



Ready, Set, Art!

By BENJAMIN GENOCCHIO

THERE is a lot to look forward to this fall. As museums in the suburbs of New York City come back to life this month after the summer interlude, many worthy shows will beckon art-loving pilgrims.

But something is different this season. After years in which painting has dominated, photography and video are flooding regional museums, some of the works so exotic that you may feel you are virtually visiting Africa or South Asia.

There are almost a dozen major photography and video shows this fall, not to mention smaller shows at galleries. They are a varied lot, though it is clear that a documentary style is now in vogue, a trend that mirrors the reality-TV craze.

Several exhibitions take us to developing

A wealth of fall exhibits, with a heavy dose of photography and video.

nations. More than 100 photography and video works by 28 artists survey contemporary life in India at the Newark Museum, for example, while at Wesleyan University's Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery in Middletown, Conn., the New York-based artist Alfredo Jaar uses video, photography and installation to examine the troubled history of Rwanda and other African states.

To bring cutting-edge contemporary art to suburban audiences, regional institutions are

also tapping private collections. One of this fall's marquee attractions, "A New Reality: Black-and-White Photography in Contemporary Art," at the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick, shows works from the collection of Anne and Arthur Goldstein of Upper Saddle River.

Shows of paintings range from a survey of the 1970s and '80s Pattern and Decoration movement at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers to an exhibition on the 17th-century Flemish master Pieter Brueghel the Younger at the Nassau County Museum of Art on Long Island. Though these shows should draw big crowds, the spotlight of the moment belongs to the University Art Gallery at Stony Brook University on Long Island, which is presenting a much-anticipated 20-year survey of paintings and watercolors by the popular American realist painter Philip Pearlstein, best known for

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THOMAS MCDONALD FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

BACK TO LIFE Top, setting up a Pieter Brueghel the Younger show at the Nassau County Museum of Art; above, photographs by Jem Southam at the Yale Center for British Art.



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PHIL MARINO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

VARIETY ON DISPLAY

The region's museums will offer a sprinkling of Old Masters and a heavy dose of documentary art.

Top right, visitors at the Brueghel show at the Nassau County Museum.

Top left, from "Voice & Void," at the Aldrich in Ridgefield, Conn. Center left, "Model With Duck Kiddy Car on Killim Rug," by Philip Pearlstein, at Stony Brook, N.Y.

Above, left to right, "Two Ladies at the Automat, N.Y.C. 1966," by Diane Arbus, at the Zimmerli in New Brunswick;

"Desert Fox," by Brad Davis, at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers; and

"Kite String Making, Surat, Gujarat," by Ravi Agarwal, at the Newark Museum.

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