April at the Smithsonian

New Exhibits

L'Art de Vivre: Decorative Arts and Design in France, 1789–1989. Design and decoration after the French Revolution. Cooper-Hewitt (March 30–July 16.)

On Watch: Benton and the U.S. Navy. World War II drawings and paintings by Thomas Hart Benton. Museum of American Art. (April 1–30)

The Seasoned Eye II. Photographs by people age 50 and older. Museum of American History. (April 1–May 31)

Gold of Africa: Jewelry and Ornaments from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. Museum of African Art. (April 5–Aug. 29)

The Ceremonial Court. Architectural recreations of White House spaces, 1902–1952. Museum of American History. (April 6 — Permanent exhibition)

The Boat Show: Fantastic Vessels, Fictional Voyages. 18 boats reflect maritime imagery and symbolism. Renwick Gallery. (April 7–Aug. 6)

Bound to Vary: Billy Budd, Sailor. Unique bindings of Herman Melville's manuscript. Renwick Gallery. (April 7–Aug. 6)

Isamu Noguchi Portrait Sculpture. A collection of Noguchi works, 1924–1950. Portrait Gallery. (April 15–Aug. 20)

Timur and the Princely Vision: Persian Art and Culture in the 15th Century. Paintings, calligraphies, wood carvings and more. Sackler Gallery. (April 16–July 6)

American Television from the Fair to the Family, 1939–1989. The history of television. Museum of American History. (April 19–April 1990)

Sounding Forms: African Musical Instruments. Sculptures of instruments. Museum of African Art. (April 26–June 18)

Photography of Invention: American Pictures of the '80s. A salute to the 150th anniversary of photography. Museum of American Art. (April 28–Aug. 13)

Photographs of Afghanistan. Landscapes, people and architecture between 1974 and 1978. Sackler Gallery. (April 30–Oct. 31)

Hidatsa: The Way to Independence. Changes in American society, 1840–1920, experienced by a Hidatsa Indian family. Museum of American History. (April 12–Sept. 30)

Hubble Space Telescope. Test model of a telescope scheduled for 1990 launch. Air and Space Museum. (April 19–Indefinitely)

Iroquois Beadwork. 150 pieces. Museum of Natural History. (Through June 1)

Family Events

Adinkra African Cloth. Workshop on design and methods of production. Museum of African Art. (April 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-4860.)

African Folk Tales. Lore and history. Museum of African Art. (April 1 and 15 at 11 a.m. Free)

Vintage Cartoons. Cartoons from the 1930s and 1940s. Hirshhorn Museum. (April 1 at 11 a.m. Free)

Draw-In. Children, ages 12 and older, draw objects from the Naturalist Center's collection. Bring own art supplies. Museum of Natural History. (April 2 from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Free. Registration required; call 357-2804.)

Discovery Theater. "Heroes." A show about heroism. Arts and Industries Building. (April 4–29. Adults, $3.50; children 12 and under, $3. For more, call 357-1500.)

Mickey's 60! Mickey Mouse cartoons. Hirshhorn Museum. (April 8 at 11 a.m. Free)

Central Asian Tales. With storyteller Joan Leotta. Sackler Gallery. (April 8 and 22 at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-4886.)

African Art Club. Children learn about the African cloth of the Fon people. Museum of African Art. (April 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Registration required; call 357-4860.)

Washington Craft Show. Objects by artists from around the country. Departmental Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Ave. N.W. (April 20–23 at 10 a.m. Adults, $5; Smithsonian Associates, senior citizens and children under 12, $4. For details, call 357-2700.)

Giant Tortoises, Sea Turtles and the Speck in the Ocean. Slide-illustrated lecture about the Aldabra island. Arts and Industries Building. (April 25 at 7 p.m. $6✱)

Enduring Sounds of Africa. Children's two-hour workshop on instruments and techniques. Museum of African Art. (April 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-4860.)

Paul E. Garber Facility Open House. Telescope viewing, demonstrations and more. Suitland, Md. (April 29–30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. For more, call 357-2700.)

Performances

The Smithson String Quartet. Works by Haydn, Arriaga and Beethoven. Renwick Gallery. (April 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. $15✱)

Cultures in Motion. National Portrait Gallery. (Free. Reservations required; call 357-2729.)
- *Kaleidoscope: Black Women Writers of the 20th Century*. A production of their works. (April 9 at 2:30 p.m.)
- *Music for a Colonial Evening* (April 13 at 7:30 p.m.)

Historic Sounds at Noon. Cheryl Berard performs on the fortepiano and harpsichord. Museum of American History. (April 11 at noon. Free)

American Sampler. Dancing and drumming techniques. Museum of American History. (April 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and April 15 from noon to 5 p.m. Free)

Chanticleer. A cappella singing. From 15th- and 16th-century songs to popular classics from American musicals. Museum of Natural History. (April 15 at 7:30 p.m. $15✱)

American Social Dance, 1840–1860. Four free classes. Museum of American History. (April 17–May 8 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. For more, call 357-4182.)

Traditional Iranian Music. Featuring Reza Derakhshani, Kayhan Kalhor and Mehrdad Ahmadian. Ripley Center. (April 21 at 8 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-4886.)

Richard Nanes. Pianist and composer performs his own works. Renwick Gallery. (April 22 at 8 p.m. Free. Tickets at Renwick Information Desk beginning April 5.)

African Music. Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi, principal horn player at the Asante court in Ghana, discusses his role and demonstrates. Museum of African Art. (April 29 at 1 and 3 p.m. Free)

Philadelphia Dance Theatre. In celebration of National Dance Week. Museum of Natural History. (April 29 at 3:30 p.m. $12✱)

West African Drumming. Featuring the Sankofa Drum Ensemble. Ripley Center. (April 30 at 2 p.m. Free)

Lectures

Planet Mars. Facts and myths. Air and Space Museum. (April 1 at 9:30 a.m. Free)

Hummingbirds. Habits and habitats. National Zoo Education Building. (April 2 at 1 p.m. $3. Registration required; call 673-4728.)

International Poetry Forum. Poets Tomas Tranströmer and W.S. Merwin. Hirshhorn Museum. (April 2 at 7:30 p.m. $10✱)

Art in the Making. In conjunction with "The Boat Show" exhibition. Renwick Gallery. (April 2–6 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Free)

Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Life beyond Planet Earth. Air and Space Museum. (April 5 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

X-29 Pilot. Meet Kurt Schroeder. Air and Space Museum. (April 6 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Craft Demonstrations. In conjunction with the "Bound to Vary" exhibition. Renwick Gallery. (April 8, 9, 29 and 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A lecture will be held April 9 at 3 p.m. Free. For more, call 357-2700.)

American History Honors the Duke

The career and musical legacy of Duke Ellington, one of the greatest composers of all times, will be commemorated in a monthlong celebration at the Museum of American History (unless otherwise noted). In commemoration of Ellington's 90th birthday, a full agenda awaits visitors — from an exhibition and lectures to films and performances. Below are highlights of some of the scheduled events. For details of events, call 357-2700.

Duke Ellington: American Musician. Exhibition includes some of his original compositions, awards, posters from world tours and more. (Opens April 4.)

Introduction to Duke. Violinist Joe Kennedy and quartet play "The Best of Duke." (April 2 at noon and 2 p.m. Free)

The Early Duke Ellington Years. Various performances. (April 3–5 at noon and 2 p.m. Free.)

Duke: The Creative Maestro. The Duke Ellington High School Jazz band performs. (April 6 at 10:15 a.m. and noon. Free.)

Cotton Club Dances. Performance by Scott Michaels and his Top Hat dancers. A lecture follows. (April 7 at noon and 2 p.m. Free)

The Early Big Band Years and Duke. Sounds from 1933 to 1940. (April 9, 11 and 13 at noon and 2 p.m. A film follows the April 11 and 13 concerts. Free)

All-American Music Series. Shirley Horn, acclaimed pianist, plays the best of Ellington. (April 14 and 15 at noon and 2 p.m. Free)

The Big Band Years: A Tribute to Ellington's Female Vocalists. (April 17 at noon and 2 p.m. Free. Following the concert, a panel discussion with former Ellington singers.)

Big Band Sounds. Featuring acoustic bassist Keter Betts and his trio. (April 18 at noon and 2 p.m. Free. A lecture by jazz specialist Martin Williams follows.)

The Ellington Theatre Pieces. Vocalist Beverly Cosham and pianist Howard Breitbart perform. (April 19 at noon and 2 p.m. A lecture on Ellington's "Jump for Joy" follows from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Free)

Duke's Later Big Band Years, 1940s and 1950s. Drummer Brooks Tegler with his band. Following the concert, a panel discussion with people who worked with the Duke (April 21 at noon and 2 p.m. Free)

Duke in Film. Film collector Ernest Smith lectures and shows clips from his private collection. (April 23 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free)

Duke's Concert Years: The 1950s. The Ron Holloway quartet and Bowie State University Jazz Ensemble. (April 24 and 25 at noon and 2 p.m. Free. Lectures and a piano demonstration follow.)

The International Ellington. Showings of the film "Paris Blues." (April 26 at noon and 2 p.m. Free)

The Solo Piano Pieces. Selections by Columbia University's Mark Tucker. (April 27 at 3:30 p.m. Free)

The Ellington Legacy and the Smithsonian. An all-day symposium. Museum of Natural History. (April 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free)

Duke's Soundtrack Work. Scott Morrow Dance Theater performs "Meditation." "Anatomy of a Murder" is shown and discussed. (April 30 from 1 to 5 p.m. Free)

Paul Manship. In conjunction with the exhibition "The Art of Paul Manship." Museum of American Art. (April 9, 16 and 23 at 2 p.m. Free. For more, call 357-3095.)

Akan Gold From the Pirate Ship Whydah. A history of the ship and its treasure. Museum of Natural History. (April 11 at 8 p.m. $9✱)

Hirshhorn Acquisitions. Museum director James Demetrion on recent acquisitions. Hirshhorn Museum. (April 12 at 6:30 p.m. Free)

Exploring Space Lecture. Early star evolution and planet formation. Air and Space Museum. (April 12 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Lunchtime Lecture Series. In conjunction with the exhibition "The First Federal Congress, 1789–1791." National Portrait Gallery. (April 13 and 27 at noon. Free)

Ed Moulthrop. How he reveals the natural beauty of wood in his turned-wood bowls. Renwick Gallery. (April 16 at 3 p.m. Free)

Boats. Gallery curator Jeremy Adamson on works in "The Boat Show" exhibition. Renwick Gallery. (April 16 at 2 p.m. Free)

A View into a Sculptor's World. In conjunction with the exhibition "Isamu Noguchi Portrait Sculpture." National Portrait Gallery. (April 19 at 7:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-2729.)

African Predators and Prey. National Zoo Education Building. (April 19 at 8 p.m. Free. Registration required; call 673-4728.)

Australia's Great Barrier Reef. A trip through this wilderness wonderland. Museum of Natural History. (April 21 at noon. Free)

New Approaches to Persian Art and Culture. All-day symposium looks at recent studies of this art and culture. Ripley Center. (April 22 from 9:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-4886.)

Black Americans and the Quest for Land. Seminar explores historical issues and contemporary challenges of land ownership. Museum of American History. (April 22 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. $25✱)

Understanding Mars. Newest information about this planet. Museum of Natural History. (April 25 at 8 p.m. $10✱)

Covering the White House. Talks by journalists and scholars. Museum of American History. (April 27 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free)

Smithsonian Excavations in East Africa. Findings at Olorgesailie in Kenya. Museum of Natural History. (April 28 at noon. Free)

After Columbus. A quincentenary forum. Museum of American History. (April 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free. Registration required; call 357-1639.)

Photography. Photographer George LeGrady demonstrates how he creates photographs on his personal computer. Museum of American Art. (April 30 at 2 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-3095.)

Forum on Global Change and Our Common Future. Distinguished experts to present a balanced view of global environmental issues. National Academy of Sciences and Museum of Natural History. (May 2–3. Free. Advanced registration required. For information, write to Smithsonian Institution, Office of Conference Services, Ripley Center, Suite 3123, Washington, D.C. 20560.)

Films

Thomas Eakins. In conjunction with the exhibition "Thomas Eakins Photographs." Hirshhorn Museum. (April 1 at 1 p.m. Free)

Morgan's Cake. The growing pains of a teenager. Hirshhorn Museum. (April 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. Free)

Eadweard Muybridge. The makings of his "Animals in Motion." Hirshhorn Museum. (April 6 at noon; April 8 at 1 p.m. Free)

Swampland. The Florida Everglades. "Cane Toads" will also be screened. Museum of Natural History. (April 7 at noon. Free)

Billy Budd. Herman Melville's classic. Renwick Gallery. (April 13 and 15 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Free)

Fragments of Eden. Smithsonian research in Seychelles Archipelago, once believed to be the Garden of Eden. Museum of Natural History. (April 14 at noon. Free)

When the 10th Month Comes. A Vietnamese wife travels to the front during the Vietnam War. Subtitles. Museum of Natural History. (April 27 at 8 p.m. $10✱)

Hours/Information

Ride Metro to the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo.

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).

On-the-Mall Museum Hours: Air and Space Museum, Museum of Natural History, Museum of American History, Museum of African Art, Sackler Gallery and Hirshhorn Museum — 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Off-the-Mall Museum Hours: 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 4:30 p.m. (buildings) and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (grounds); Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City is temporarily closed, but will reopen March 30.

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

Extended Hours. For the one-week period from March 26 through April 1, hours at the Museum of American History, Museum of Natural History and Air and Space Museum will be 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For confirmation of all Smithsonian events, call 357-2700.

The May 1989 calendar will appear in the Washington Post on April 21.