

# DEPARTURES

MAY/JUNE 2007



BERLIN'S ART SCENE

POP ART JEWELRY

LONDON'S HOUSE  
OF WONDERS

ITALY'S ABRUZZI REGION

CAIRO REDUX

JODHPUR'S HIGH STYLE

**PLUS** A SPECIAL  
A TO Z ARTS GUIDE

*The*

# Culture

I S S U E



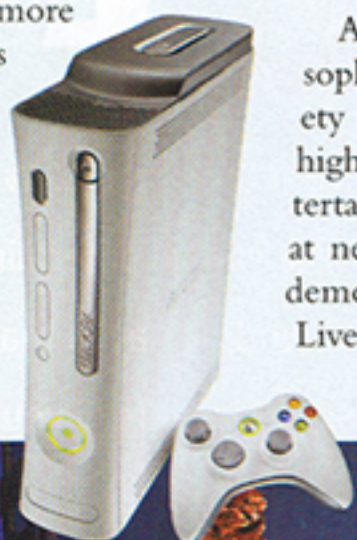
Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Kentridge conjures a spellbinding setting of fanciful creatures, classical architecture, and swirling skies. The production, which has played to strong reviews in Brussels, Brooklyn, Tel Aviv, and Lille, France, travels to the artist's native country this autumn.

# X

## THE XBOX GENERATION

**Ever waited in line to get your** hands on the latest console? And was that for your kid or for you? These days two thirds of U.S. households have a game system (nearly \$4 billion was spent on Microsoft Xbox 360s, Sony PlayStation 3s, Nintendo Wiis, and games this past holiday season), and well over 60 percent of the people playing *Grand Theft Auto*, *Guitar Hero*, and *Madden NFL* are 18 or older.

"With each generation you see more adults who played video games as children who are continuing to play," says Joseph Olin, president of the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences. "Today's platforms bring things to the screen that couldn't have been rendered in a film ten years ago, let alone on a television screen."



The Xbox 360 and a scene from *Halo 3*

As the consoles become more sophisticated—managing a variety of media files and displaying high-definition video—the entertainment industry is looking at new ways to tap this growing demographic. Microsoft's Xbox Live service not only allows users to download game-related content but also sells movies and TV shows, and Sony has begun expanding the offerings for its PlayStation network. Tellingly, magazines such as *Wired* and *BusinessWeek* devote pages to the latest game news and reviews. Then again, how can you ignore a worldwide phenomenon that generates \$30 billion in annual sales?

## YOU TUBE

**T**urns out, the sprawling video-sharing site isn't just a bottomless pit of other people's home movies and cell phone clips and all those snippets from *South Park* and MTV's *Real World* that Viacom is suing over (see "Instant Access"). Dig around a bit and you'll discover plenty of higher culture, too—including some hard-to-find footage. Pictured here is Johnny Cash playing his legendary 1969 San Quentin State Prison concert; the Merce Cunningham Dance Company performing *Beach Birds for Camera* in 1992; Yoko Ono doing her landmark 1965 *Cut Piece* at Carnegie Hall (during which audience members took turns scissoring off bits of her dress); and Joan Sutherland singing the title role in Bellini's *Norma* in 1964.



# Y

## YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING

**New playwrights are always wel-**come. But how rare—and how typical of Joan Didion—it is to debut as a Broadway dramatist in your seventies. We know that most people attending *The Year of Magical Thinking* go expecting a recital of the