

Calendar

January/February 2012

| Edited by Lindsey Brenner |

Top Ten

Edward Durell Stone: A Son's Untold Story of a Legendary Architect

2 The genius behind some of the most famous performing-arts venues in the world, architect Edward Durell Stone was happiest avoiding the spotlight. Now his son and biographer, Hicks Stone, shares stories of the man behind The Kennedy Center and Radio City Music Hall during a book-signing and lecture in conjunction with the National Building Museum's *Unbuilt Washington* exhibition. **Jan. 11.** 6:30-8PM. \$12-\$20. *National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW, 202.272.2448, nbm.org*

Bernardo Siles at Gallery Plan B

3 Bolivian artist Bernardo Siles paints with a builder's eye. The architect-turned-painter kicks off the new year with his first solo exhibition, displaying whimsical, but balanced figurative drawings and geometric designs. Guests are also invited to join the art phenom at the opening reception on Jan. 14. **Jan. 12-Feb. 26.** Reception 6-8PM. Free. *Gallery Plan B, 1530 14th St. NW, 202.234.2711, galleryplanb.com*

Paint the town Red

4 Though his art was serene and orderly, Mark Rothko led a racy, frenetic life. Arena Stage profiles the famed artist's struggles against creative adversaries and his own internal demons in this Tony Award-winning play. The thriller details Rothko's difficulties adapting to a constantly changing art world that he helped create. **Jan.**

20-March 4. Times vary. \$40-\$85. *Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW, 202.488.3300, arenastage.org*

Picasso's Drawings

5 Glimpse behind the curtain of the groundbreaking Spaniard's sultry blue period and the bright, poppy rose portraits when a 55-piece collection of Pablo Picasso's sketches and drawings overtakes the District. Created over a 30-year period, the illustrations also show his transformation into Cubism. **Jan. 29-May 6.** Times vary. Free. *National Gallery of Art, Fourth Street & Constitution Avenue NW, 202.737.4215, nga.gov*

Crystal Couture

6 Fashion flees the runway at the fourth annual Crystal Couture show and sale. Shoppers can buy spring pieces from dozens of local designers and boutiques at the five-day fashion extravaganza. On-hand stylists will complete the looks with makeovers and henna tattoos. **Feb. 7-11.** 6-10PM. Free. *1750 Crystal Drive, Crystal City, 202.207.3662, crystalcity.org*

Gay Men's Chorus of Washington Presents *The Kids Are All Right*

7 The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington collaborates with Pittsburgh-based youth ensemble Dreams of Hope to perform. Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson will join in to read Tomie dePaola's *Oliver Button Is a Sissy* to the gathered. **Feb. 18.** 8PM. \$25-\$50. *Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. NW, 202.994.6800, gmcw.org*

Washington Ballet Presents *TwylaTharp: AllAmerican*

8 Ballerinas take on ballroom,



AN IRISH ROSE IS AN IRISH ROSE Faux flowers take on new meaning at the hands of Irish artist Aoife Collins. In reconfiguring mass-produced objects, she explores culture and the perception of how things should look.

Aoife Collins: Tickling the Ivories

1 Stop and smell the reconfigured flowers at this Irish exhibition, staged by Solas Nua. Dublin artist Aoife Collins breaks down commonplace objects, fashioning new structures and uses for everyday items as her own exploration of beauty and the meaning of art.

Jan. 6-Feb. 4. Tue.-Sat., Noon-6PM. Free. *Flashpoint Gallery, 916 G St. NW, 202.315.1305, flashpointdc.org*

modern and jazz (oh my!) when The Washington Ballet pays tribute to contemporary dance legend Twyla Tharp. The company will perform a two-decade survey of Tharp's works, showcasing classic and risqué works set to Sinatra classics and original scores. **Feb. 22-26.** Times vary. \$20-\$125. *Eisenhower Theater, 2700 F St. NW, 202.467.4600, washingtonballet.org*

Suprasensorial: Experiments in Light, Color and Space

9 The Hirshhorn embarks on a new kind of space exploration this winter. The museum mounts large-scale multimedia masterpieces by five pioneering Latin American artists that

highlight visual perceptions through space, light and color installations. **Feb. 23-May 13.** 10AM-5:30PM. Free. *Hirshhorn Museum, Independence Avenue & Seventh Street SW, 202.633.1000, hirshhorn.si.edu*

Washington National Opera Presents *Così fan tutte*

10 Love and seduction take center stage in this madcap Mozart opera. Two men wager the loyalty of their betrothed, each wooing his opponent's lady with extra help from their bellowing operatic voices. **Feb. 25-March 15.** Times vary. \$55-\$300. *The Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW, 202.467.4600, kennedy-center.org*