

In Madrid, marzo de 2010

Month Ahead

art

BY STEPHEN LUCAS

Slava Mogutin: Lost Boys

**La Fresh Gallery**  
C/Conde de Aranda, 5 (Metro: Retiro). Tel: 91 431 51 51. Mon 5-9pm, Tues-Fri 11am-1.30pm, 5-9pm. Free. Until 20 Mar.  
In 1995, this now 35-year-old artist fled Russia and sought asylum in New York. His gutsy gay journalism had led to the launch of a criminal case that could have landed him in prison for seven years. Mogutin had attempted to register the first same-sex marriage in Russia (to his American boyfriend), a story that had generated global headlines and increased the wrath of the authorities. The anonymous death threats

and late-night militia raids that ensued made asylum the only option. Once in New York, Mogutin zeroed in on photography as an outlet for his creativity. It had been a passion of his since his early years—his first photos taken at Moscow rock concerts were developed in a make-shift dark room in his mother's bathroom. The result was NYC Go-Go, which stands as an epitaph to the Big Apple's underground sex and go-go dancing scene—Mogutin shot his photos of clubs before Mayor Giuliani's crackdown on nightlife forced their closure. The charges against him in Russia now dropped,

Mogutin has been back to the motherland for exhibition openings and book-promotions. His show at La Fresh brings together a selection of photos from *Lost Boys*, a manifold and intimate series of pics of Russian life, featuring punks, ravers, kids and soldiers. A new series, *Stock Boyz*, also features. Comprising images lifted from European porn sites in-jettisoned over the financial pages of *The New York Times*, it's a richly connotative, bleak comment on the commodification of flesh, or evidence that when everything crashes, sex still sells. Go see!

PICK  
o' the month



Cadets of the Suvorov Academy, Moscow, 2000

**Museo del Prado**  
P<sup>o</sup> del Prado, s/n (Metro: Atocha). Tel: 91 330 28 00. Tues-Sun 9am-8pm. 8, Tues-Sat 6-8pm, Sun 5-8pm. Free. 23 Mar-30 May.  
**Richard Hamilton: Picasso's Meninas** How to capture the same sense of cavernous space as Velázquez did in his trippy play on perspective, *Las Meninas*, has fired the imagination of many an artist. Goya had a stab at it in 1778, as did Picasso in 1957. And in 1973 Richard Hamilton had a brainwave. With more than a nod to Picasso, the London-born Pop artist gave the portrait a Cubist overhaul. Judge for yourself who pulled it off best at this Prado show featuring all three efforts.

**Centro de Arte Reina Sofía**  
C/Santa Isabel, 52 (Metro: Atocha). Tel: 91 774 10 00. 3 & 4 March, 9pm.  
**Women Without Men: Shirin Neshat** This Iranian-American artist won the Silver Lion for best director at the Venice Film Festival last year with this fictional account of four women who create an utopian society in an orchard during the summer of 1953, when an American-led coup d'état overthrew Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister and restored the Shah to power. The artist's new video work, *Games of Desire*, is at **La Fabrica Galileo**: C/Alameda, 9 (Metro: Atocha). Tel: 91 360 13 25. Tues-Sat 11am-2pm, 4.30-8.30pm. Free. Until 20 Mar.

**Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza**  
P<sup>o</sup> del Prado, 8 (Metro: Banco de España). Tel: 91 369 01 51. Tues-Sun 10am-7pm.  
**Monet y la Abstracción** The Thyssen examines the debt owed to Claude Monet by post-War II American abstract painters such as Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock. The exhibition continues at **Fundación Caja Madrid, Plaza de San Martín, 1** (Metro: Sol/Opera/Callao). Tel: 902 246 810. Tues-Sun 10am-8pm. Free. Until 30 May.

**Círculo de Bellas Artes**  
C/Alcalá, 42 (Metro: Sevilla/Banco de España). Tel: 91 360 54 00. Tues-Sat 11am-2pm, 5-9pm; Sun 11am-2pm. 1.  
**Matja Pociavšek: Silencios** This Slovenian artist uses silence, space and precious metal to create sculptures that resonate.



Philipp Fröhlich

**Other galleries**  
**KAWS** In a genius move back in the 90s, Brooklyn-based Brian Donnelly—aka KAWS—got his mits on a skeleton key that opened the glass advertisement panels on Manhattan's bus shelters. After stealing the posters, he would take them home and draw

over them. When he replaced the posters the models in the ads had cartoon tentacled creatures with crossed-out eyes oozing round them. These subverted ads caught on in a big way, and the New Jersey-born street artist went stellar. Since then he has designed the coverwork for hip-hop superstar Kanye West's *808s & Heartbreak* album and collaborated with fashion house Commes de Garçons and cosmetic manufacturer Kiehl's. And then there's his clothing line, Original Fake, and the sought-after limited edition four-foot high designer toys he makes. What's more, the art world cannot get enough of him. His deconstructions of the Smurfs, The Simpsons and Mickey Mouse have an immediate appeal and breathe sinister life into these innocuous cartoon characters. You can see a selection of Donnelly's paintings exhibited at **Javier López Gallery, C/José Marañón, 4**. Tel: 91 593 21 84 (Metro: Alonso Martínez). Tues-Fri 11am-2pm, 4.30-8.30pm; Sat 11am-2pm. Free. Until 31 Mar.

**Sonic Youth etc: Sensational Fix** Better known as a rock band, the members of Sonic Youth are all multi-disciplinary artists in their own right. This exhibition showcases their work, alongside collaborations with a host of artists, designers and musicians, plus other pieces chosen by the group. Performance artist Vito Acconci, punk poet Patti Smith, writer William S. Burroughs, film director Sofia Coppola and fashion designer Marc Jacobs all feature. **Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Avenida de la Constitución, 23** (Metro: Móstoles/Pradillo). Tel: 91 276 02 13. Tues-Sun 11am-9pm. Free. Until 2 May.

**Scare the Night Away** Still lives with a difference, Madrid-based German artist Philipp Fröhlich's paintings of everyday environments—a kitchen, a terrace—skate around the line dividing reality from fiction. Light links the paintings, softly bleaching the scenes and then tearing through the nocturnal images that give the show its name. **Disquieting. Galería Soledad Lorenz, C/Orriza, 5** (Metro: Alonso Martínez). Tel: 91 308 28 87. Mon 4.30-

8.30pm, Tues-Sat 11am-2pm, 4.30-8.30pm. Free. Until Mar 31.

**From I to J** Barcelona-based film director Isabel Coixet's audio-visual homage to Booker Prize-winning British writer John Berger is a prison-like labyrinth of cells where recordings of letters penned by Berger can be heard being read by actresses such as Tilda Swinton, Isabelle Huppert and Penélope Cruz. The letters come from Berger's book, *From A to X*, a series of correspondence written by Aida to her imprisoned lover, Xavier. See Feature p11. **La Casa Encendida, Ronda de Valencia, 2**. Tel: 902 430 322 (Metro: Embajadores) Free. Until 11 Apr.

**Maruja Mallo** This transgressive Galician artist was a key member of the Generation of '27—the group of avant-garde Spanish artists and poets that included film director Luis Buñuel and surrealist painter Salvador Dalí. The show, organised by Sociedad Estatal de Conmemoraciones Culturales and Fundación Caixa Galicia, brings together 131 of her paintings, photographs and drawings. **Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, C/Alcalá, 13** (Metro: Sevilla). Tel: 91 524 08 64. Tues-Fri 10am-2pm, 5-8pm; Sat-Mon 10am-2pm. 5. Until 4 Apr.



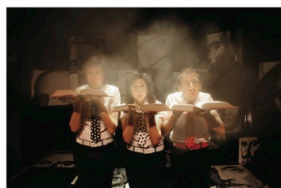
Sonic Youth

theatre

BY AMANDA COEN

**Forever: King of Pop**  
After over 300 dancers and singers filled a theatre in January to audition for the part of Michael Jackson in this tribute spectacular, it's now ready to roll. Produced by Carlos Javier López de Summum Music, the two-and-a-half hour musical follows the legendary singer from his time with the Jackson 5 up to his last solo hits. Accompanying "Jackson" are 14 dancers, video, pyrotechnics, magic, a live orchestra and a gospel chorus. **Teatro Lope de Vega, C/Gran Vía, 57** (Metro: Plaza España/Callao/Santo Domingo). Tel: 91 547 20 11. Tickets (entradas.com) 20-45. Tues-Thur 8.30pm; Fri 9.30pm; Sat 6pm, 10pm; Sun 4.30pm, 10pm. Ongoing.

**XV Muestra de Teatro de las Autonomías**  
Fifteen shows. Fifteen companies. Fifteen autonomous communities. See any link? Celebrating its 15th year, this annual festival brings a sample of the best of Spanish theatre to Madrileños. With a wide variety of themes, the festival caters to all tastes. From the Basque country, *Comida para Peces* deals with the struggle to find work; while *Los mares habitados*, from the Canary Islands, addresses immigration issues. Or how about 2.24, a psychological thriller that takes place on the metro? Classics to be staged include Nobel prize winner Dario Fo's *Muerta*



Forever: King of Pop

*Accidental de un Anarquista* and *Alizia 21*, an updated, adults-only version of Alice in Wonderland. And if you're looking to learn a bit about the history of Spanish drama, there's a production of Tirso de Molina's original *La Celosa de Sí Misma* performed by A Priori and Teatro de Malta; *Basta que me Escuchen las Estrellas*, put on by Madrid's Micomición, addresses the life of Lope de Vega; and Ribalto Producciones from Murcia offers *Clasicorro lo Serás Tú*, which touches on the lives of Golden Age playwrights Lope, Tirso and Pedro Calderón de la Barca. **Teatro Fernando de Roja (Círculo de Bellas Artes), C/Marqués de Casa Riera, 2** (Metro: Banco de España/Sevilla). Tickets (entradas.com) 12-15. Until 22 Mar. For show times and dates visit: www.circulobellasartes.com/ag\_escenicas.php.

**Rock 'n' Roll**  
Set between England and the former Czechoslovakia during the Prague Spring and the fall of the Berlin Wall, Tom Stoppard's play gets a Spanish makeover by director Alex Rigola. Stoppard, of Jewish origin, lived in various countries before settling with his family in England in 1946. Starting as a theatre and cinema critic, he soon turned to playwrighting and later screenwriting, winning an Oscar in 1998 for his screenplay for *Shakespeare in Love*. With *Rock 'n' Roll*, Stoppard uses theatre as a means to discuss human rights and the danger of clinging to a single myth or ideology. Shown for the first time in Spain last autumn in Barcelona's Teatre Lliure, it won the Premio de la Crítica de Barcelona for best theatre show. **Naves del Español (Matadero), Paseo de la Chopera, 14** (Metro: Chopera). Tel: 91 473 09 57. Tickets (teatradema.com) 16.50-22. Tue-Sat 8pm; Sun 6pm. 23 Feb-14 Mar.

**La Casa de Bernarda Alba**  
Lorca's work speaks for itself as a Spanish classic but this version directed by Antonio Díaz-Florián has a twist: the characters are dwarfs, much like those seen in Velázquez's paintings. Following the death of her second husband, Bernarda imposes a mandatory period of mourning on her five already isolated daughters, during which they are prohibited from leaving the house. Tensions build and the plot unfolds in an explosive series of outbursts and confrontations. The play's venue, the Teatro Espada de Madera, is worth a visit in its own right. A small theatre that seats 60, audience members sit in choir-style seating surrounding the action. Afterwards, in the entry room, guests are invited to a glass of wine over which they can talk about their impressions of the play. **Teatro Espada de Madera, C/Calvario, 21** (Metro: Tirso de Molina/Lavapiés/Antón Martín). Tel: 91 528 04 35. Tickets (espadademadera.com) 9-12. Sat 8.30pm; Sun 7pm. Throughout Mar.

dance

BY AMANDA COEN

**Cartografías de la Danza Festival**  
The sixth edition of this dance festival continues, bringing more performances up until the end of March. Two worth mentioning are *Un Día y Tres Miradas* and the series of shows by the Real Conservatorio Profesional de Danza Mariemna. The first, performed by the *Entre Nosotros* company, gives the audience a taste of different Spanish dance forms—including bolero and flamenco—in three distinct acts. The second features young, up-and-coming dancers performing a number of pieces in various styles, ranging from one inspired by the peacefulness of Edward Hopper's paintings, to another examining Mexican indigenous ritual sacrifices. **Teatro de Madrid, Avda de la Ilustración, s/n** (Metro: Barrio del Pilar/Herrera Oria). Tel: 91 740 52 74. Tickets (91 730 17 50, entradas.com) 10-18. Shows and times: www.teatromadrid.com. Until 24 Mar.



**Arte, Cojín y Té**  
For something a little different, check out this monthly event held every third Sunday of the month. Sit on big cushions, sip tea surrounded by art and watch different musicians, actors and dancers each time. Take a look at the website as the date approaches to discover the surprise artists. **Bambudanza, C/Doctor Cortezo, 17, 3 Izq** (Metro: Tirso de Molina). Tel: 91 389 63 58. Tickets (at door) 6. 7pm. 21 Mar. www.bambudanza.com