

BERNAR VENET STUDIO AND MCCLAIN GALLERY,
HOUSTON THROUGH BAKER

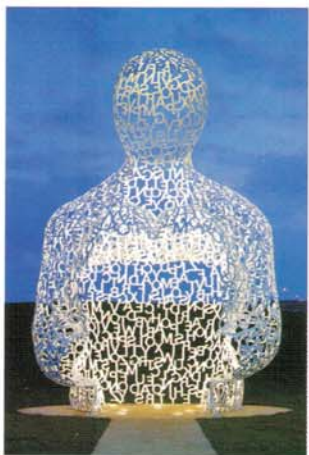


The Bernar Venet exhibition at Hermann Park in Houston, Texas, includes "Arcs in Disorder: 3 Arcs x 5."

Sculpture En Plein Air

Summer is the season to get outdoors and explore art alfresco. To get you started, we've handpicked a series of sculpture parks across the country.

The Des Moines Art Center in Iowa has outdone itself: the **John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park** officially premiered last fall, 32 blocks east of the art center. The south side of the park is a must-see: it offers dramatic views of Mark di Suvero's bright-red steel "T8" and Jaume Plensa's pensive "Nomade." And be sure to walk the 4.4-acre park—the architects designed it to unfold slowly, using hills and 8-foot-high backdrops to focus your attention on specific works while temporarily hiding others. The park currently showcases 16 donations from collectors John and Mary Pappajohn; when



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Jaume Plensa's "Nomade" sits gracefully at the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park at the Des Moines Art Center.

completed, it will feature 24 works worth \$40 million. Visit www.desmoinesartcenter.org for details.

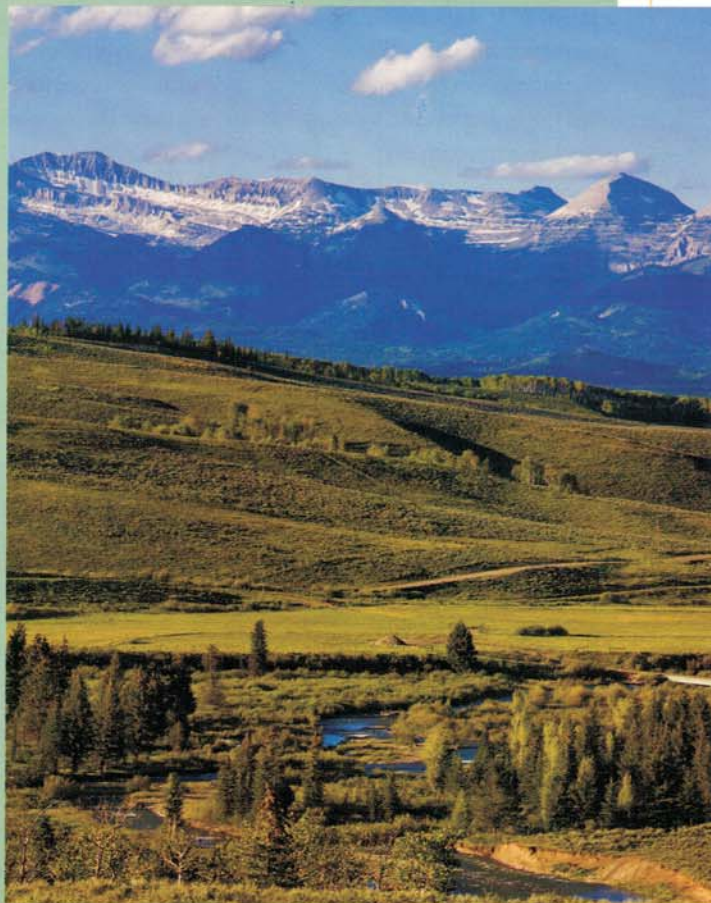
Houston's Texan French Alliance for the Arts unveiled the exhibition **Bernar Venet** at Hermann Park in January. Eight seemingly impossibly arced steel sculptures that stand up to 30 feet high and weigh up to 12 tons will be on display at the 445-acre park through Sept. 30. Go to ▶

DRIVE THE ROCKIES

Everybody loves a nice drive on a gorgeous day, but who likes the headache of mapping your route and planning an itinerary? A new website does all of the hard work for you—Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies (www.drive-thetop10.com) gives you all the tools you need to plan a day trip, or a week away, to some of the most naturally beautiful spots on earth.

Start with the drive matcher to fit your personality and interests with one of the featured drives. The top 10 cover five states (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming) and two Canadian provinces (Alberta and British Columbia). You can cruise the Beartooth Highway, tour the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway or circle the Yellowstone-Grand Teton Loop.

These destinations are known for their natural beauty, but don't think they're all hiking, biking and bird watching—although there is plenty of that. Provided maps and itineraries will also guide you to art galleries, restaurants and wine festivals. —SARA BAKER



DAVID J. SWIFT

View from the Beartooth Highway drive.