# August at the Smithsonian

## New Exhibits

**Insect Sculptures.** Larger than life insects — ants, dragonflies, beetles — carved by Patrick Bremer from walnut, teak, ebony and cherry wood. Insect Zoo. Museum of Natural History. (Continues through July 1989.)

**International Art Medals.** Two hundred contemporary art medals from around the world illustrate this unusual and little-studied form of artistic expression. Museum of American History. (Aug. 1 through Oct. 1, 1989)

**History as Seen From the Mall.** Sixty black-and-white photographs documenting events that occurred on or near the National Mall during the year. Museum of American History. (Aug. 8 through January)

*Italian Boy by Paul Caponigro (1961). Polaroid Photograph lent by the artist.*

**Polaroid Portraits.** Remarkable ways in which Polaroid film has been used in portraiture. Images by David Hockney, Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Lucas Samaras and Robert Frank. National Portrait Gallery. (Aug. 27 through Dec. 4)

**Lucas Samaras: Objects and Subjects.** A retrospective of the broad-ranging and often bizarre works of this modern Greek-born American artist. Sculpture, painting, photography and assemblages. Museum of American Art. (Aug. 12 through Oct. 16)

**Recent Acquisitions.** Newly acquired paintings, sculpture, prints and photographs. National Portrait Gallery. (Aug. 20 through Jan. 22)

**European Space Agency.** Highlights of recent scientific missions. Full-scale models of the spacecraft Giotto, which flew past Halley's Comet in 1986; Hipparcos, an astronomy satellite, and Exosat, an X-ray satellite. Air and Space Museum. (Aug. 26 through Jan. 1)

## Films

**Summer Sleuths.** "Whodunits" by masters of the genre. Museum of American History. (7:30 p.m. $18 for series, $6.50 each✱)
• *The Big Sleep* (1946). Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall. (Aug. 3)
• *Kiss Me Deadly* (1955). Albert Dekker, Cloris Leachman. (Aug. 10)
• *Laura* (1944). Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews. (Aug. 17)

**Monkey of the Clouds.** In search of the yellow-tailed monkey, long considered extinct. Accompanied by the film Amate: The Great Fig Tree. Ripley Center (Aug. 3 at noon. *Free*); Museum of Natural History. (Aug. 5 at noon. *Free*)

**The Turning Point.** Conservation efforts in the tropical rainforests of Belize. Ripley Center. (Aug. 4 at noon. *Free*)

**Mandu Yenu.** The Bamum Kingdom of Africa and its contact with colonial Germans in the early 1900s. Photographs and interviews with royalty recall the splendor of this African kingdom. Museum of African Art. (Aug. 13 and 20, 1 p.m. *Free*)

**Life in Bengal.** Two films by celebrated Indian director Satyajit Ray. Ripley Center. (6 p.m. *Free*)
• *Days and Nights in the Forest* (1970). Four vacationing friends renew their appreciation of life's complexity. (Aug. 4)
• *Company Limited* (1971). A young Calcutta executive forgets his humble beginnings. (Aug. 11)

**Score by Irving Berlin.** Film series celebrating the 100th anniversary of one of America's most popular composers. Museum of American History. (Fridays at 5:30 p.m. *Free*)
• *Alexander's Ragtime Band* (1938). Tyrone Power, Alice Faye, Don Ameche and Ethel Merman. (Aug. 5)
• *This is the Army* (1943). Ronald Reagan, Kate Smith, Irving Berlin. (Aug. 12)
• *Easter Parade* (1938). Judy Garland and Fred Astaire. (Aug. 19)
• *Call Me Madam* (1953). Ethel Merman and Donald O'Connor. (Aug. 26)

**N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman.** In word and song, N!ai tells of her vanishing way of life and changes in the !Kung community on Africa's Kalahari Desert. Ripley Center. (Aug. 25 at 6 p.m.); Museum of African Art (Aug. 27 at 3 p.m. *Free*)

## Performances

**Lunchtime Concerts.** Navy and Air Force ensembles. West Terrace, Air and Space Museum. (Noon. *Free*)
• *Country Current.* Country and bluegrass. (Aug. 4 and 11)
• *Fair Winds.* Four-member vocal ensemble. (Aug. 5 and 25)
• *The Commodores.* Jazz-rock fusion. (Aug. 12, 19 and 26)
• *Airmen of Note.* Big-band jazz. (Aug. 24)
• *Spectrum.* Rock and Motown. (Aug. 31)

**Sunset Serenades.** Lion/Tiger Hill, National Zoo. (Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. *Free*)
• *Russell Carter Quartet.* Modern mainstream jazz. (Aug. 4)
• *Rumisonko.* Andean folk music. (Aug. 11)

**Sunday Bandstand Concerts.** West Lawn, Museum of American History. (3 p.m. *Free*)
• *The Paragon Ragtime Orchestra.* Late 19th- and 20th-Century Ragtime and Popular Music. (Aug. 7)
• *James Steward Faith Gospel Singers.* Gospel Choir. (Aug. 14)
• *Maria y Sus Magníficos.* Latin American Dance Music. (Aug. 21)
• *Doc Scantlin and His Imperial Palms Orchestra.* Music of the Swing Era. (Aug. 28)

**American Popular Song.** Pianist John Eaton presents selections by George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and others. Hirshhorn Museum. (Aug. 17 at 8 p.m. $20✱)

**Bebop.** Allen Houser Quintet performs the favorite jazz tunes of Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis. Courtyard, American Art/Portrait Gallery Building. (Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. $15✱)

## Lectures

**Medieval Menagerie.** Animal fascination in the Middle Ages and animal images in medieval art. Museum of American History. (Aug. 1 at 8 p.m. $8.50✱)

**Tuesday Mornings at the Smithsonian.** For retired people and others who may prefer daytime programming. (10:40 a.m. Age 60 and over, $6✱, under 60, $7✱)
• *Exotic Pitcairn Revisited: A Smithsonian Biological Reconnaissance.* Museum of Natural History. (Aug. 2)
• *Survival and Revival: The Art of Cabinet Making in New Mexico.* Museum of American History. (Aug. 9)

**Galileo Galilei.** Around 1610 this Italian astronomer began observations which reshaped the cosmos in Western thought. Air and Space Museum. (Aug. 6 at 9:30 a.m. *Free*)

**Nepal's Kathmandu Valley.** Preservationist W. Brown Morton III and the history of this remote area. Museum of American History. (Aug. 8 at 8 p.m. $8.50✱)

**Russian and Soviet Painting, 1900-1930.** Cultural Historian Abbott Gleason discusses early modern Soviet painting in conjunction with the current Hirshhorn exhibition. Hirshhorn Museum. (Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. $8.50✱)

**Elephant Communications.** Long-distance, low-frequency vocalizations among elephants. Museum of American History. (Aug. 15 at 8 p.m. $8.50✱)

**Fermat's Last Theorem.** Harvard mathematician Benedict H. Gross discusses this famous unsolved mathematical problem. Museum of American History. (Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. $8.50✱)

**Ancient Chinese Metallurgy and Bronze Casting.** Hua Jue Ming of the Institute of History of Natural Science, Beijing, on findings from her recent field trips. Ripley Center. (Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. *Free*)

**Principles of African Storytelling.** Education Specialist Peter Pipim explains the basic components of storytelling, focusing on Ghanaian folk tales. Museum of African Art. Registration required, call 357-4860. (Aug. 20, 10:30 a.m. *Free*)

**The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Building.** Exhibition and facilities designer Patrick Sears discusses the design and construction of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery building. Ripley Center. (Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. *Free*)

**Giant Pandas.** Donald G. Reid discusses life among the pandas living in China's Wolong preserve. Museum of American History. (Aug. 30 at 8 p.m. $8.50✱)

## Family Events

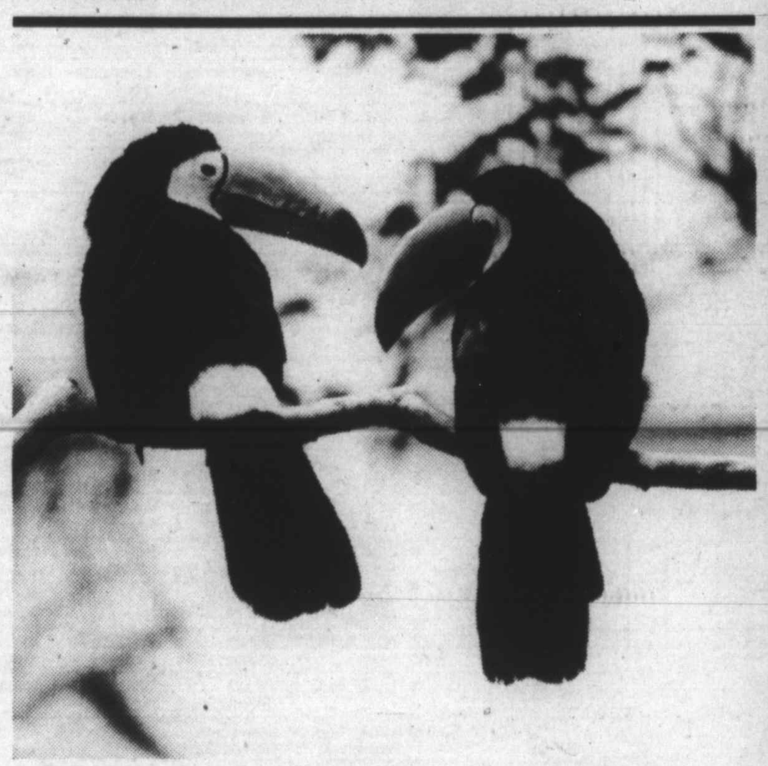
**Fly-by-Night.** Tours, demonstrations, lectures and games. Air and Space Museum. (Every Thursday through Aug. 25, from 6 to 9 p.m. *Free*)

## Portrait Gallery Sports Legends

Major sports figures who have appeared on the cover of Time magazine since 1952 will be the subject of the exhibition "Champions on Time," to go on view July 30 at the National Portrait Gallery. Included in the Portrait Gallery's hall of fame will be baseball slugger Reggie Jackson; black tennis champion Althea Gibson, who swung her way to the top of this previously all-white sport in 1957; Roger Staubach, 1963's hottest intercollegiate football player; Vince Lombardi, legendary Green Bay Packers coach; two-time Olympic decathlon winner Bob Mathias; tennis great Jimmy Connors, and baseball heroes Pete Rose and Roger Maris among others.

**Sports Lecture.** National Portrait Gallery Curator/Historian Frederick Voss will discuss sports portraiture and the athletes featured on the covers of Time magazine. National Portrait Gallery. (Aug. 4 at noon. *Free*) Left: *Speed Skaters Eric and Beth Heiden (1980), by Neil Leifer.*

## TROPICAL RAINFORESTS: A DISAPPEARING TREASURE



*Keel-Billed Toucans. Range: South Mexico to Venezuela. (Photo by Jessie Cohen)*

**Tropical Rainforests**, some of the Earth's most richly populated environments, are being swiftly destroyed by human exploitation. These exotic wildlands are home to millions of species of plants and animals; their destruction may pose a significant threat to humankind as well. Tropical deforestation may contribute, in part, to the gradual rise of carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere, resulting in an increase in temperatures worldwide. Each year enough of the world's rainforests are cut down to cover an area the size of Minnesota. The land is primarily converted into cattle ranches, a use for which it is ill suited.

Take time out at the Smithsonian's International Gallery for an in-depth exhibition on tropical rainforests — from their native peoples to their complex web of plants and animals. Learn about Brazil's Rubber Tree Tappers and the Efe Pygmies of Zaire. See a five-screen slide presentation of Borneo's Mulu National Park highlighting the vibrant diversity of rainforest life. Explore the contemporary politics behind rainforest destruction and the predicted consequences of losing these precious environments. Ripley Center, International Gallery. 1100 Jefferson Drive S.W. Open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

**Discover Shoowa Design!** Children's workshop. Participants paint, draw and study the colors, patterns and symbolism of Shoowa textiles. Museum of African Art. Reservations required; call 357-4860. (Aug. 1-5, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Free*)

**African Folk Tales.** African oral traditions endure as storytellers bring African lore and history to life. Museum of African Art. (Aug. 10 at 10:30 a.m.; Aug 27 at 1 p.m. *Free*)

**Beadwork of Cameroon.** Children study techniques and history of beaded sculpture from Africa. Ages 10 to 15. Museum of African Art. Reservations; call 357-4860. (Aug. 13, 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free*)

**Discovery Room.** Extended hours. Open seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Required passes free at the door for half-hour periods throughout the day. Call 357-2700 for more information. Museum of Natural History.

**Photography Contest.** Come focus on the people, airplanes and spacecraft of the Air and Space Museum. Open to amateur photographers of all ages. Cash and other prizes awarded. No entry fee, closes Aug. 31. Call 357-2700 for an entry brochure.

## When In New York

**Visit the Cooper-Hewitt Museum at 2 East 91st Street. General Admission $3; senior citizens and students over age 12, $1.50. Smithsonian associates and museum members free. Current exhibitions:**

**What Could Have Been.** Unbuilt architecture of the 1980s. Fifty-eight mixed media art works, ranging from colored pencil on paper to color photographs and foam collages. Buildings you'll never see anywhere else. (Continues through Oct. 16)

**Annual Reports.** The earliest history of the annual report and its evolution in the United States. Three hundred examples of corporate annual reports. (Continues through Sept. 25)

## Hours/Information

**RIDE METRO TO THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS AND THE ZOO.**

**Enjoy the Smithsonian this summer** with its extended hours (May 28 through Sept. 5). Air and Space Museum, Museum of American History, Museum of Natural History, Museum of African Art, Sackler Gallery, and Hirshhorn Museum — 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Freer Gallery, Arts and Industries Building — 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Haupt Garden — 7 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.

**Off the Mall.** Museum of American Art, National Portrait Gallery, Renwick Gallery — 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Anacostia Museum — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. National Zoo — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (buildings); 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (grounds). Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York City — call 357-2700 for information.

**Volunteers Needed!** Museum Information Desks (every day) in all Smithsonian museums. Call 357-2700 for further information and application.

**General Visitor Information.** Call 357-2700 or 357-1729 (TDD). An audio cassette edition of this calendar is available by calling 357-1697 (voice) or 357-1696 (TDD).

**✱Resident Associate Event.** Advance tickets are usually required; call 357-3030 for availability. Discounts for members.

**The September 1988 calendar will appear in the Washington Post on Aug. 19.**