

AFGHAN POWER POLITICS • THE DAIEI DRAMA

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Looters versus Archeologists:

Paradise Lost

The Race for Sacred Artifacts From Iraq To Jerusalem

Periscope

EXHIBITS

Art Among the Armor



HUNKER DOWN: Artists from China and Taiwan invade Kinmen island

FOR 50 YEARS, KINMEN Island was little more than a cold-war bunker, packed with thousands of troops, heavy armor and fields of deadly land mines. Only two kilometers off the coast of China, it was Taiwan's closest outpost to the mainland. Taipei demilitarized the island in 1992, leaving behind a striking destination—with a substantial military infrastructure. The setting will soon serve as a backdrop for a group of 18 Chinese and Taiwanese artists, who plan to transform

a part of the Kinmen fortifications into a dynamic, cutting-edge arts center. The first exhibition, "Bunker Museum of Contemporary Art," will open on September 11. A range of original work from the two Chinas will debut in and around the concrete fixtures. Chinese musician Tan Dun, best known for the score of the Oscar-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," plans to display his first efforts as a visual artist. Film director Chai Min-leong, who won the Golden Lion for "Vive l'Amour"

at the Venice Film Festival in 1994, is developing a large-scale installation piece. Taiwan-born and Japan-based model and artist Yin Ling—known for his provocative magazine spreads—will show a new work at the exhibit. Cai Cuo-Qiang, the star Chinese artist internationally known for his explosive gunpowder displays, dreamed up the idea of the bunker museum. He now hopes to turn Kinmen into "an Asian cultural hot spot," making it a permanent art destination. Then maybe the island can truly come in from the cold.

—KAY ITOI

COMICS

A Graphic Lesson

AS FAR AS TEACHING tools go, nothing beats a good comic book. At least, that's the thinking of Dallas, Texas-based publisher James Disco. "Echoes of the Lost Boys of Sudan," his new series of non-fiction graphic novels, tells the story of four Sudanese boys as they flee civil war in their homeland to eventually find sanctuary in the United States. Inspired by the tales of several kids at his lo-

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