SPRING CULTURE PREVIEW 2018

7 cool exhibits, some a little quirky

By GRAHAM MEYER

"Where the Children Sleep": Lamar, 5, in Horgos, Serbia

"WHERE THE CHILDREN SLEEP"
March 15-Sept. 16 | Illinois Holocaust Museum &
Education Center, Skokie
This pro-humanitarian, anti-hatred museum exhibits not only historical material about the Holocaust, but also right-now work about urgent global crises. This heart-opening exhibition of Swedish photojournalist Magnus Wennman shows the temporary settlements, hospital beds and streets where refugee children of the Syrian civil war sleep, accompanied by long captions telling about their splintered lives and lingering fears.

"MUMMIES: IMAGES OF THE AFTERLIFE"
March 16-April 21, 2019 | Field Museum
The exciting results of CT scans of Egyptian and Peruvian mummies in the Field's permanent collection briefly went on display here in 2012, revealing details about the bodies and the objects buried with them without having to open the sarcophagi and imperil millennia of preservation. The museum then created a traveling exhibition from the discoveries, including sculptures approximating what the mummified people looked like when they were alive. The full show returns home to the Field for its local run, supplemented by objects other cities didn't get to see because they were too fragile to travel farther than upstairs.

"ART WITH HEART"
March 16-May 6 | International Museum of Surgical
Science
The Gold Coast pocket museum dedicated to the history of medicine and its accoutrements (and the grisly tableaux that go along with them) exhibits the work of biomedical visualization students, artists who create scientifically accurate images of skeletons, organs and the like for illustration or animation of up-to-date medical knowledge. The show, periodically mounted with the work of new students, reveals the state of the art in demonstrating it's what's inside that.

"AMPLIFIED: CHICAGO BLUES"
April 8-Aug. 10, 2019 | Chicago History Museum
In advance of next year's opening of the Chicago Blues Experience, an entire museum dedicated to the blues, the local-history museum opens a blues whale of its own, an exhibit about the growth of the genre here out of Southern blues traditions electrified after the Great Migration. Built around the photography of Raeburn Flerlage, the exhibit spotlights Howlin' Wolf,
B.B. King, Muddy Waters and other musicians through the blues heyday of the 1960s.

"Unbranded"

"HANK WILLIS THOMAS: UNBRANDED"
April 14-Aug. 5 | Block Museum, Northwestern University, Evanston
To expose how advertising depicts women and African-Americans, Thomas has collected decades of print ads, stripped out the text and put the images alone on display. For "Unbranded: Reflections in Black by Corporate America," he pulls images from the four decades between 1968 and 2008. For "Unbranded: A Century of White Women 1915-2015," the first ads ran before American women could vote.

"RICHARD REZAC: ADDRESS"
April 21-June 17 | Renaissance Society
Rezac, a Chicago-based sculptor and Rome Prize winner, shows 20 works, including a few commissioned by the museum, that both "address" the
viewers with their human size and reward of investigation, and cite "addresses" (or locations) in their titles. The simply colored, geometric works hang from the ceiling, jut from walls and sit on the floor, and resemble fragments of toys whose original uses have become inscrutable.

"TROLL HUNT"

Opens May 1 / Morton Arboretum, Lisle
From May 1 to June 21, visitors can watch Danish artist Thomas Dambo create six 15- to 20-foot trolls from reclaimed wood, to be hidden in troll lairs
throughout the arboretum's woods. From June 22 and continuing semi-permanently, visitors can seek them out in their habitats and pose for photo ops in the trolls' human traps, which can't actually trap anyone. For Dambo, who is best known for six giants scattered around Copenhagen and rapping in both English and Danish, "Troll Hunt" marks his first large-scale U.S. exhibition.

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