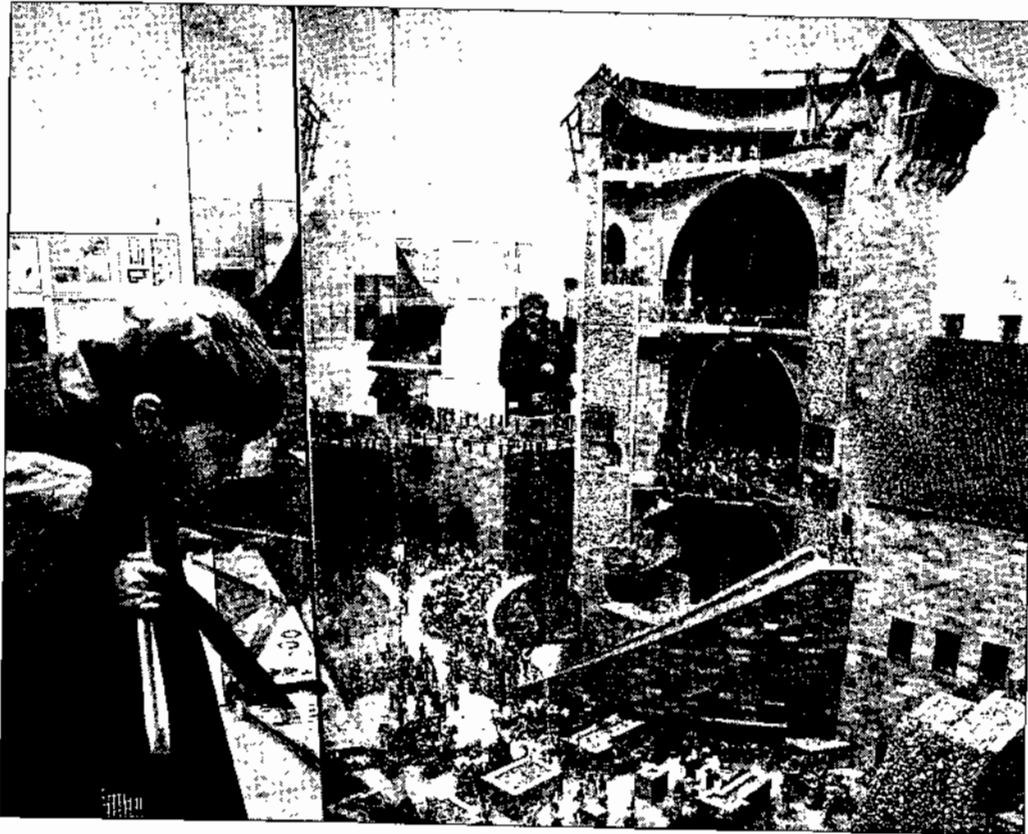


Now that's art

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Matt Kinney, 9, of Omaha checks out an 8-foot-high castle Sunday at the Joslyn Art Museum. The structure is a model of the Castle of Coucy, which stood in France from 1226 until it was destroyed in 1917 during World War I. The Society for Medieval Castle Science of Aachen, in Germany, researched and built the exhibit. It will be at Joslyn through May 14.

JAMES BURNETT/THE WORLD-HERALD

## Exhibit brings a taste of France to Joslyn

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A battle raging outside the walls of a castle is taking place in Nebraska. Figuratively speaking that is.

The Joslyn Art Museum is currently hosting the "French Donjons: Castle of Coucy, Medieval Life in Miniature" exhibit. The exhibit runs through May 14.

The exhibit is a miniature of the donjon of the Castle of Coucy that was built between 1226 and 1228 approximately 75 miles northeast of Paris.

"The model has a wide time range and tries to show the many things that castle life could entail, such as a siege or knighting," said Amy Rummel, communications manager for the Joslyn.

The scale of the model is 1-to-25, and the exhibit depicts the siege of 1339 when England made an unsuccessful attack on the castle. The siege is displayed with the use of 2,500 hand-painted figures. The figures in the battle range from soldiers on foot and horseback to siege weaponry. In addition to the battle, the model also shows other parts of medieval life, such as courtly banquets.

"The model depicts a snapshot of all sorts of happenings in castle life, although many of these things would not be happening at the same time, such as a banquet and a siege," said Rummel.

The real Castle of Coucy contained the largest "donjon," or keep, the residential tower, ever built in Europe. It stood 180 feet tall and 100 feet in diameter. The walls measured up to 24 feet wide. The donjon stood for nearly 700

see JOSLYN on 8

**U** N I V E R S A L

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## Joslyn presents handcrafted mini Medieval castle

OMAHA - From Feb. 4 through May 14 Joslyn Art Museum will present "French Donjons: Castle of Coucy, Medieval Life in Miniature," featuring a handcrafted, eight-foot high reproduction of the donjon that graced the castle of Coucy, situated about 75 miles northeast of Paris during the 13th and 14th centuries.

Local presentation of the exhibit is made possible in part by Suzanne and Walter Scott and Douglas County commissioners. In the Middle Ages, centuries of conflict between France and England furthered castle building development. The donjon or keep, the residential tower, became the prominent part of castle archi-

ture, always placed at a strategic point where it stood as a symbol of power. This exhibition of the Castle of Coucy donjon is a historically accurate representation researched and built by Society for Medieval Castle Science of Aachen, Germany. The model, recreated on a scale of 1:25, shows the siege in 1339, when England's

King Edward III led an unsuccessful attack against the castle. Story of siege is illustrated with about 2,500 hand-painted figures, representing both defenders and attackers. Medieval life apart from the siege is further depicted within the keep.

For information, call Amy Rummel at (402) 342-3300 or email arummel@joslyn.org.

Feb. 4  
**Back When w/ Paria, Father, Noah's Ark Was a Spaceship**  
 Sokol Underground, 9 p.m., \$7  
 onepercentproductions.com

Back When is not for the faint of heart. Its sound is intense, equipped with dual screaming vocals, dense guitars and a throbbing rhythm section. Listening to the band is a sonic onslaught. Paradoxically, this band has quietly built something formidable in Omaha. Since forming in 2002 it has been on multiple extensive U.S. tours and released five albums under almost everybody's radar. Back When is currently working on material for a new album and a possible split 7-inch release with Kentucky band In Tongues. Expect to see more progressive metal of the same ilk from the opening acts.

—Jeremy Schnitker



Feb. 4-May 14  
**French Donjons: Castle of Coucy, Medieval Life in Miniature**  
 Joslyn Art Museum, various times, \$4-\$7  
 342.3300, joslyn.org

The first question most people will ask about this show is "What is a donjon?" Answer: A donjon is the high part of a castle where its keeper resides. In medieval France and England, in fact, the donjon became the prominent part of most castle architecture. The heart of this show is a historically accurate model of the donjon from the Coucy Castle, which is northeast of Paris. The castle was home to many powerful nobles and was famous for having the largest donjon ever built in Europe. The model recreates a scene of the castle in the year 1339, when England's King Edward III led an unsuccessful attack against it.

—Sarah Baker

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# CASTLE OF COUCY

## medieval life in miniature



See an amazing 8-foot high model of the castle at Coucy in France and its grounds during the siege of 1339! Populated with 2,500 individual, crafted figurines, this historically accurate castle offers a unique glimpse of life during the Middle Ages.

Made possible in part by Suzanne and Walter Scott, the Douglas County Commissioners, and Energy Systems.

HOURS: Tues.-Sat., 10 am-4 pm; Sun., noon-4 pm.  
 ADMISSION: \$7 adults; \$5 seniors and college students; \$4 age 5-17; Free for Joslyn members and age 4 and younger. Free general admission: Sat., 10 am-noon.

 **JOSLYN**  
 Art Museum

One of the "13 Best Art Museums to Visit" in the nation  
 —The New York Times, 11/15/2005

2200 Dodge Street • Omaha, NE 68102  
 (402) 342-3300 • www.joslyn.org

**NOW THROUGH MAY 14**

*Paper of the  
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## **JOSLYN:**

continued from page 7

years until it was destroyed in 1917 during World War I. Donjons reached such large sizes because of the increased tension and conflict between France and England during the middle ages.

The model was built by the Society for Medieval Castle Science of Aachen, Germany. It took two years to complete, the same amount of time it took to construct the original.

"The key to the model is that it is authentic. It was made of wood and stone just like the real castle (was) made," Rummel added.

For those who are interested in medieval life, there are multiple exhibits at the Joslyn on the topic.

"The donjon exhibit is a great companion piece to the St. John's Bible and is perfect for the medieval enthusiast," Rummel said.

One of the  
“Ten Best Art Museums For Kids”  
in the nation.

---*Child* magazine, March 2006

Joslyn Art Museum is proud to announce it has been named one of the “Ten Best Art Museums For Kids” by *Child* magazine following the publication's first-ever data-driven survey of the nation's cultural centers, identifying those that make the visual arts accessible and fun for kids. The survey is the culmination of a four-month investigation, which examined more than 100 museums.

Child Magazine's Ten Best Art Museums For Kids:

1. The Art Institute of Chicago •
2. Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY)
3. The Dayton Art Institute (Dayton, OH) •
4. DeYoung, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco (CA)
5. Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh, PA)
6. Los Angeles County Museum of Art (CA) •
7. **Joslyn Art Museum**
8. Winterthur Museum and Country Estate (Winterthur, DE) •
9. Dallas Museum of Art (TX) •
10. Peabody Essex Museum (Salem, MA) •

## Join Joslyn

*As a member you will receive the following benefits:*

- Free admission to Joslyn during regular hours
- Free admission to ticketed exhibitions
- Invitations to receptions, events, and openings
- *Joslyn's members magazine*, a quarterly publication providing advance notice of all special exhibitions and programs
- Reduced prices for art classes and for selected events
- Discounts on admission to music programs
- 10% discount in the Hitchcock Museum Shop and Café Durham
- Subscription discounts on national and international art magazines

### General Membership Prices & Categories

\$45 Individual	\$60 Family/Dual
\$30 Student or Senior	\$35 Educator Family
\$55 Dual Senior	\$35 Military Family Pass



# FOR STARTERS =

instage. The comedy features five travel-ers and three locals stranded in an all-night diner during a Kansas snowstorm. The group includes a raw, rambunctious cowboy determined to marry a brassy, young Kansas City nightclub singer he has just met, whether she wants to or not! Steve Martin's adaptation, "The Underpants," takes over the mainstage April 7-30. A brilliant, hilarious adaptation of an old play, this over-the-top farce centers on an unruly pair of ladies' bloomers as they drop to the ground at a very public moment. Humorous word play and masterful banter—satiric, comic mayhem at its best

French Donjons Castle of Coucy, Medieval Life in Miniature is on display through May 14 at the Joslyn. In the Middle Ages, centuries of conflict between France and England furthered the development of the art of building castles. The donjon or keep was the residential tower, a prominent part of castle architecture and a symbol of power. The residence of many powerful nobles of the Middle Ages, Coucy was famous for having the largest donjon ever built in Europe. Constructed in 1226-28, it stood nearly 700 years, it was destroyed during World War I. The model shows the siege in 1339, when England's King Edward III led an unsuccessful attack against the castle and its owner, Enguerrand de Coucy. The story of the siege is illustrated with some 2,500 hand-painted figures representing both defenders and attackers.