

Posted on Sun, Sep. 23, 2007

Things We Like

What's good out there? What have you read, heard or seen in the last month that really moved or informed you? Books, stories, movies, articles, TV, music, etc.? Send us your suggestions!

(See "To Reach Currents," C3. If e-mailing, put "Things We Like" in the subject field.)

Article/essay/speech: "Pandora's Click," by Janet Malcolm, in the Sept. 27 issue of the New York Review of Books (<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/20571>). Finally - 20 years late - a how-to.

Short story: "Afterward," by Edith Wharton (<http://go.philly.com/ewharton>).

Book, nonfiction: "Ad Infinitum: A Biography of Latin," by the extraordinary linguist and writer Nicholas Ostler (<http://go.philly.com/ostler>).

Book, fiction: "The Engagement," a short, tough novel from French master Georges Simenon (<http://go.philly.com/simenon>).

Web site/video game: [EarthCam](http://www.earthcam.com), a search engine of live camera sites from around the world (<http://www.earthcam.com>).

Movie: "The Passion of Joan of Arc," the 1928 classic silent by Carl Dreyer, on YouTube (<http://go.philly.com/joanofarc>). Devastating, as it should be.

TV: "Curb Your Enthusiasm," uneasy, acid, improvised glee, back for its sixth season on HBO (<http://www.hbo.com/larrydavid>).

Radio: "The Ross Brittain Hit Machine," Saturdays 6 to 10 a.m. on WOGL-FM (98.1). Poem: "Intimacy: A Lighting," by Pattiann Rogers, in the Autumn 2007 Gettysburg Review (<http://go.philly.com/pattiann>). Getting close to the very truth.

Song/album/musical/opera: Sharon Isbin and the New York Philharmonic, conducted by José Serebrier, "Rodrigo: Concierto de Aranjuez" (<http://go.philly.com/isbin>), with concertos by Heitor Villa-Lobos and Manuel Ponce. A Grammy-nominated 2005 release by a guitarist so wonderful the composer begged her to play. The cadenza at the end of the second movement of "Aranjuez" is passion itself.

Painting, sculpture, or other artwork: "Richard Serra: Sculpture: Forty Years," the Museum of Modern Art's Web site on the monumental retrospective that just closed (<http://moma.org/exhibitions/2007/serra>). Choose "full screen" for maximum effect.

Quotation/saying/aphorism: "You don't think about where you would be. You think about where you're going." - Wisdom from Philadelphia Phillies center fielder Aaron Rowand, on the improbabilities of the final weeks of the baseball season.