



CARMELO ANTHONY READY TO RE-SIGN

REPORTS SAY THE STAR STAYS AT HOME. PAGE 32



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Word up. Soak up the rays while soaking in the prose of some of our favorite contemporary authors, like Elizabeth Gilbert, Krista Bremer and George Vecsey. **A novel approach.** Take our personality quiz to figure out which beach book is best for you. PAGE 16



SINK INTO SUMMER READING

Smartphones? Bah! Tablets? Pffff! You look much cooler going old-school. / BESS ADLER



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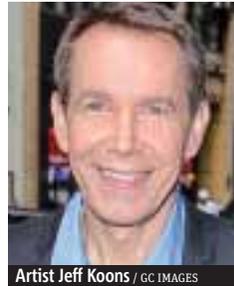
Koons-a-palooza

Whimsy. Jeff Koons is taking over NYC this summer.

Jeff Koons has been transforming the everyday into the extraordinary since his first NYC exhibit in 1980. More than three decades — and millions of dollars — later, “Jeff Koons: A Retrospect” is taking over the Whitney Museum of American Art to showcase the artist’s 35-year career.

This chronological survey exhibits over 130 sculptures and paintings. Together, they unveil Koons’ rise to stardom as the second-most valuable living artist today. His trademark is the transformation of popular culture into art; his multimedia career continually uplifts mass media into, as Koons calls it, “proletarian luxuries.”

In his breakthrough series, “Equilibrium”



Artist Jeff Koons / GC IMAGES

Koons suspended basketballs in tanks of water, transforming a useful toy into an object of observation. In “Balloon Dog” (1994-2000), Koons immortalized the simple pleasures of childhood in stainless steel. This playful piece from the “Celebration” series has a hefty price tag: It sold at Christie’s last November for \$58.4 million, making it the most expensive work by a living artist ever sold at auction.

Elevating lowbrow commodities to highbrow art is a complicated game of pro-

Your own Koons

Collaboration

Exhibition sponsor H&M is debuting a limited-edition leather bag printed with Koons’ infamous “Balloon Dog.” The bag will debut at H&M’s Fifth Avenue flagship store on July 17.



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Topiary

Beyond the Whitney

Take a stroll through Rockefeller Center to view Koons’ gigantic “Split-Rocker,” a topiary sculpture on view through Sept. 12. It stands over 37 feet high and features 50,000 flowering plants. Modeled after the aluminum sculpture of the same name on view at the Whitney Museum, the half-pony, half-horse design shares the same uncanny resemblance to a child’s “Little Tikes” rocker.

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If you go

‘Jeff Koons: A Retrospective’

Through Oct. 19
Wednesday-Sunday
11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Whitney Museum of Art
945 Madison Ave.
\$20, 212-570-3600
www.whitney.org

Paintings and sculptures by American artist Jeff Koons are currently on exhibit in the Whitney Museum. / GETTY IMAGES

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- 2:00 PM — Evidence for Faith #1
- 3:00 PM — God’s Plan for the Ages #1
- 7:00 PM — Evidence for Faith #1
- 8:00 PM — God’s Plan for the Ages #1

These studies are beginner level courses that will give you reasons to believe in God, Christ and the Bible. You will be given basic understanding of what the Bible and God’s plan is really all about. By the end of the week, you should expect to have a solid foundation for understanding what God expects of you.

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