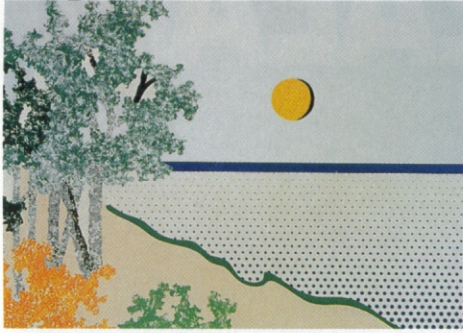


# express it



Can Roy Lichtenstein's pop art move the Miami Art Museum into the top 25?



Is the Frye Art Museum's industrial facade enough?



Will Francesco Clemente's "untitled" give the Miami Museum of Art what it needs?

## MUSEUMS: ART'S GREATEST HITS

Thanks for your article on the top 25 art museums in America ("Museum Smackdown," November). I would like to add the Miami Art Museum. Opened in 1996, the museum has a strong commitment to artists working today. The collection is full of recent works. It is in the same center as the Historical Museum of South Florida, which is worth a visit, too.

**Linda McBride, Boca Raton, Florida**

Seattle's Frye Art Museum gets my vote for two reasons:

1. A large collection of 19th-century German realist paintings.
2. The building is a work of art in itself. It was recently expanded, and now includes a courtyard garden and waterfall.

**Rob Gerhardt, Bellevue, Washington**

How could you forget the Rhode Island School of Design's museum in Providence? Their 45 galleries are packed with American furniture, Roman frescoes, and Egyptian mummies.

**Margaret Adams, Attleboro, Massachusetts**

## CRUISING: WHINE AND DINE

My wife and I disagree with your review of Norwegian Cruise Line's "Freestyle Cruising" ("Mutiny on the Lido Deck," November). We tried it on the *Norwegian Majesty*, and found that this approach, which allows you to eat whenever you want, wherever you want, and wear whatever you want, destroys the traditional elegance of dining at sea. People were on the move constantly, and because people were at different stages of the menu, it took a very long time for us to get all of our courses. And if the dining area you choose is full, it means wandering around the ship looking for another place to eat. Thanks, but we'll take the old "reservations-and-two-seatings" system.

**Paul Duff, Ontario, Canada**

Please "Freestyle" me! It's about time someone realized that having dinner on a cruise shouldn't be like going to a wedding reception. As the father of four married daughters, believe me, the last thing I need is another wedding reception.

**Stu, via e-mail**

*Good news, Stu (though perhaps bad news, Paul): The idea of less structured dining is catching on with other lines, too. See "Anybody Hungry?" page 48.*

## FIRST CLASS: WHERE PILOTS CRASH

I am a flight attendant, and I get asked a lot of questions about the airline rules and regulations. It seems everybody wants to know why they often see uniformed pilots sitting in first class, while paying customers who want to upgrade can't. First of all, these pilots are usually working, either on their way to meet their own flight, called "deadheading," or on other official business. Also, it's negotiated into their contracts that they can fly first class, either for business or pleasure. I hope by writing this letter I can avoid being asked that question a few hundred times.

**Julie Harrison, Redondo Beach, California**

## AIRLINES: UDDER OUTRAGE

I couldn't believe the letter to the editor praising Southwest Airlines for its customer service (Express It, November). That has not been my experience. In fact, Southwest's method of seating—where patrons must check in an hour early to get a low number, and then push, shove, and trample to beat out others—means the most common customer noises are "moo" and "oink." Hardly the sounds of satisfaction.

**Star Carey, via e-mail**

Share your comments and travel tips. Write: Letters to the Editor, Travel Holiday, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, or e-mail us at [TravelHol@aol.com](mailto:TravelHol@aol.com).



## YOU GO, GIRL!

In the last 30 days, Wanda, everybody's favorite little globetrotter (and our mascot) has logged more than 20,000 miles—New York, Honolulu, New Jersey, Paris...and these are just the trips we know

about! If you see Wanda, please help her on her way. Sign or stamp her *Travel Holiday* passport (the only thing that has ever made a French immigration officer laugh), then pass her on to another traveler so she can keep roaming. Tell her we miss her, and let us know how she's doing.

**Where's Wanda,** Travel Holiday, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019; [TravelHol@aol.com](mailto:TravelHol@aol.com)