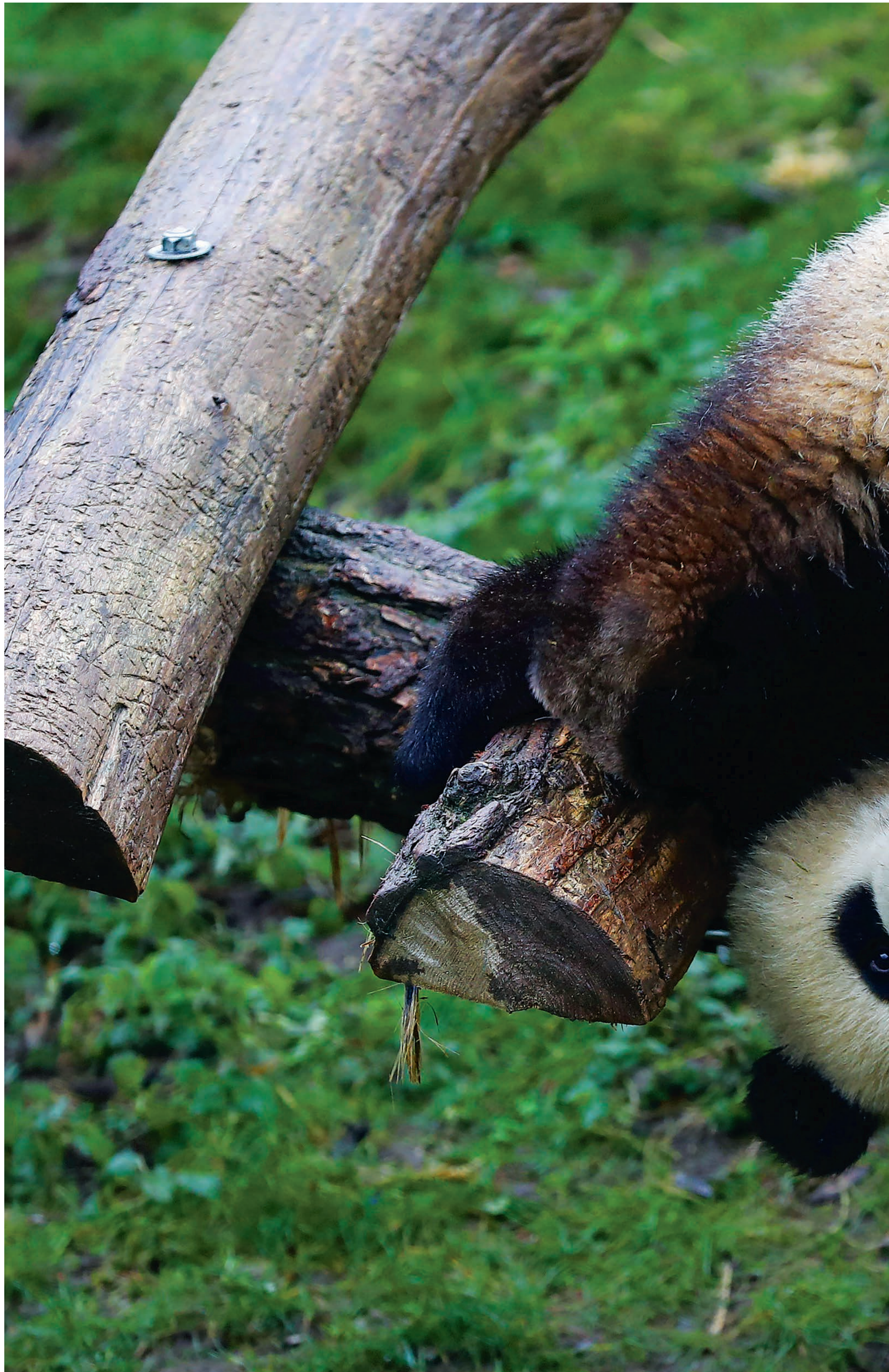
Golden Retriever enthusiasts convene for the annual Goldie Palooza in Huntington Beach, California. Photograph by Mindy Schauer



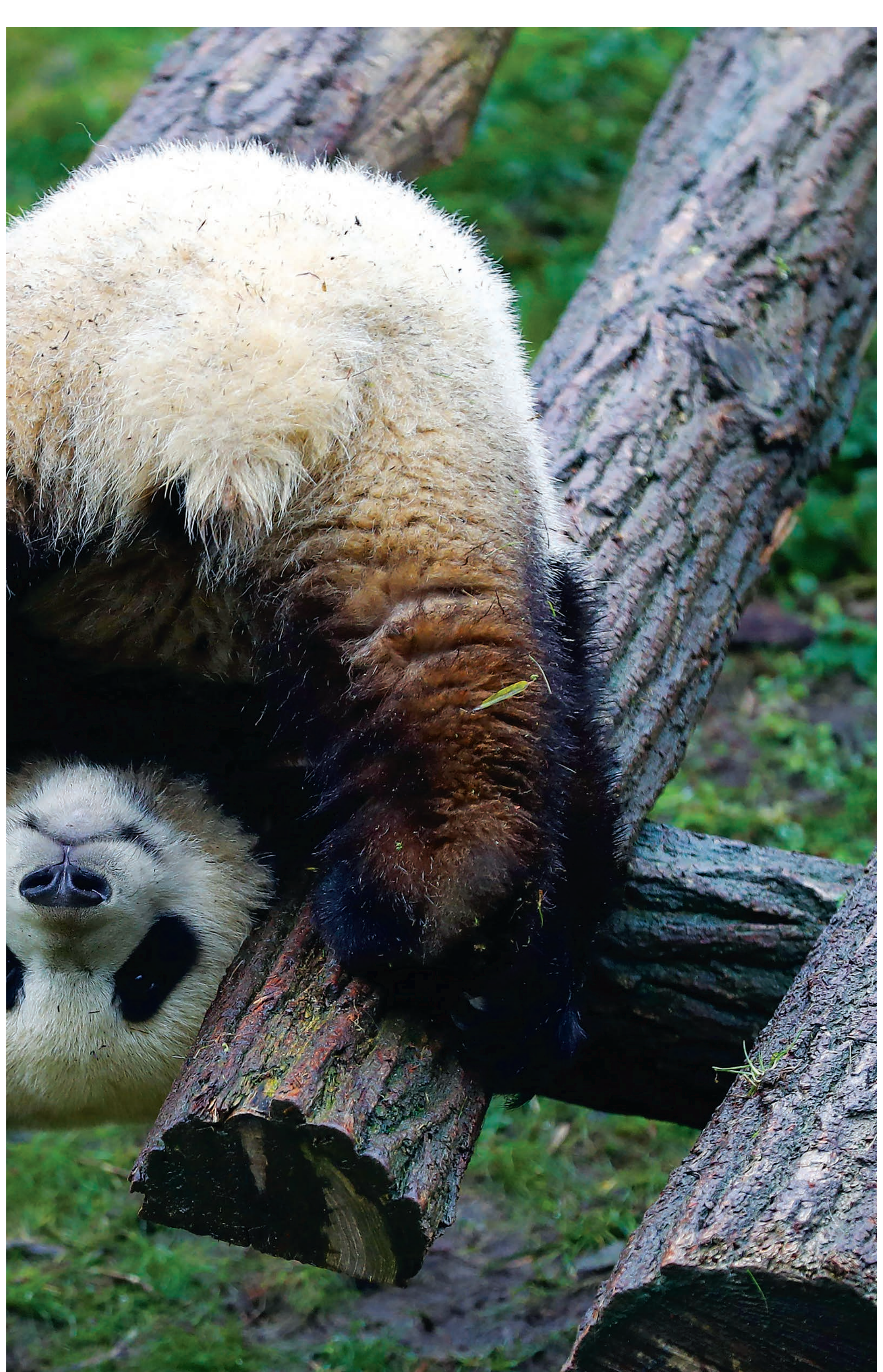
HEALING



A medical team cheers outside of the NYU Langone Health hospital in New York City in May 2020. Photograph by Noam Galai



PLAY



Giant panda cub Bao Di tumbles in the expansive Middle Kingdom at the Pairi Daiza zoo in Belgium. Photograph by Zhang Cheng



DAVID HOCKNEY
Detail of *Early July Tunnal* (2006)

Happenings

NEW AND NOW IN ART & PERFORMANCE

BY ALLISON MEIER



AMERICANS IN SPAIN: *Painting and Travel, 1820-1920* ▲

Chrysler Museum of Art / Norfolk, Virginia

EXHIBITION

A recently rediscovered portrait by Mary Cassatt of a woman with roses in her hair leaning on a windowsill, gazing coquettishly at the viewer, is a highlight in this first major exhibition to examine the impact of Spanish culture on American painting in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While Spain was a popular stop on the European tours of American artists, it has not been given as much attention in art history as the visits to Rome and Paris. Yet from John Singer Sargent's study of the work of Velázquez at the Prado to William Merritt Chase being captivated by the dancers, architecture, and light of Madrid, these artists absorbed the sights and history of the country as they in turn guided the development of American art. *Through May 16, 2021.* ▶ [chrysler.org](#)

HOCKNEY – VAN GOGH: *The Joy of Nature* ◀

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston / Houston, Texas

EXHIBITION

One artist captured the fields of Provence in vibrant oil paintings; the other illustrates the woods of East Yorkshire on his iPad. Both share a passion for color and nature which is united in this exhibition that began at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. British artist David Hockney was inspired early in his career by the work of Vincent van Gogh, echoing the nineteenth-century Dutch artist's brushwork with its long lines on trees and dashes of grass in electric twentieth-century hues. Joining Hockney's sketches, paintings, videos, and iPad drawings with paintings and drawings by Van Gogh, the exhibition explores how the two artists have vividly portrayed the natural beauty of the world around them. *Through June 20, 2021.* ▶ [mfah.org](#)

DAVID DRISKELL: *Icons of Nature and History*

High Museum of Art / Atlanta, Georgia

EXHIBITION

As an artist, curator, and scholar of Black art, David Driskell was passionate about elevating the stories of the African diaspora. This posthumous touring retrospective visits places significant to his own

life, starting with his home state of Georgia before traveling to the Portland Museum of Art in Maine where he had a studio, and the Phillips Collection which he first visited as a Howard University undergraduate. Tireless in his promotion of Black art, including his organizing the pivotal 1976 *Two Centuries of Black American Art* at LACMA, Driskell brought that same attention to the Black experience into his artwork that involved painting, printmaking, and collage, with *Icons of Nature and History* featuring around sixty pieces that span seven decades of his influential practice. *Through May 9, 2021.* ▶ [high.org](#)

DYANI WHITE HAWK: *Speaking to Relatives*

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art / Kansas City, Missouri

EXHIBITION

In beadwork and quillwork, Dyani White Hawk identified an American abstract art tradition that has been largely ignored. The Sicangu Lakota artist has infused these influences in her paintings, photographs, sculptures, videos, and installations, often employing recognizable shapes like moccasin tops in works reminiscent of twentieth-century modernists such as Sean Scully and Mark Rothko. This solo show surveys ten years of White Hawk's practice, where vibrant color and line bring these two artistic veins together while questioning why

one has been considered fine art and the other excluded. *Through May 16, 2021.* ▶ [kemperart.org](#)

THE STATE WE'RE IN WATER: *Constructing a Sense of Place in the Hydrosphere*

Oklahoma State University Museum of Art / Stillwater, Oklahoma

MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION

From a wastewater treatment plant to the shipping complex at the Port of Catoosa, the artistic team of Robin Lasser, Marguerite Perret, and Bruce Scherting spent more than four years investigating both the local and global relationship to water. Culminating in this exhibition at the OSU Museum of Art, *The State We're In Water* features five installations—including porcelain casts of lakeside debris and a boardwalk leading to a video on the community and culture of the Oklahoma watershed—as well as online content. This includes a virtual tour, video interviews, and a gallery of crowd-sourced postcards offering personal connections to the ubiquitous but vital resource of water. *Through May 29, 2021.* ▶ [museum.okstate.edu](#)

2021 DIGITAL SEASON

New York City Ballet / New York, New York

ONLINE

The New York City Ballet has returned to its home at Lincoln Center, recording performances for their spring digital season. It kicks off with a three-week-long in-depth look at the choreography of founder George Balanchine with both performance streams and discussions with the dancers. Then viewers can tune into new work including the world premiere of a ballet by choreographer Kyle Abraham and a solo by choreographer Justin Peck. Alongside these performances, *City Ballet The Podcast* is providing behind-the-scenes looks at the company as it finds ways to adapt and connect. *Through June 17, 2021.* ▶ [nycballet.com](#)

DEADCENTER FILM FESTIVAL

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

FILM FESTIVAL

Last year Oklahoma's biggest film festival shifted to be entirely online and in 2021 it returns in a hybrid format to showcase independent films made locally and around the world. Screenings, panels, screenplay readings, classes, and more, the festival that started as a two-day festival in 2001 continues to expand its offerings, adding the Best Indigenous Short Film award. Alongside the annual festival, the recently launched deadCenter Continuum is hosting year-round streaming events and on-demand content, all promoting the community of creative filmmaking. *June 10–20, 2021.* ▶ [deadcenterfilm.org](#)

From the Windows to the Walls THE SOL LEWITT APP

One of the most prominent American artists of the twentieth century, Sol LeWitt worked across minimalism and conceptualism. Lewitt's paintings—with their dizzying abstract shapes and repetition—can appear impenetrable

to the casual art viewer. A new app developed by Microsoft in collaboration with the LeWitt estate brings users into his world to better appreciate the work and understand its creation. The app includes a 360-degree tour of his Connecticut studio, rarely seen archival

video and audio, and the ability to scan a LeWitt wall drawing at a museum near you and discover behind-the-scenes details on his process and practice.

The Sol LeWitt app is available for both iOS and Android devices. ▶ [microsoft.com/lewitt](#)



JEFFREY GREENBERG

Sol Lewitt's *Wall Drawing #370* (1982) on exhibit in 2016 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York



CANALETTO: *Painting Venice*
Holburne Museum / Bath, England

EXHIBITION

On view thanks to a renovation, the most important paintings of Venice by Canaletto will be on display for the first time in more than seventy years. From a private art collection, the works first arrived in Britain in the 1730s and are owned by successive Dukes of Bedford. The twenty-three paintings explore Canaletto's life and work, with a backdrop of eighteenth-century Venice and the Grand Tour. "Woburn Abbey is currently undergoing its biggest refurbishment since it first opened to the public in 1955. The renovations have therefore provided an ideal opportunity for The Duke and Duchess of Bedford generously to share a selection of Woburn's greatest treasures with a wider audience," says the Holburne's director, Chris Stephens. *Through September 5, 2021.* ▶ holburne.org

LORRAINE O'GRADY: *Both/And* ▲
Brooklyn Museum / Brooklyn, New York

EXHIBITION

After her bold 1980 debut in her persona Mlle Bourgeoise Noire, draped in 180 pairs of white gloves and declaring that "Black art must take more risks!," Lorraine O'Grady has continued to confront the racism, sexism, and inequalities in the art world through performance, installations, and conceptual work. Finally, at the age of eighty-six, she is getting her first retrospective. *Both/And* surveys her four decades of tirelessly reinventing her practice and introduces a new persona decked out in armor recalling European colonialism and palm tree headgear evoking her Caribbean heritage. *Through July 18, 2021.* ▶ brooklynmuseum.org

CUBISM IN COLOR: *The Still Lives of Juan Gris*
Dallas Museum of Art / Dallas, Texas

EXHIBITION

Spanish artist Juan Gris was central to the development of cubism alongside Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, and Fernand Léger. His death at the age of forty cut short a flourishing career and his contributions to the movement have been largely overlooked. This retrospective offers a rare

overview of his work, bringing together more than forty paintings and collages that demonstrate how his practice evolved between 1911 and 1926. In distinctive still lifes where recognizable objects like guitars and fruit bowls were flattened and sharpened into abstraction, he used color, form, and a meticulous attention to composition that helped revolutionize modern art. *Through July 25, 2021.* ▶ dma.org

THE PARADOX OF STILLNESS: *Art, Object, and Performance*
Walker Art Center / Minneapolis, Minnesota

EXHIBITION

Following a year in which much of life has felt on pause, the Walker Art Center is opening its exhibition on stillness that was postponed last spring. Concentrating on pieces made between the twentieth century and the present, it features live performances among its over 100 works by sixty artists including Marina Abramović, Trisha Brown, Merce Cunningham, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Pope.L, and Maruja Mallo. Focusing on human movement, *The Paradox of Stillness* examines these artists' search for static states in the ever-changing moments of life. *May 15–August 8, 2021.* ▶ walkerart.org

CHRISTINA QUARLES
Museum Of Contemporary Art Chicago / Chicago, Illinois

EXHIBITION

The Los Angeles-based Christina Quarles has emerged as a powerful painter of acrylic works with tangles of elongated bodies moving fluidly through domestic environments. These vivid paintings reflect on the complex gender, sexual, and racial identities within each individual. This solo show at the MCA Chicago is the largest exhibition of her art yet, joining recent pieces with a new installation. Tumbling and falling together in bright colors, the figures in Quarles's work echo the otherworldly forms of surrealism in their dynamic expression of how a person's

individuality pushes beyond the limits of their skin. *Through August 29, 2021.* ▶ mcchicago.org

NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE: *Structures for Life* ▼
MoMA PS1 / New York, New York

EXHIBITION

In joyous color, Niki de Saint Phalle grappled with climate change, HIV/AIDS awareness, and women's rights, making space for serious social issues through a practice that included fantastic sculptures, environments, fashion, and even perfume. This first US exhibition of the French artist features more than 200 works that span the breadth of her interdisciplinary art, from the 1960s bullseye paintings that she used as dartboards to monumental later projects like the 1998 Tarot Garden installation in Italy inspired by cards of divination. Always finding new ways to alter perspectives through her art, she created transformative experiences aimed at changing the world. *Through September 6, 2021.* ▶ moma.org



CHAKAIA BOOKER AT OKLAHOMA CONTEMPORARY



Scaling Up

An emblematic sculpture evoking the history of Oklahoma City's Automobile Alley neighborhood is arriving this summer to Campbell Art Park. Chakaia Booker's *Shaved Portions*, commissioned specifically for the park and formed from discarded tires, will be on view from July 29, 2021 to May 2, 2022. "This work will introduce a sculptural scale not previously seen in Campbell Art Park," says artistic director Jeremiah

Matthew Davis. "With its soaring heights and gentle undulations, the monumental work of steel and recycled tires will stand sentinel atop Automobile Alley." Automobile Alley was once lined with car dealerships in the 1920s but later went into decline. Now, like the degraded tires that are transformed in Booker's hands, it has been revived over the years into something new, with *Shaved Portions* inviting viewers to consider the beauty in

◀ Much like her 2004 piece *Manipulating Fractions*, Chakaia Booker's new structure will include rubber tires as a signature material. Booker's *Shaved Portions* will reach a height of forty feet and will span one city block across Campbell Art Park in Oklahoma City. A remarkably scaled installation designed specifically for the art park, Booker's mountainous work is interactive and will allow visitors to walk through a large central portal in the sculpture.

what others have thrown away. Visitors can explore the large-scale stainless steel structure of stacked loops wrapped with radiant edges of rubber. While living in New York's East Village in the 1980s, Booker saw the potential in what had been abandoned as trash. Old tires, left behind from car fires or tossed into vacant lots, had a tactile quality that intrigued the New Jersey-born artist. The cast-off objects resonated with her interest in reshaping materials. She saw in the torn and heavy tires with their varying shades of black—scarred by rust and the road—a medium for themes of ecology, urban decay, the waste of modern development, and the complexities of Black identity. As she said in a 2003 interview with *Sculpture* magazine, "Cultural diversity in this society is like tire elements: tires that have been under an explosive moment may retain wonderful visual patterns..." By the early 1990s, she was cutting, riveting,

twisting, and weaving scraps of tire rubber into abstract sculptures where the material's strength made it a good fit for outdoor work that could withstand the shifts in weather. While she's now had prominent museum exhibitions—including a major survey currently on view at the ICA Miami in Florida—those outdoor experiences remain central to her work, with previous installations in Chicago's Millennium Park and New York's Storm King Art Center. "Booker's body of work remains rooted in the early days of her career, transforming urban detritus into biomorphic sculptures," says Oklahoma Contemporary director of curatorial affairs Carina Evangelista. "[She is] able to coax an intensity of feeling out of abstract shapes into three-dimensional forms of staggering scale and incredible presence of cast-off industrial scraps that would otherwise have languished as insignias of urban blight and measures of wanton waste." —ALLISON MEIER



ArtSociety

SEEN + SCENE

An OKLA Opening

Ed Ruscha's first solo exhibition in his home state marked a historic contemporary arts moment for the state. **Ed Ruscha: OKLA**, at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, opened with a VIP preview on February 11, both in person and virtually. The arts center's executive director **Eddie Walker** introduced the event, which included a visit from the artist—Ruscha joined virtually from his Los Angeles studio. *Ed Ruscha: OKLA* is on view through July 5, 2021. ▶ **Oklahoma City**



ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Oklahoma Contemporary co-founder Christian Keese, choreographer Larry Keigwin, Oklahoma Contemporary artistic director Jeremiah Davis, Susan Jordan, Aimee and David Harlow, and Ford Austin BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: Kirkpatrick Family Fund director Elizabeth Eickman and Marvin Quinn; Annie Bohanon and Henry Browne, Jr.; Meg Salyer and Oklahoma Contemporary executive director Eddie Walker.

A New Face

BRINGING NEARLY TWO decades of arts leadership, Scott Levy joined Green Box Arts in March as its deputy director.

"The opportunity to engage in multidisciplinary arts experiences is what drove me to make the move to Colorado in the first place," Levy says of his initial leap from the East Coast to the Rocky Mountains back in 2011. "Green Box has this amazing opportunity to serve as a significant incubator for new multidisciplinary arts experiences."

From his hometown of Hartford, Connecticut, through the theaters of

New York and Maine, to Colorado, Levy spent the prior decade as an award-winning artistic director with the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theater Company. Of his career, he says he let the arts guide him along the way.

The natural beauty of Green Mountain Falls, Levy adds, has a significant influence on the artists, the audience, and the art produced at Green Box.

"It really does feel like we are at the intersection of nature and artistic creation," he says. "One of my goals is to continue to grow that

Scott Levy, the new deputy director of Green Box Arts, which is based in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado



feeling of Green Box as a leading site for new artistic conversation, artistic experience, and arts education for all ages."—**KELLY ROGERS**

The 2021 Green Box Arts Festival will run from June 21 to July 11 in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado.
▶ **greenboxarts.org**

SOBlue

For the first time in more than two hundred years, there's a new blue on the block. Back in 2009, while attempting to create materials for use in electronics, a chemistry student from Oregon State University accidentally discovered this new inorganic hue, **YInMn Blue** (pictured above). On the spectrum between cobalt and ultramarine, its name comes from the compounds used to make it—indium, manganese, yttrium, and oxygen. The Environmental Protection Agency approved the shade for consumers in 2020. Now, it can be purchased through Golden acrylic paints for your own blue period.

—**ALANA RUIZ DE LA PEÑA**

IN MEMORY

Roger Mandle (1941–2020)



Roger Mandle undertook many roles during his career: museum director, educator, mentor, activist, lobbyist, and consultant. Importantly, he was also a very nice man. His influence extended throughout the world, as did his art historical expertise which ranged from early Dutch painting to contemporary design and architecture. Yet he was equally proficient and successful as a cultural strategist, fundraiser, and administrator.

After completing his tertiary education, he started work at the Minneapolis Museum of Art (1967–1974), before commencing an eleven-year stint at the Toledo Museum of Art (1977–1988), first as Associate Director, then Director. From 1988–1993, Mandle served as deputy director and chief curator of the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., while simultaneously advising on numerous committees, including the National Council on the Arts. Then, in an extraordinarily fruitful career move, Mandle was appointed president of the Rhode Island School of Design (1993–2008), where he is remembered for modernizing the program and quadrupling its endowment to over \$400 million. His reputation subsequently secured him a directorship at the Qatar Museums Authority to oversee the development of an emerging nation's cultural and educational institutions, including twelve museums.

Mandle died in November 2020 and is survived by his wife, the acclaimed artist, Gayle Wells Mandle, their two children and five grandchildren. —**MARY ANN PRIOR**

WINGS OF DESIRE

A dance film commissioned by the **University of North Carolina School of the Arts** and created by choreographer (and *ArtDesk* dance editor) **Larry Keigwin**, *Waiting in the Wings* is set to a propulsive new score by composer **Curtis Macdonald**. The film follows seventeen dancers as they move between backstage and onstage, capturing the anticipation and anxiety of stepping into the spotlight. Driven by the dancers' explosive athleticism and electric performances, *Waiting in the Wings* will premiere on April 23, 2021, on the UNCSA website. On-demand viewing passes are available online at ▶ **uncsa.edu/performances/on-demand**. —**KELLY ROGERS**



Joyful Sound

In March, Joy Harjo, the United States Poet Laureate, released a new album of work, *I Pray for My Enemies*. Her collaborator Barrett Martin, a legendary producer and engineer, pieced together a network of musicians to support the poet's work on the recordings.

"Martin holds it all together with drums, upright bass, keyboards and production duties on

I Pray for My Enemies," according to the Pearl Jam foundation, Vitalogy. "He assembled an all-star band to explore Harjo's work, featuring Peter Buck (R.E.M.) on electric guitar and feedback; Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) on electric guitar solos; Krist Novoselic (Nirvana) on acoustic guitar; and Rich Robinson (Black Crowes) on electric guitar solos. Additional players include renowned Iraqi oud master Rahim Alhaj; trumpeter Dave Carter, and percussionist/backing vocalist Lisette Garcia. Harjo's stepdaughters

sing harmony vocals, and her husband Owen Sapulpa plays surdo drum on the album."

The Tulsa resident is the first Native American writer to be named the nation's poet laureate and only the second poet to have a third term in the role. Harjo, whose desk appeared in *ArtDesk* in 2020, is one of our most favorite Joys. She keeps a busy touring and virtual schedule; that and more at ▶ **joyharjo.com**.

—**LOUISA McCUNE**



ED RUSCHA. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

FIND
CONTACT
LENS AT
BOTTOM OF
SWIMMING
POOL



Our favorite word at the Kirkpatrick Family Archive is *wholeness*. We like to think that part of what history can do is somewhat like what family can do—bring a sense of completion by allowing individuals from the past to connect to those in the present.

Wholeness has been on my mind a lot lately—what defines wholeness, who defines wholeness. Historical context surely lays the foundation to overall wholeness. Maybe wholeness is simply a state of mind, or even a choice. Maybe wholeness is a fleeting moment of contentedness, or for some, maybe wholeness is an abstract aspiration that they can never attain (yuck). Mainly, in my experience, wholeness is in the eye of the beholder.



Intimacy. I love how it conjures a sense of deeply personal connection. It just sounds like the type of emotional bond that it is describing. Thanks for letting everyone have this opportunity.
DAVID HULL
Yukon, Oklahoma

It's what everyone seems to want but few know how to handle. Dr. Henry Cloud (co-author of *Boundaries* with Dr. John Townsend, 1992) refers to intimacy as “into me you see.” Clever wordplay. I like that. It communicates. Intimacy is a close sister to sincerity, which we deduced to be “courage + vulnerability=sincerity” on the philosophy calls with Dr. Snow. May everyone who seeks intimacy have it in abundance in their lives.



One of my favorite words is KAYAK not only because it's a palindrome, but because it could almost look like a kayak with the K's holding the word together like the bow and stern of the little boat. As a former English instructor, words have always been the flour that holds together the lovely words it can bake. Oh, bad metaphor—words can be weapons, too. But a kayak is just a lowly boat. I look forward to seeing what other words people suggest. Great little project to think about on a winter's day. Best from Denver's cold Wednesday.
SALLY KURTZMAN
Denver, Colorado

Hi, Sally. I am playing catch up this Friday evening, from a balmy late winter day here in Oklahoma City. While I have been more of a canoe person in my life, I now delight in your word because of the shape of the

H*ope* is my favorite word and companion in these sometimes hopeless time because, in the words of Emily Dickinson, “Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul. That sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.” Thank you.
JUDITH NORMAN
Fort Worth, Texas

Thank you, Judy, for your reply and for reading *ArtDesk*. *Hope*: the opposite of dread and the sublimation of fear. A few friends and I started something recently on Zoom with University of Oklahoma philosopher, Dr. Nancy Snow. It was a call every Wednesday evening in February, which we're continuing in April. Maybe we'll do it again in June. For our first call, we delved into Hope. It was really wonderful! Evidently, hope was studied in the history of philosophy, but greater attention was paid to it just after World War II—and more so since 2010. Because of that “hope” call and Dr. Snow's reading recommendations, I started listening to Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning* on Audible, probably the most important piece on hope published in modern times. (It was written over the course of nine days in 1946, shortly after Frankl was liberated from a concentration camp.) You are more than welcome to join us on future calls, which may last beyond April, or not at all. Time will tell.



Surrender. Surrender to happiness. Surrender to love. I surrender all.
KYLA THOMPSON
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Thank you, Kyla. *Surrender* is one of those words—in the psycho-spiritual landscape—that can be so confusing. Sometimes it takes years to fully understand what it means to *surrender*. When a person gets it, *really* gets it, he or she understands that it means to let go, to live in what *is* instead of what we fantasize about what *should be*. With surrender comes so much freedom.



During 2020, my favorite word became *liberty*. I thought about the word so often, that when I got a new Mini-Schnauzer puppy toward the end of year, I named her “Libby.” Whenever I need to reprimand her I call out sternly, Liberty! At those moments, I am reminded of the sweetest, most precious gift we have in this nation. With pride and appreciation, as I scoop up my fur baby with a big hug, I declare, “Liberty!, I love you so much!”
PAULETTE BLACK
Norman, Oklahoma

In the immortal words of Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*, “Freedom!”

▲ ED RUSCHA
Find Contact Lens at Bottom of Swimming Pool (2007)
A survey of Ed Ruscha's work is on view at Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center through July 5, 2021.

Magic Eight



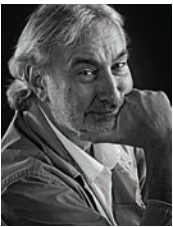
In 2015, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu met in Dharamsala, India, for five days to celebrate HH's **eightieth** birthday. The result was *The Book of Joy* (Penguin Random House, 2016), a best-selling book in which the two global religious leaders identified their **Eight Pillars of Joy**, the foundation for lasting happiness. Inspired, we used their collection to form our own Eight Pillars of Joy as an organizing principle for this, our Joy issue of *ArtDesk*. Meanwhile, in Buddhism, the Four Noble Truths constitute the teachings of the Buddha; the truth of suffering, the cause of suffering, the end of suffering, and the path that leads to the end of suffering. These four truths map the method to end suffering, and this guide is called the **Noble Eightfold Path**. ¡Viva el ocho!

REV. TUTU & THE DALAI'S 8		
1.	Perspective	
2.	Humility	
3.	Humor	
4.	Acceptance	
5.	Forgiveness	
6.	Gratitude	
7.	Compassion	
8.	Generosity	

Contributors



MARY OLIVER | Once the assistant to the sister of Edna St. Vincent Millay, Oliver was a beloved American poet who discovered a joy and hope in nature that characterized much of her work. She won the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize for her poetry, in which she often contemplated the natural world. Named the best-selling poet in the United States in 2007 and the recipient of four honorary doctorates, Oliver died in January 2019.



CHUCK FISHMAN | Fishman has been a freelance photographer in New York for the last forty years, focusing his lens on social and political issues. His work has been extensively featured in *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, *Newsweek*, *The London Sunday Times*, *The Economist* and others, and selected to be in major collections including the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery.



JOY REED BELT | Belt is a licensed professional counselor and the owner and director of JRB Art at The Elms. Introduced to art collecting by her husband, Belt opened her first gallery in the Paseo in Oklahoma City in 2000 and recently renovated the historic Paseo Plunge, which now houses a coffee and donut shop, a bookstore, and an exhibit space for artists. Belt is a longtime committee member for Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center.

ART DESK

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This issue of *ArtDesk* is dedicated to Kathy McCord on the occasion of her fortieth work anniversary with the Kirkpatrick family and Kirkpatrick Foundation.



THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL: Comfort dogs, pigs, and killer whales will be topics du jour at The ANIMAL Conference in Oklahoma City, August 27–28, 2021. Dozens of speakers, animals, artworks, performance, and new friends and old will intersect to inspire (and conspire) and improve conditions for animals in Oklahoma and beyond. Space is limited to 150 socially distanced participants per day. Register at **▶ theanimalconference.com**.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Kirkpatrick Foundation—founded by John and Eleanor Kirkpatrick in 1955—is an Oklahoma City philanthropy supporting arts, culture, education, animal well-being, environmental conservation, and historic preservation.

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the mouth to say it, especially when you give a little extra breath to the “h.”

TIM BRADLEY
Centennial, Colorado

Tim, are you familiar with the character Stewie on *Family Guy*? If not, be sure to watch the Wheat Thins segment on YouTube. *Whhhheat Thins*. You’ll never say Wheat Thins the same way again, and Alana (our managing editor) and I will never say *whimsy* the same way, either. *Thhhhhanks* for the big chuckle.

Lemniscate [or double infinity] and here is why: “What is infinite about endlessness is only the endlessness itself,” said philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein. Seems a bit pedantic now that I look at this, but there you are.

WILLIAM PATTY
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

William, I think your favorite word represents one of the most beautiful images we have on planet earth. I like everything to do with sacred geometry, and the lemniscate is a reminder of our interconnectedness. I don’t have any tattoos, but if I ever planned to, I might consider that one. Also, be sure to read the Magic Eight sidebar below, which harks to your magic eight of the lemniscate.

Hold. This simple four-letter word encompasses so much of the past year. We have literally been on hold for much of the time. We haven’t been able to hold those we love due to social distancing. And finally, the message hold on, endure, this too will change. In the back of my mind I can hear Eddie Money singing, “Baby hold me, to me, whatever will be, will be, the future is ours to see, so baby, hold on, to me.”
Holding on for dear life,
GERI MICHELLI
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Geri, about six months ago, I downloaded the song *Hold On* by Kansas, thinking it was the Eddie Money song. I just downloaded the correct one. (Thank you.) I confess that I have grown irritated by the phrase “hold space.” The spirit of the term is well and good, but it still bugs me. I feel a little guilty about it and I was so happy you didn’t say “hold space.” But *hold* is simply beautiful. I mean, my wish—isn’t it everyone’s?—is that each one of us has someone to have and to hold. What a beautiful sentiment. Thank you for sharing. Holding on loosely (.38 Special),
—LOUISA McCUNE

Ks. Maybe you should take your English teacher skills to the world of marketing and branding. I think you have a gift. I drew your words on a piece of paper just now, with a reversed K, and I am still seeing a canoe. Can a canoe be a kayak? Is a kayak a type of canoe? Rather than running straight to Google, maybe we can just sit in the wonderment of it all.

obstreperous
SODY CLEMENTS
Nichols Hills, Oklahoma

Dutifully Googled. As the mother of three boys, I more than understand this definition.

My favorite word is pantuflas —I learned Spanish when I was quite young and taught it for many years. This word is fun to look at, even more fun to say, and it means “house slippers.” Pantuflas is simply a lovable word. Thanks for asking!
ROSALEA CARTAR
Lawrence, Kansas

Rosalea, I write to you this morning from the comfort of my baby blue *pantuflas*, purchased a couple of months ago at Penn Square Mall, here in Oklahoma City. They are made by Cabernet and are the same brand worn by my mother, who died in 2018. Our dogs have managed not to chew up this pair, and my youngest son sometimes wears them around the house. Thank you for sharing *pantuflas*. I didn’t know this word before your email. Lovable, indeed.

My favorite current word, meraki, is a modern Greek word often used to describe doing something with soul, creativity, passion, or love; the essence of yourself that is put into your work, whether it be difficult or simple and small; a labor of love. There is no English equivalent. It’s my current favorite word because I think it explains how people can accomplish things that would be almost unfathomable for others, from artists to athletes, etc. There is even a book, Meraki: The World’s Most Beautiful Words by D.K.S. Dhara. You might want to check it out. I enjoy ArtDesk. Thank you for the meraki you and staff put into it!
BARBARA LAGREE
Edmond, Oklahoma

We’re always pleased when readers notice our efforts. Thank you, Barbara.

I think my favorite word is whimsy. It’s such a happy word and it feels good in

NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH	ARTDESKS’S 8 PILLARS
Right Understanding	Ecstasy
Right Thought	Triumph
Right Speech	Solitude
Right Action	Love
Right Livelihood	Companionship
Right Effort	Friendship
Right Mindfulness	Healing
Right Concentration	Play



SHEVALIN WILLIAMS

A Haven in the Elms

YEARS AGO, I purchased a large glass and brass table to use as a desk. It quickly became my very own personal island, the place where I could work, think and dream....my refuge from the world. The antique dealer who sold me the table offered traditional desks, but I was attracted to the size of the glass table. I also appreciated the way its surface reflected light and that it didn't take up as much visual space as a large traditional wooden desk with drawers. In addition to our ten-hour-a-day working relationship, the glass desk and I formed a close personal relationship. That table is where I placed my head after being told my mother had died.

One beautiful Saturday afternoon, while sitting and dreaming beside my glass companion, I decided to open an art gallery in the Paseo Arts District in Oklahoma City.

The table, happy to change careers with me, was the first piece of furniture in my new office at JRB Art at The Elms. For more than twenty years now it has provided the perfect sanctuary and space for me to read and research, review artist's submissions, schedule and organize exhibitions, write press releases, communicate with artists and patrons, and read and prepare documents for the various boards on which I serve. About a year ago, again sitting with my venerable glass companion and allowing myself to dream, I decided to start a weekly blog organized around the general topic of "Living With Art." Once again, my desk embraced my new idea and willingly became the nexus of that activity. It's wonderful to have this luminous refuge I can see and touch, that encourages me to work, think, and dream. —JOY REED BELT

INSIDE COVERS
The Flaming Lips perform live at the Criterion
in Oklahoma City on March 13, 2021.

Photograph by Blake Studdard





Figure It On Out (2017). © Ed Ruscha. Courtesy of Ed Ruscha Studio

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