



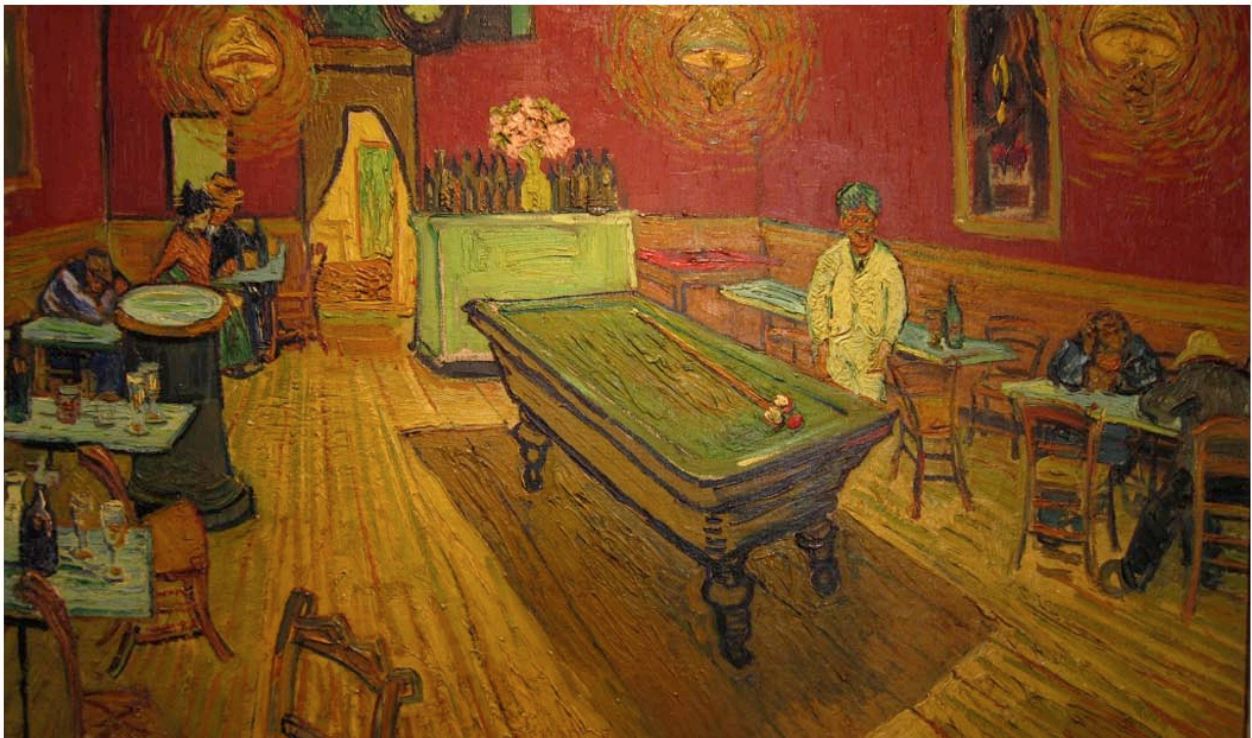
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## \$200M Van Gogh Will Stay at Yale, Obamas Opt for Abstract Art, and More

BY ANNELIESE COOPER, NOELLE BODICK | OCTOBER 27, 2015



Vincent van Gogh's "The Night Cafe," which hangs in the Yale University Art Gallery. (Courtesy Bosc d'Anjou via Flickr)

— **\$200M Van Gogh Will Stay at Yale:** A \$200 million stolen painting by **Vincent van Gogh** will remain at **Yale University**, after a federal appeals court backed the university in a dispute over its ownership. During the Russian Revolution, "The Night Café" by the Dutch master was taken by the Soviets from **Pierre Konowaloff's** family and sold to the school in 1961. The federal judge cited the doctrine that US courts do not honor foreign governments' expropriation demands. [[Guardian](#), [WP](#)]

— **Obamas Opt for Abstract Art:** The Obamas are swapping out some of the fusty portraiture and landscapes in the **White House** for more modern and contemporary works, such as pieces by **Mark Rothko** and **Robert Rauschenberg**. "There was discussion about the president and first lady liking more abstract art," said **William Allman**, the curator of the White House art collection. "Our collection doesn't really have any of that," he said of the 500-piece collection. **Melissa Chiu**, the director of the **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden**, which has let the Obamas borrow several paintings, said: "The recognition of African-American artists is a big piece of that. At many levels, you are seeing a diversification of the selection of artwork and artists that reveals the story of the United States." [[NYT](#)]

3:1 *Phillip Lim*

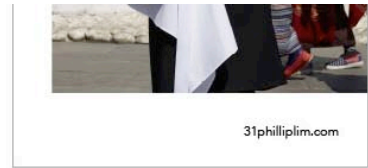


— **Beirut's Aishti Foundation Opens:** A

fixture of Beirut's proposed [cultural renaissance](#), **Tony Salamé's** \$100-plus million **Aishti Foundation** opened on Sunday. The **David Adjaye**-designed

"museum-cum-shopping mall" combines 90 retail spaces, for brands like **Gucci** and **Prada**, with 4,000 square meters of art exhibition space. "We're thinking of having yoga classes in between the sculptures," Salamé added. "This is a place where art is not intimidating." The opening show, titled "New Skin" and drawn from Salamé's personal collection, was curated by the **New Museum's Massimiliano Gioni**, who noted that the shopping sector is, in his opinion, "not challenging or problematic. Tony makes the money behind the [gallery] wall and he

spends it in here. Fashion can really open up the audience to art." [\[TAN\]](#)



— **Islamic State Detonates Palmyra Columns in Execution:** On Sunday, the **Islamic State** executed three people by tying them to historic columns in Palmyra and blowing them up, according to **Rami Abdel Rahman**, head of the **Syrian Observatory for Human Rights**. Activist **Mohammad al-Ayed** added: "IS is doing this for the media attention, so that IS can say that it is the most villainous, and so it can get people's attention." [\[ArtDaily\]](#)

— **Eduardo Chillida's US Renaissance:** Spanish modernist sculptor **Eduardo Chillida** is getting renewed attention in the US, including a pop-up show opening this Friday on Madison Avenue. [\[WSJ\]](#)

— **Hammer Museum Plans Expansion:** After acquiring a full city block of property from **Occidental Petroleum** in the Westwood neighborhood of Los Angeles for \$92.5 million, the **Hammer Museum** plans to use the additional 40,000 square feet to expand its galleries, including permanent display space for works on paper and the **Hammer Contemporary Collection**. [\[LAT\]](#)

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— **Melik Ohanian** wins 2015 **Marcel Duchamp Prize**. **Basel Abbas** and **Ruanne Abou-Rame** win **Abraaj Group Art Prize**. [\[Artforum, TAN, Artnews\]](#)

— Oops, cleaners have thrown away more art — this time, a piece made up of party debris by **Sara Goldschmied** and **Eleonora Chiari** at the **Museion** in Bolzano, Italy. [\[Telegraph, Independent\]](#)

— And in light, pleasant news, French artist **Christian Boltanski** is counting down the seconds to his own death. [\[Guardian\]](#)

