On the Trail with Ansel Adams and Georgia O’Keeffe

In 1938, Ansel Adams took a trip to Yosemite National Park with friends Georgia O’Keeffe, David McAlpin, and Godfrey and Helen Rockefeller. Adams documented the adventure with photographs both of the landscape and of his famous friends. Adams arranged his work into three handcrafted albums, one of which was given to McAlpin. Yosemite 1938: On the Trail with Ansel Adams and Georgia O’Keeffe, opening June 24, displays the pages of this journal, which include Adams’ photographs and personal handwritten notes. The images provide an intimate look at this memorable trip and feature Adams’ best-known subject: breathtaking and beautiful landscapes.

Wild About Wildlife Art

Wild at Heart: National Museum of Wildlife Art is a spectacular exhibit of painting and sculpture highlighting both the historic and contemporary collections of fine art from the National Museum of Wildlife Art. With a specific focus on wildlife from the United States and Canada, the exhibit provides a close look at the development of the genre by displaying work from early naturalists to today’s best painters and sculptors. It is on view through August 13 in the R.P. Simmons Family Gallery.

Come Early and Stay Late for Wild Wednesday Nights

This summer, Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History are keeping the doors open for three special Wednesday evenings when visitors can enjoy light fare, a cash bar, the museums’ animal exhibitions, and distinctive programming. Admission is always free for members, and non-members will receive a discounted admission of $5 for adults and $3 for children from 4-9 p.m.

- June 28, 6-8 p.m. – As the Crow Flies: Literary Reading: Actor/director John Carosella will read excerpts from literary classics inspired by animals.
- July 19, 5-9 p.m. – Pet Adoption Day: The Humane Society, The Animal Rescue League, and Animal Friends will bring lovable creatures in need of homes.
- August 2, 6:30-8 p.m. – Evolving Perspectives on Animals and Humans: James Serpell, director, Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society; Chris Beard, curator of vertebrate paleontology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History; and Rosanne Giambro, primate specialist, Pittsburgh Zoo, will discuss the complex relationships between animals and humans.

Not Your Average Stuffed Animals

Taxidermy (Greek for “arrangement of the skin”) is the art of mounting or reproducing animals for display or study. Over the last century, the practice of taxidermy has evolved exponentially due to improvements in technology and changes in museum display techniques. Stuffed Animals: The Art and Science of Taxidermy, on view in Carnegie Museum of Art’s Hall of Sculpture through September 3, explores the fascinating history of taxidermy through displays of priceless mounts from Carnegie Museum of Natural History’s world-renowned collections.
Making Magic Make Sense
Without minimizing the mystery, Carnegie Science Center’s newest exhibit, Magic: The Science of Illusion, opening June 17, explains some of the world’s most famous magic tricks, including the floating head and Harry Houdini’s great milk can escape. Visitors can watch the tricks being performed by the magicians who made them famous, and then get an up-close, behind-the-scenes look at the physics, math, and psychology that make the illusions possible.

Understanding the “F” Word
As part of the region-wide Pittsburgh Roars celebration, The Warhol presents The “F” Word. On view through September 3, this collection of recent work by 14 contemporary, intergenerational female artists—from women who first led the charge of feminist art in the 1960s and ’70s, to those just emerging on the international arts scene—challenges the connotations long embedded in words like feminism, feminine, and female.

Roar at the OMNIMAX® this summer.
Opening June 2 at the Rangos Omnimax Theater, Roar: Lions of the Kalahari brings you up-close and personal with one of the most charismatic animals on earth. Filmed entirely in Botswana’s Kalahari Desert, the drama unfolds around an isolated watering hole teeming with wildlife when a real lion king is challenged by a fierce young contender determined to oust him from his throne. Roar’s dramatic images and spectacular soundtrack make the animals of the Kalahari seem close enough to touch, and you’ll be shaken in your seat by one of nature’s loudest sounds—the roars of dueling lions.

The Warhol Does Downtown
New York that is. In the mid-1970s, a distinctive “downtown attitude” toward life and art took hold in lower Manhattan. Artists, writers, musicians, and filmmakers alike began creating work that was both populist and subversive, utopian and raw. Influenced by New York School artists as well as hippies, Marxists, and anarchists, downtown artists began pushing the limits of traditional artistic categories. Visual artists were also writers; writers were developing performance pieces; performance artists were incorporating video into their work; and almost everyone was in a band. Organized by the Grey Art Gallery and Fales Library at New York University and curated by Paper Magazine Senior Editor Carlo McCormick, The Downtown Show includes more than 500 paintings, sculptures, drawings, videos, photographs, and archival items from this downtown scene, which changed the art world forever. The exhibition is on view through September 3.