

VISUAL ART



Kimbell Art Museum

▲ **“The Brothers Le Nain: Painters of 17th-Century France”:** Before the documentary photography of our day, before the socially conscious Realism movement of 19th century France, there were the three brothers Le Nain. Successful at making and selling standard religious scenes for churches and for the homes of the rich, at some point they began to depict the lives of the rural poor with sensitivity and sympathy. Legion of Honor, through Jan. 29. <http://legionofhonor.famsf.org>

The Institute Presents: “Neurosociety”:

David Byrne has had a long and productive career as an artist, writer, photographer, filmmaker and, of course, musician. With a collaborator, Mala Gaonkar, Byrne has produced this 80-minute participatory theater work that has great fun with, of all subjects, the science of the brain. Recommended for ages 13 and older, the \$45 experience can be combined (for \$5 more) with “TeamLab: Living Digital Space and Future Parks” next door, an invigorating, high-tech immersive experience. Pace Art + Technology, Menlo Park, through March 31.

www.pacegallery.com

“Beauty — Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial”:

Encompassing 280 works by 57 designers, this expansive show is a generously varied look at innovative ideas expressed about — and through — clothing, jewelry, home furnishings, graphics and more. It probably won’t solve the unanswerable question “What is beauty?” But it will prompt the conversation. San Jose Museum of Art, through Feb. 19. <http://sjmusart.org>

“Bruce Conner: It’s All True”:

Parents will want to decide if this is an exhibition they want young children to experience, as Conner delved deep into American culture’s obsession with violence, sex, drugs and, yes, rock ‘n’ roll. But it is also the best art museum exhibition of 2016, brilliantly unraveling the complex and conflicting personae of the Bay Area’s most important all-around artist. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, through Jan. 22. www.sfmoma.org

“Tom Sachs: Space Program: Europa”:

A sprawling exhibition that imagines space travel in the future as a makeshift adventure, put together out of the leftovers of the past half century. From handmade plywood “Mars rocks” to a full-scale “Landing Excursion Module” — topping out at 23 feet — it’s all done with a wry sense of humor and an imagination that is half brilliant artist, half 12-year-old boy. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, through Jan. 15. www.ybca.org

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