

Lifestyle

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018



Runners celebrate under coloured powder finishing their five kilometers in the Color Run 2018 at the Eiffel Tower in Paris yesterday. Runners are showered with coloured powder at stations along the way in the five kilometers Color Run in which participants are all equal, no winners nor prizes for the finishers. — AFP

Snoopy and Charlie Brown become street art stars

Good grief, Charlie Brown has got into graffiti... The first of a series of huge street art projects featuring Snoopy and the Peanuts gang was unveiled in Paris on Saturday. The wraps will come off other murals in New York Monday with Tokyo, Seoul, Berlin, Mexico City and San Francisco to follow. But what would his creator Charles M Schulz think? He would be thrilled, insist the keepers of the Peanuts flame who point out that the great cartoonist was a friend and supporter of street art pioneer Christo, famous for wrapping the Reichstag in Berlin and the Pont Neuf in Paris.

The Bulgarian-born superstar even wrapped Snoopy's kennel and presented it to the Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, California. "I think Charles Schulz would love this project," Melissa Menta of Peanuts Worldwide told AFP. "He loved artists and in one strip he has Snoopy day-dreaming about Christo. At the end of it he returns to find that he has wrapped his doghouse, which Christo then did in real life." She said Peanuts Worldwide had exceptionally allowed the seven street artists chosen for the Peanuts Global Artist Collective to redraw the beloved characters from the famously philosophical strip.

They include the sometimes controversial American artist Rob Pruitt, who has Snoopy walking a tightrope

with one of his trademark panda figures. "I think I taught myself how to draw by copying Peanuts characters and strips over and over, especially the details—the grass, the snow, the wobbly lines," Pruitt said. Menta said Pruitt was an obvious choice because he had "Peanutised himself years ago. He did a series of tombstones with the Charlie Brown stripe on them way back and he was clearly a Peanuts fan."

She said far from being afraid of what artists would come up with, "it was the best form of flattery to have them riffing on Peanuts in their form of expression." The French graffiti artist Andre Saraiva—aka Mr A—has Snoopy hanging out with his stick figures while the world's most Zen dog skateboards with Woodstock in the first piece to be unveiled Saturday on the facade of the Citizen Hotel in Paris by US artist Nina Chanel Abney. The other artists involved include the American Kenny Scharf, whose work will be shown in New York on April 16; Japan's Tomokazu Matsuyama; the duo FriendsWithYou (Samuel Borkson and Arturo Sandoval III); and the collective AVAF. — AFP



A picture shows a mural by US artist Nina Chanel Abney set up in front of the Citizen Hotel in Paris as the first of a series of huge street art projects featuring Snoopy and the Peanuts gang was unveiled. — AFP



In this file photo, tables and chairs line the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican in preparation for the conclave. — AP

The Vatican Museums offer early-bird special to see its art

The Vatican Museums are offering an early-bird special. The museums famed for Michelangelo's ceiling in the Sistine Chapel and for masterpieces by Raffaello has posted on its website a new guided itinerary that starts at 6 am and finishes with a light breakfast of croissants, juice and coffee.

A video shows a small group of visitors accompanying the museum's key-bearer as he opens doors and

gates with a huge ring of dozens of keys, switching on the lights along the frescoed and stuccoed corridors as the tour progresses. The "Good Morning Vatican Museums" tour lasts about an hour for a maximum 20 people. The Vatican Museums are normally open from 9 am to 6 pm and see as many as 20,000-25,000 visitors a day.—AP

Chagall painting recovered 30 years after theft

A painting by Marc Chagall stolen 30 years ago from a New York couple's apartment has been recovered and is being returned to the family's estate, the FBI said Thursday. The 1911 painting, "Othello and Desdemona," was stolen in 1988 along with other works of art—by Renoir, Picasso and Hopper—from the Manhattan home of Ernest and Rose Heller, the FBI said in a statement. The oil painting, which shows Othello gazing at a sleeping Desdemona, was recovered last year after a man in the eastern state of Maryland contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI said the Maryland man got in touch with law enforcement after a failed effort to consign the painting to an art gallery in Washington. The gallery owner was "suspicious about the lack of paperwork supporting the painting's authenticity and provenance," the FBI said.

The Maryland man obtained the painting in the late 1980s or early 1990s from the man who stole it from the Heller's apartment, the FBI said. "It was an inside job," said special agent Marc Hess of the FBI's Art Crime Team. "A person who had regular access to the building was stealing from apartments while the tenants were away." "(The Hellers) went on vacation back in 1988," Hess said. "They returned, and this work of art—along with several others—was missing." The FBI said the Maryland man kept the painting stashed in a makeshift box in his attic for years. It said no charges would be filed against him or the man

who stole the painting because the statute of limitations has expired. The FBI said the Hellers, who bought the painting in the 1920s, have both died and their estate plans to put the art work up for auction. — AFP



This photo obtained April 12, 2018 courtesy of the FBI in Washington, DC shows personnel from the FBI's Art Crime Team holding a framed work by Marc Chagall prior to its return to the owners' estate nearly 30 years after it was stolen. — AFP