

What's on today...

Visual Arts

TURNER IN JANUARY

Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh

This collection of nearly 40 fragile paintings, bequeathed to the gallery by the collector Henry Vaughan a century ago, only goes on show when the dim winter light poses minimal threat to them. The pieces span the artist's career, from early wash drawings to sketches of Europe from the 1830s and 1840s. (0131 624 6200) to 31 Jan

FERNAND LÉGER:

NEW TIMES, NEW PLEASURES

Tate, Liverpool

More than 40 works by the French artist and film-maker Fernand Léger (1881-1955), whose paintings, murals, film and textiles were infused with the

bustle and rhythm of the urban environment and drew on the new forms of communication that boomed during the first half of the 20th century such as typography, advertising and graphic design. The show includes his collaborations with architects Le Corbusier and Charlotte Perriand and his experimental 1924 film, *Ballet Mécanique*. (tate.org.uk) to 17 Mar

ANNIE SWYNNERTON: PAINTING LIGHT AND HOPE

Manchester Art Gallery

The first retrospective for nearly a century of the Manchester-born painter, a pioneering professional artist who challenged convention in art and life, featuring 36 paintings from across her career, including rarely seen pieces on loan from private collections. This free

exhibition brings together landscapes, allegorical works and later portraits, revealing her as a continually inventive artist who engaged with current art movements as well as forging an independent style shaped by her experience of light and colour in Italy. (0161 235 8888) to 6 Jan

ARTIST ROOMS:

ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE

Atkinson, Southport

Images by the American photographer from the Artist Rooms collection, one of the best holdings of his work in the world. The pieces on display at this free show include self-portraits, studies of flowers and portraits of artists and celebrities of the New York cultural scene in the 80s, including Patti Smith, Andy Warhol and David Hockney, as well as pieces from the late 70s and early 80s when Mapplethorpe was documenting the New York SM scene. (01704 533 333) to 23 Mar

MAGIC REALISM: ART IN WEIMAR GERMANY 1919-33

Tate Modern, London SE1

A year-long free exhibition of German art from between the wars, drawing on the holdings of the George Economou Collection and offering the rare opportunity to see artworks not ordinarily on public display. Under the magic realism banner, used by the artist and critic Franz Roh in 1925 to describe a shift from the art of the Expressionist era towards cold veracity and unsettling

imagery, this show includes work by Otto Dix, George Grosz, Albert Birkle and Jeanne Mammen and others. (020 7887 8888) to 14 Jul

RIBERA: ART OF VIOLENCE

Dulwich Picture Gallery, London SE21

The first UK show of work by Jusepe de Ribera (1591-1652), one of the giants of the Spanish Baroque, who spent most of his career in Naples, where he influenced artists including Salvator Rosa and Luca Giordano. This exhibition brings together loans from seven countries to explore, for the first time, an aspect of Ribera's art for which he was renowned: violent depictions of saints and figures being fayed and flogged. (020 8693 5254) to 27 Jan

RICHARD POUSETTE-DART: BEGINNINGS

Kettle's Yard, Cambridge

The first solo exhibition in the UK of work by Richard Pousette-Dart, a key figure of Abstract Expressionism and an early influence on Jackson Pollock. He was one of the first of the New York School to work on a monumental scale, and while he is primarily remembered for his painting, this exhibition highlights his works in sculpture and on paper, as well as his photography. (kettleyard.co.uk) to Sun

MARTIN PARR:

RETURN TO MANCHESTER

Manchester Art Gallery

The photographer has revisited Manchester many times over the past 40 years, since his years as a student at the Polytechnic in the early 70s, to document the ongoing lives of Mancunians. This free exhibition brings together a selection of

his Manchester photographs, ranging from black-and-white images of June Street, in Salford, in 1972 and Yates Wine Lodges in 1982-3, to colour photos of people shopping in 1986 and 2008. (0161 235 8888) to 22 Apr

ARTES MUNDI 8

National Museum, Cardiff

The UK's most political art prize returns, with five shortlisted artists competing for the £40,000 prize. Among them are the Cannes Palme D'Or-winning film director Apichatpong Weerasethakul, *Citizenfour* cinematographer Trevor Paglen and Moroccan artist Bouchra Khalili. (0300 1112 333) to 24 Feb

Comedy

ANDY ZALTZMAN

Soho Theatre, London W1

In *The Certifiable History*, the political comedian, satirist and "Radio 4 irregular" attempts to get a handle on 2018, a year in which the world has "barked furiously at its own reflection and punched itself in the face". (020 7478 0100) to Sat

SAM SIMMONS

Soho Theatre, London W1

Gleefully surrealist, wonderfully moustached Aussie Sam Simmons invites us to Soho to "witness the miracle birth of the baby Greg" and plenty of other such boggle-eyed, Christmas-derived horseplay in *Awary in a Stranger*. (020 7478 0100) to Sat

WINTER WONDERLAND COMEDY CLUB

Hyde Park, London W2

Luisa Omielan's ace latest show, *Politics for Bitches*, focuses her smart, socially aware comedy

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JOHAN PERSSON



THEATRE SWEAT

Donmar Warehouse, London WC2

Lynn Nottage, a master teller of the lives of the dispossessed, won her second Pulitzer Prize for this play, which, by turns profound, terrifying, earthy and witty, details the decline of a Pennsylvania town that was once a proud manufacturing hub. Lynette Linton's superbly calibrated production shifts back and forth in time between 2000 and 2008, tracing the shifting dynamics of a close-knit trio of middle-aged female friends and their two twentysomething sons. (020 3282 3808) to 26 Jan