

WRAPPING UP 2007: ART

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Sunday, December 23, 2007

This year was marked by exhibitions that brought to us art of a kind rarely seen in our area. Medieval objects, for example, and American Indian art. There were also several shows featuring contemporary artists who are master technicians. Here are my top six picks in no particular order:

1. 'Tigers of Wrath: Watercolors by Walton Ford,' Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach



Ford is a wonderful painter of huge watercolors, many loosely based on the work of John James Audubon. The paintings feature animals of all sorts. They are used to make satirical, political or historical statements. The references can be arcane, even show-offy, but the images stick in your mind.

2. 'Masterpieces of American Indian Art,' Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach

Talk about unusual media. How about porcupine quills? This large exhibition featured Native American art, a genre rarely seen in South Florida outside of the Seminole Nation.

The works by tribes from coast to coast included a magnificent feathered war bonnet that looked to be taller than a man.

3. 'The Art of Nineteenth Century Landscape Photography,' Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, Palm Beach

This show came from the noted George Eastman House, which owns one of America's greatest photography collections. The artists included the likes of William Henry Jackson and Carlton E. Watkins. The images ranged from the leafy landscapes of the Northeast, to the rugged vistas of the West. The works of man - or Manifest Destiny - often appeared, as well.

4. 'Medieval and Renaissance Treasures From the V&A,' Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach

The "V&A" is London's Victoria and Albert Museum. With nearly 50 objects, the show is relatively small. But many of the works are exquisite, ranging from ecclesiastical objects to the thingies of daily life.

Oh, yes. There's one of Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks. The exhibition remains at the Norton Museum of Art through Jan. 6.

5. 'Paul Manes: Hummocks, Brambles, Thickets and Woods,' Eaton Fine Art, West Palm Beach

With all the hoo-hah over installation and video art, it's refreshing to find the work of an exceptional draftsman such as New York artist Paul Manes.

The large, dense compositions depict well-nigh impenetrable forests and swamps from the East Coast to the painter's native Texas. Beautifully done.

6. 'Guillermo Trujillo: Panamanian Master,' Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton

[enlarge](#)
GUILLERMO TRUJILLO, BOCA MUSEUM OF ART: La Joven Pitonisa (The Young Sorceress), 2007, acrylic on canvas, by Panama's most admired 20th-century artist.



[enlarge](#)
PAUL MANES, EATON FINE ART: The Deep, a 2006 oil on canvas, was one of the draftsman's depictions of nature in the Eaton exhibit.



Lannis Waters/The Post
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TREASURES FROM THE V&A, NORTON MUSEUM: Anna Fletcher examines

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Leonardo da Vinci's personal notebook, after uncrating it at the Norton Museum of Art. The notebook was the exhibit's centerpiece.

Museum of Art, Boca Raton

Photos of Marilyn Monroe made up the museum's showcase exhibition last winter. Call me crazy, but I preferred the subtly colored paintings of this veteran Panamanian artist.

Latin art is one field we do see a lot of in South Florida, but Trujillo was a revelation, even though he's been at his easel for decades. There was a gentle, mystical spirit to his paintings of Panama's native tribes and traditions.

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