

Arts &amp; Entertainment : Picks

## "Lost Worlds" at the OAS/AMA F Street Gallery

Tuesday, Jan. 3

By Louis Jacobson • December 30, 2011

Arthur Drooker's photographic documentary project brought him to 33 ruins in 15 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, some of them famous (Peru's Machu Picchu, Guatemala's Tikal) and some not as much. In "Lost Worlds,"



not all of the sites on display are visually rich, but Drooker's success rate is still high. Using a digital infrared camera, the photographer lovingly captures tumbledown stone facades, staircases, pyramids, and agricultural terraces, as well as thick jungle environments and the obligatory human-sacrifice ball court. Two images are particularly stunning: one of San Nicolás de Bari in the Dominican Republic—the first hospital in the new world, where Drooker momentarily brings to life a hurricane-damaged shell by capturing a rising frenzy of birds—and the San Ignacio Mini mission in Argentina, where he combines rigid symmetry with the ghostly haze of infrared imaging and an eerily flat perspective. Don't overlook the illuminating captions, which explain how U.S. soldiers permanently scarred a priceless artifact in Haiti and how a Peruvian settlement, Chan Chan, devolved from the largest pre-Hispanic city in South America to the abandoned collection of mud walls it is today.

*"Lost Worlds: Ruins of the Americas" is on view 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays through Feb. 24 at the OAS/AMA F Street Gallery, 1889 F St. NW. Free. (202) 458-6016.*



# Going Out Guide



## MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

### 'Lost Worlds'

Photographer Arthur Drooker is drawn to the crumbling remnants of bygone eras. He has captured Machu Picchu in Peru, the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan in Mexico and other sites using his signature infrared photography, which yields otherworldly black-and-white shots of towering architecture. // *Through Feb. 24. Organization of American States, 1889 F St. NW. 202-458-6016. www.museum.oas.org. Free.*

**Arthur Drooker's  
"San Ignacio Mini,  
Misiones,  
Argentina."**

#### "Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb"

More than 100 artifacts, including mummies, masks and sarcophagi, have waited 3,000 years and traveled one ocean to arrive

at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts from the British Museum. // *Through March 11. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Boulevard, Richmond. www.vmfa.museum. \$15; \$12 for students and seniors,*

*free for age 5 and younger and active-duty military.*

#### "Unbuilt Washington"

Washington could have been home to a pyramid honoring Abraham Lincoln and a pagoda-like building dedicated to George Washington. Get the scoop on these and other proposed local construction projects that never happened. // *Through May 28. National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW. 202-272-2448. www.nbm.org. \$8, \$5 for youth, students and seniors. — Stephanie Merry*