

The New York Times

Sunday, October 29, 2006

The Arts

The Week Ahead: Oct. 29 - Nov. 4

By THE NEW YORK TIMES
Published: October 29, 2006

ART/ARCHITECTURE

Randy Kennedy

From a distance, the paintings of **WALTON FORD** seem as if they belong to a more innocent age, one that idealized and glorified nature. But as you get closer, the calm of Audubon gives way to the creepiness of [Francis Bacon](#) and sometimes even to the horrors of [Wes Craven](#). (In one of Mr. Ford's works, a gorgeously rendered black-maned lion is poised to make a meal out of a fallen cabin boy.)

Beginning Friday, the [Brooklyn Museum](#) will present more than 50 of Ford's meticulous large-scale watercolors made since the 1990's, works that question the beauty and simplicity of nature and man's relationship to it. In one painting of an owl on a branch, it is clear on closer inspection that the owl is there only because a trapper has wired him to the tree to lure smaller birds. In another, a kind of Pietà, a wood duck looms over a fallen colleague, apparently shot down, as other ducks plummet from the sky in the background.

"The big, big thing I'm always looking for in my work," Mr. Ford has said, "is a sort of attraction-repulsion thing, where the stuff is beautiful to begin with until you notice that some sort of horrible violence is about to happen or is in the middle of happening."

Through Jan. 28, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, (718) 638-5000.

- For a different, more fun-loving exploration of nature and man, flee the approaching winter weather and head to Las Vegas, where **CREATIVE TIME**, the New York-based nonprofit art organization, is presenting "Sky Is the Limit." The work, created by the Turkish-born artist **HALUK AKAKCE** for the world's largest video screen, forms a four-block canopy over Fremont Street in Las Vegas's old downtown. The project, which will use LED and 3-D technology to form images on the screen, creates what its curators describe as "a confrontation between artificial and organic life, suggesting both the liberating and alienating power of technology, and evoking an alternate fluid sense of space and time." If nothing else, it will be a nice way to kill time between blackjack tables. *Friday through Nov. 30, every evening beginning at 8 p.m.*