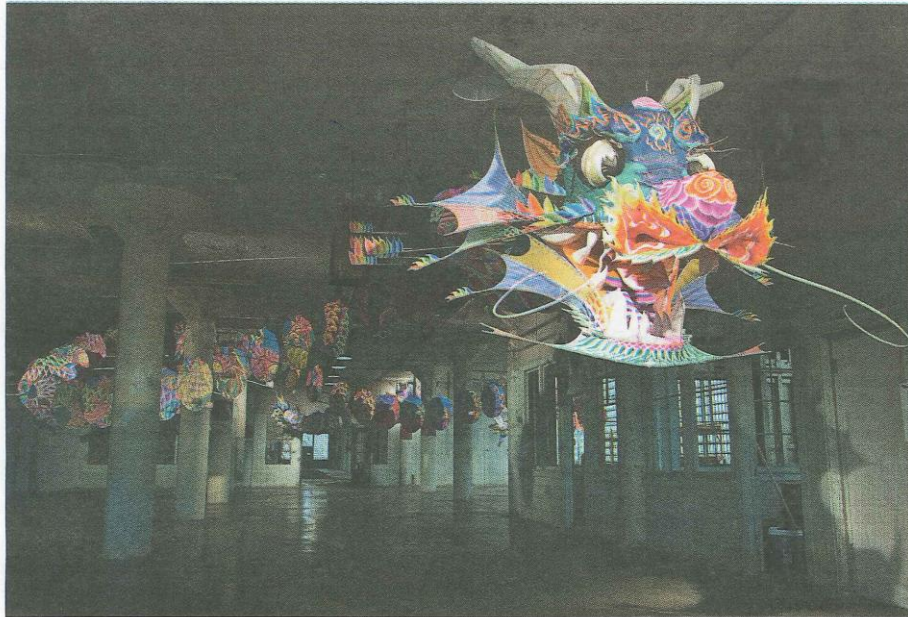




October 1, 2014

October Arts Preview



JAN STÜRSMANN / FOR-SITE FOUNDATION

'With Wind' is one of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei's large-scale installations now on view for free at the former Alcatraz State Penitentiary. Ai Weiwei is currently under house arrest and unable to leave Beijing; under his direction, the massive exhibit was installed by allies.

Alcatraz installations by Ai Weiwei go up, plus Día de los Muertos shows

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There are so many good arts events to attend in October that you'll have to do overtime this month.

Ai Weiwei at Alcatraz prison: The world-renowned Chinese artist has an exhibit called "@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz" for the next seven months. The price of admission is a \$30 roundtrip ticket to Alcatraz Island that allows you to take the Alcatraz prison tour and see the exhibit as well. Seven large-scale installations have been created by Ai and curated by the San Francisco gallery owner Cheryl Haines, who first had the idea for the exhibit. Ai, the designer of the "Bird's Nest" stadium in Beijing for the 2008 Summer Olympics, just had a major show at the Brooklyn Museum and at the Venice Biennale, both of which I attended. He is famous for his dissident stance vis-à-vis the Chinese government and their policies. For this he is under house arrest in Beijing.

Info: alcatrazcruises.com or 415-981-7625.

Marin Theatre Company: Just when they are preparing for an opening of Samuel D. Hunter's "The Whale" on Oct. 2, the playwright wins a MacArthur Foundation "genius award," one of the most lucrative and prestigious honors given to artists, inventors and unique figures. The

play also was awarded the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play. Hunter is so honored for his depiction of the human condition.

Info: marintheatre.org or 415-388-5208.

American Conservatory Theater: ACT presents the poet and writer Colm Tóibín's "Testament" starring Seana McKenna starting Oct. 29.

Info: act-sf.org or 415-749-2228.

Aurora Theatre: The Aurora presents Bay Area magician Christian Cagigal in "Obscura" for 15 performances from Oct. 15 through Nov. 2.

Info: auroratheatre.org or 510-843-4822.

Two Día de los Muertos exhibitions: The Oakland Museum of California celebrates this important festival from Oct. 8 through Jan. 4, 2015, and SOMArts, at 934 Brannan St. in San Francisco, also holds its annual exhibition Oct. 10-Nov. 10.

Info: museumca.org or 888-625-6873; somarts.org or 415-863-1414.

Cal Performances: See the Takács Quartet, Oct. 12; the Australian Ballet performing "Swan Lake," Oct. 16-19; contemporary dance with Sasha Waltz and Guests, Oct.

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