

The Hit List: Explore the art world

Check out some cool area museums this weekend

By Christy Fantz

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Photo by Cliff Grassmick

Zak Macik, left, of Boulder, and Jim Healy, of Nederland, play pinball June 1 at Lyons Classic Pinball. At 25 to 75 cents a game, pinball provides a cheap way to dry off after a day on the St. Vrain River.

BOULDER, Colo. — What is art? What an annoying question. Art is propaganda. Art is the new religion. Art is cheap. Art is dead. Don't ask me.

Michelangelo said, "The true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection." Maybe art is a video game, or a dead cow, or a painting, or the night sky, or rock 'n' roll. Or maybe "art is making something out of nothing and selling it," as Frank Zappa once said.

Well, whatever art is, go explore some museums in the area this weekend and finish my sentence.

1 Lyons Classic Pinball

339-A Main St., Lyons

This vintage spot is 16 miles from downtown Boulder and hosts Colorado's largest public collection (37, to be exact) of pinball games. Classics such as 1961's "Kismet" to 2007's modern "Family Guy" are up for play.

Don't forget laundry money; most games range from 25 cents to \$1.

Hours: 5-10 p.m. Thursday, 3-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 3-9 p.m. Sunday **Info:** www.lyonspinball.com, 303-823-6100

2 CU Museum of Natural History

1035 Broadway, Boulder

So, you know that museum on campus -- the one you pass every day?

It is home to the largest natural history collection in the Rocky Mountains, with more than 4 million objects, including Colorado's largest collection of bees. Even better: It's free.

Check out the new BioLounge, where you can relax at the coffee bar, then explore.

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

Info: cumuseum.colorado.edu, 303-492-6892

3 Museum of Contemporary Art

1485 Delgany St., Denver

Denver's modern art house is worth a trip just to see superstar bad-boy Damien Hirst's work. With a frequent death theme, his million-dollar works include dead animals preserved in formaldehyde, with MCA housing the arrow-pierced black calf "Saint Sebastian, Exquisite Pain."

A little creepy, but kinda neat. Original, for sure.

Students, \$5; adults \$10.

Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday and 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday

Info: www.mcadenver.org, 303-298-7554

4 Fiske Planetarium

1045 18th St., Boulder

This year marks the International Year of Astronomy. It's been 400 years since Galileo studied our pretty sky.

Celebrate by checking out Fiske Planetarium on campus, where there are laser shows, lectures and star shows.

Students, \$5; adults, \$6.

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, selected evenings and Saturdays

Info: fiske.colorado.edu, 303-492-5002

5 Denver Art Museum

100 W. 14th Ave. Parkway, Denver

Denver's jutting gem brings in the classics, the contemporary and the entertaining.

Check out "The Psychedelic Experience," which displays more than 300 rock posters from the San Francisco Bay Area. The images will transport you to the counterculture of the experimental years of 1965-71.

But maybe leave the hallucinogenic drugs in the car.

Students, \$12; adults, \$15.

Hours: 10 a.m.

