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art

Fashion's freedom and modern heroes...



Rory Carnegie's voyeuristically candid portraits of people in the street (self-portraits done by using an extended shutter release cable while he holds the camera) are on view November 21-31 at 148 Charing Cross Rd, 1st fl, 12-7 pm, (0973 835 441). Compelling viewing.

ONE NOT TO MISS

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN FASHION AND ART

Perhaps because the Italians call everything a 'biennale', few realise just how big the Florence Biennale is (160,000 sq ft spread over 18 museums and pavilions). Not even floods dampened spirits during the opening in October. Not since Chanel or Galliano's first show have we heard such accolades. 'Unmissable,' rave celebs and PAs. 'It was the most incredible opportunity,' says Donna Karan, who hung velvet dresses in the Museo del Bigallo (below). 'For fashion designers, the struggle is between creativity and

commerciality. Here we have real freedom to access pure creativity.' The Biennale is exquisitely curated, with Man Ray photographs and Schiaparelli clothes representing our historical past and a luscious catalogue as chronicle. Required viewing includes Gucci's open space with a fake fur wall; the first retrospective of Bruce Weber's work, and Damien Hirst's vibrant sheep for Prada. Through 15 December, possibly extended into January.

hit list

* A chance to see the work of a genuine modern hero, **Alberto Giacometti**, 1901-1966, Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly until 1 January 1997 (0171 494 5615).

* **The 3rd Annual Absolut Secret Show** at the Royal College of Art is a chance to buy an original Damien Hirst, Kitaj or Eduardo Paolozzi for £30. None of the 1,000 works are labelled; only when the show closes are new owners told which artists created the work purchased. 3-7 December (0171 590 4444).

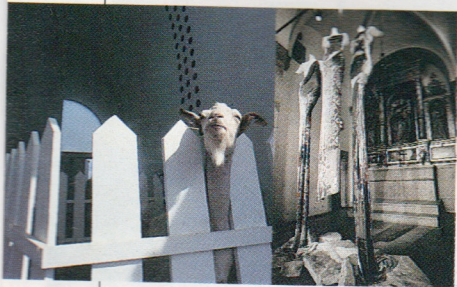
* **The London Art House** opens its doors this month in W1. Set to give young, emerging artists space (2,300 sq ft) to get noticed and the freedom to operate without a dealer (0171 978 7984).

* Artist **Yuri Kuper** starts with an old surface, then adds other objects such as boxes, tools and pens. Harrison Ford, Robert Altman and NY's Met are among the patrons. Montpelier Sandelson, from 12 November to 20 December (0171 584 0667).

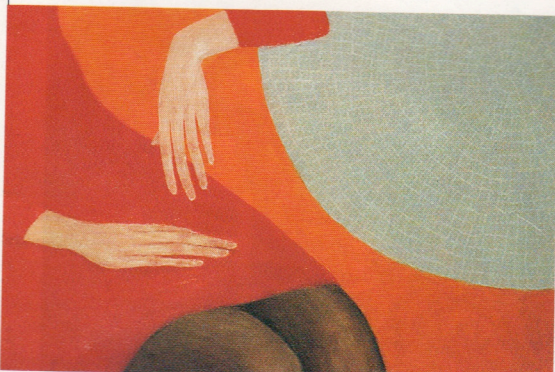
* Escape by going into one of the **A-Z Escape Vehicles** at the Andrea Rosen Gallery in New York. Bob Schiffler's work is a glorified flotation tank, while Andrea Zittel's is based on Mad King Ludwig's grotto. 13 December (001 212) 941 0203.

* Beautiful, inexpensive 20th century photogravures and snaps by **Stephane Graff** at the Michael Hoppen Photography Show, 9 December-18 January (0171 352 3649).

* **The Young British Artists exhibition** at the Wolfsburg Kunst Museum, Wolfsburg, Germany is proof of the recognition that British art is now enjoying throughout Europe. From 13 December (0049 53 61 26 690).



Abigail McLellan, one of Scotland's brightest and most exciting painters in her first solo show*



Distinctly pure, simple plates and cups from young Japanese ceramicists. Intended for daily use. Priced from £40, from 7-21 December at 57a Gainsford St, SE1 (0171 928 0739).



Edited by Deborah Morant

* 25 NOVEMBER-24 DECEMBER, REBECCA HOSSACK GALLERY (0171 436 4899)