

Critics' choice

Visual arts Jackie Wullschlager

We Face Forward: Art from West Africa Today

Manchester Art Galleries and Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

With major figures such as Romuald Hazoume and Georges Adéagbo from Benin, and new commissions from Cameroon artists Pascale Marthine Tayou and Barthélémy Toguo, this is the most substantial UK show of African artworks since *Africa Remix*. It is part of a festival of West African music and art across Manchester, including an exhibition about art and football at the new National Football Museum. www.manchestergalleries.org 0161 235 8888, from today to September 16

Bauhaus: Art as Life

Barbican Art Gallery, London

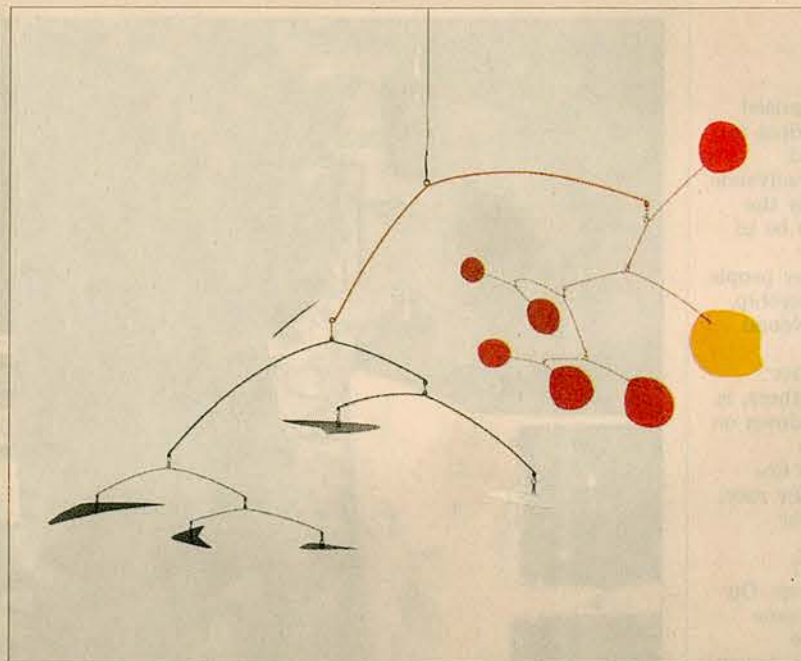
Britain's largest Bauhaus exhibition for 40 years is a beautifully curated overview which gives prominence not only to design and architecture but to painters Kandinsky, Klee and Lyonel Feininger, who played a key role in the Bauhaus community, and the photographers, led by László Moholy-Nagy, who documented the utopian experiment while pioneering a formal aesthetic. www.barbican.org.uk 020 7638 8891, to August 12

Calder in India

Ordovas, London

In January 1955, Alexander Calder and his wife Louisa travelled from the US, via Paris, Rome and Beirut, to India, as guests of the industrialist Sarabhai family. Calder warned that he would bring "a pair of pliers" and, in the Sarabhai's 19-acre garden in Ahmedabad on the river Sabarmati, a studio was set up and Calder worked, alongside grazing cows and water buffalo, on a group of nine mobile sculptures in steel wire and painted aluminium sheet. Eight of them, plus two works sent as gifts to the Sarabhais, are reunited for the first time here since 1955.

As in all Calder's work, the vocabulary is of the natural world in motion, the brightly coloured, vivid, abstract forms lightened and made dynamic as the sculptures glide, sway, swing: ethereal, never still. In the subtlest way, those here allude to the inspiration of the lush landscape where they were made: the sensual rounded forms of the three-metre "Guava", created to hang over the Sarabhais' swimming pool; the brilliant red of the proliferating kite forms of "Sumac" and "Rouge et Noir" (a highlight of Calder's trip was a kite festival); the lyricism of "White Moon" and the



Alexander Calder's 'Guava' (1955)

curling, arching "Claw", painted black; the pulsing energy and sense of fecundity in the looping "Red Stalk".

The missing sculpture, documented in a revelatory catalogue, is "Happy Family", depicting the Sarabhai

patriarch and matriarch as an elephant and a sun, surrounded by white spherical forms representing their eight children.

www.ordovasart.com, 020 7287 5013, runs to August 3

Picasso and Modern British Art

Tate Britain, London

Of the seven artists – Duncan Grant, Wyndham Lewis, Nicholson, Sutherland, Moore, Bacon, Hockney – showcased here for their response to Picasso, only the last three

rose above imitation, but it doesn't matter: this show soars thanks to its dazzling Picasso loans. The masterpiece of hermetic cubism "Man with a Clarinet", comes from Madrid, the collage-like "Head of a Man" from New York's MoMA, "Reading at a Table", a

tender portrayal of Marie-Thérèse Walter absorbed in a book, from the Metropolitan Museum. Joining important Tate pieces in an exhilaratingly random display. www.tate.org.uk 020 7887 8888, to July 15

Giuseppe Cavalli: Master of Light

Estorick Collection, London

Dream-like, white-hot photographs, often still-lives featuring translucent reflective surfaces – glassware, gauze, brushed steel – and sometimes portraits, by this little-known Puglia-born artist. The Morandi of Italian 20th-century photography: simple, economic, restricted in tonal range, quietly intense. www.estorickcollection.com 020 7704 9522, runs to June 17

Miró: Sculptor

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, near Wakefield

Eye-opening, energetic exhibition of the inventive, often comic sculptures – "Girl Escaping", composed of a tap, sponge and mannequin's legs; a "Personnage", based on an enlarged almond and pebble – which Joan Miró produced in his last decades. www.usp.co.uk 01924 832631, runs to January 6

Dance Clement Crisp

The Prince of the Pagodas

Royal Opera House, London

Today the Royal Ballet revives Kenneth MacMillan's *The Prince of the Pagodas* (pictured). This is an important work; its creation in 1989 is seen as a homage to the ideas of grand 19th-century ballets in which MacMillan appeared as a young dancer, both in its three-act structure and its choice of a fairy tale as basis for the dancing. The Britten score is fine, albeit discursive (John Cranko's staging, for which it was commissioned in 1956/7, fell victim to its length), but MacMillan secured certain cuts. Not seen since 1996, the ballet shows the power of MacMillan's imagination. www.roh.org.uk 020 7304 3000

World Cities

Barbican and Sadler's Wells, London

The Tanztheater Wuppertal brings a celebration of the works of the late Pina Bausch, the troupe's inspiration, to the Barbican and Sadler's Wells, from Wednesday until July 9. Ten stagings,

made as co-productions with 10 cities, are on offer. All tickets are available from Sadler's Wells. www.sadlerswells.com 0844 871 0090

Play Without Words

Sadler's Wells, London

As an advance notice: Matthew Bourne's fascinating *Play Without Words*, a penetrating view of those "swinging" Sixties as typified by *The Servant*, is revived as part of Bourne's silver jubilee celebrations. It will be on view at Sadler's Wells from July 12 until August 6 – part of an escape route from the Olympics. Details as above.

Gagaku

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

One of the most beautiful, serene and inevitable of rituals will be performed at the Edinburgh Festival this year, when Gagaku, an orchestral performance by the Japanese Imperial Court musicians, plays for one night, August 22. It is timeless, sublime. www.eif.co.uk/gagaku 0131 473 2000

