

Friday, January 25, 1963
LEND ME YOUR EARS:

DAILY AMERICAN

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Abstracts: Art Thieves Shun Them

ABSTRACT ARTISTS PROBABLY DON'T FEEL TOO BAD about it, but their popularity with art thieves is almost nil. Thieves who broke into a Lake Como Villa a year ago had their pick of figurative and abstract art. They chose the former, making off with a Corot, two Canalettos, four Signorinis and a Fattori. More recently thieves concentrated on Rosalis and De Pisis in a Rome gallery job, again choosing the recognizable works over the abstract. The thief who made off with an abstract sculpting from a Vienna gallery recently was obviously an amateur. The work was valued at a few schillings. An Italian police expert says most art thieves work on commission, stealing what they are sent for and hoping to collect more than 10 per cent in the resale. Their choices indicate, he explained, that in the long run the figurative pieces will have more value.

Science Award

Michael Morrow of Vicenza U.S. Army High School is the 1963 winner of the Bausch and Lomb Science Award at his school. The award, evidence of superior scientific aptitude, entitles Michael to compete for Bausch and Lomb scholarships to the University of Rochester. Three or more fellowships for a combined value of \$21,600 are provided annually. The winner is the son of M. Sgt. and Mrs. Mel M. Morrow of Aviano Air Force Base.

Rome Doings

Philippine painter Florencio B. Concepcion opens a one-man show at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Galleria Trinità dei Monti. The young artist has been on an Italian state scholarship since 1961 and has had his works exhibited in Viterbo, Ancona and Florence, among other Italian cities. Concepcion has gone from a figurative to a personal abstract style. The show will consist of his best works during the past year... Melchior Lengyel, American dramatist who wrote "Ninotchka," "To Be or Not To Be," "Angel" and "Sancho Panza," is in Rome for a long stay at 16-A Via di Porta Pinciana... Roger Martin, American Academy in Rome fellow in landscape architecture, will speak on "A Landscape Architect in the Twentieth Century" at 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29 in the Students and Artists Center of St. Paul's American Church. Martin, who holds degrees from Minnesota and Harvard, will illustrate the talk with photos and drawings.

CONCEPCION

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Celebrity Chatter

Maria Callas, home from the Milan clinic where she underwent a hernia operation this week, spent a comfortable night Wednesday...



LUCIANO FINESCHI (second from left) entertains nightly at the Grotte del Piccione, where he teaches the hit dance, the "Hully Gully."

Conrad Hilton arrives in town today for a one-day stay at the Excelsior... Lady Portsmouth arrived in town Thursday for a few days at the Bernini Bristol... Pier Paolo Pasolini is back from Aden and African locations of his next film "Padre Selvaggio," starring Serge Reggiani. Shooting starts in Kenya within two weeks... Roy Disney, Walt's brother, flew off to Frankfurt to arrange the German launching of the next Disney film... United Artists chief Max Youngstein is at the Excelsior.

Around Town

Victor Wolfgang von Hagen, American archeologist who has been in Rome studying the ancient Roman roads, left on United Arab Airlines Wednesday for London to discuss programs with the BBC. Von Hagen will review programs about the expedition to Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, the Sudan and various parts of Europe retracing the roads... Rod Taylor celebrated his return to Rome by escorting Anita Ekberg to George's. While there he moved up the ladder to become a Triple Cardinal, leaving only the Sprint Cardinal to achieve... USIS holds its second conference of American literature next Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Information Service Library.

62 Via Veneto, Prof. Bianca Maria Tedeschi-Lalli, of the University of Rome's American literature faculty, will speak on the "Anxiety and Scope of Emily Dickinson," in Italian... Fred P. Pomeranz, president of Leslie Fay, Inc., whose red Rolls-Royce is a conversation piece in New York's garment center, is at the Excelsior en route to Florence for the fashion shows. He'll move on to Paris before heading back home.

Art Notes

English artist Allen Davie opened a personal showing of his works at La Medusa studio of contemporary art, 124 Via del Babuino, Thursday evening. Davie, whose paintings have been displayed at leading European and American galleries since 1946, is noted for his bold oils on canvas and other surfaces... the "Maggio di Bari," Bari's biennial art exhibition at the Galleria Brera in Milan, opens today for a two-week showing. The works of 12 artists from Puglia will be displayed.

If you have any news for "Lend Me Your Ears" about your or your friends' parties, social gatherings, arrivals, departures, engagements, marriages, etc., please telephone Rome: 587.118 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or write to 8 Via Dandolo, Rome, Italy.

Soviets Visit Frost, Differ On Condition

BOSTON, Jan. 24 (AP) — Three visiting Soviet writers toasted poet Robert Frost in champagne in his hospital room recently and said afterward he asked them to give his love to the Russian people.

The visitors did not agree on their impressions of the 88-year-old patient, who underwent surgery at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital Dec. 10 for a urinary tract obstruction and later suffered a heart attack. He has shown continued improvement lately, dictating notes and even taking a few steps. Novelist Valentin Katayev, 65, who won a Stalin Prize in 1946, reported that Frost looked very lively. Playwright Viktor Rozov, 49, nominated in 1957 for a Lenin Prize in literature, thought Frost "looked rather weak physically but it was amazing how clearly he thinks."

Somewhat between these viewpoints what the report of Mrs. Frida Lurye, 41, a consultant on American literature and the third member of the party, who said she had met Frost many times.

"I feel that he underwent a very serious illness; that's why you can't say he is in normal shape," she said. "But spiritually he seems very alert and his eyes show he'll be back in shape soon."

The Russians are winding up a 30-day visit to the United States under the Soviet-U.S. Cultural Exchange Program.

Williams Donates Plays To Texas

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 24 (AP) — Playwright Tennessee Williams will donate a major portion of his manuscripts to the University of Texas.

The Williams' papers include manuscripts of his plays "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "The Night of the Iguana," "The Glass Menagerie," "Summer and Smoke," "The Rose Tattoo," "Camino Real," "Baby Doll," "Orpheus Descending," "The Sweet Bird of Youth," "Period of Adjustment" and "Suddenly Last Summer."

The first portion of the collection scheduled to be delivered here includes 28 plays and screenplays, 19 stories, four essays and 26 poems, written from 1939 to 1961.

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"MOM! CAN YOU COME UP HERE
AND MAKE DAD BE PATIENT?"

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FLORENCE, Jan. 24 (AP)—Grand-entrance evening clothes from Eleanora Garnett took the spotlight at Pitti Palace last night in Italian spring and summer fashion showings.

Ten thousand seed pearls were embroidered with tiny rosettes of pale green chiffon. This was worn with a floating gown of bright pink chiffon.

A long, drifty kimono of olive wool crepe with heavily jeweled cuffs covered a soft jeweled dress of the same fabric.

Full-length smock coats with sheared necklines were done in bright red silk jersey over fluid green chiffon. Others were in printed chiffon over a straight jeweled sheath in matching fabric.

Estonian-born Madame Garnett showed harem at-home pajamas, now classic with her, in silk prints and black or turquoise crepe.

Garnett day clothes followed a peignoir line, loose, flaring short or long coats were belted close to the waist in front.

Sleeveless coats were sheltered by little capelets that wrapped flat around the shoulders and fitted into sidefront seams. Vertical welt pockets were inserted into these same seams at hip level.

The barest backs in a very backless season were seen at Glicola. Inverted triangle bodices were held on by ribbonstrap armholes.

Halter necklines were attached to neckless collars, and airy cape and panel coverups were trickily snapped into these.