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CULTURE

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Art Beats

Mention culture, and the first thing that springs to mind are famous writers and composers, great painters and sculptors, celebrated actors and singers – in short, those who have made a name for themselves in the arts. But culture encompasses much more: street musicians and graffiti artists, samba and tango virtuosos, masters of caricature and satire. Culture is vibrant and diverse, international and able to unite nations and peoples.

01 **Swinging Paris – Music in the Metro**

A man stands on a busy platform in the Paris metro, playing familiar jazz hits on his double bass. Several passengers stop to listen, others don't have the time or the interest and hurry on. Few are aware of the fact that artists who want to perform here have to audition for the privilege.

02 **Elegance and Passion – The World of Tango**

Tango is rhythm. Tango is passion. Tango is elegance. Once you've been gripped by tango fever, you'll soon forget everything else. The dance originated in the 19th century in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Today, it's a worldwide phenomenon. But no matter where its practitioners live, they all share one thing: a burning love for the dance and a desire to "lose themselves" in the music.

03 **New York Graffiti – From Street Art to Collectors Items**

His career began in the Bronx in New York, where he daubed his graffiti on walls for the first time. Since then, the German-French artist who goes by the name of Reso has been active in many countries, inspiring a generation of graffiti artists. He is internationally renowned and his works are shown at mainstream galleries. He still paints with the same passion – but these days, almost always on canvas rather than concrete.

04 **From the Townships to the Opera – Young South Africans Raise Their Voices**

The performers at the Cape Town Opera Company have audiences in raptures. Ninety percent of these singers come from the townships. Music has been their ticket out of poverty, criminality and despair. What remains is the delicate balancing act between fame on the operatic stage and the rigours of daily life in South Africa's townships.

05 **Living for Carnival – At a Samba School in Rio de Janeiro**

Think of samba, and images of the spectacular carnival shows in Rio de Janeiro spring to mind. The ecstatic performances are the culmination of highly concentrated work throughout the year by hundreds of people at each of the 12 traditional samba schools. Their aim is to be among the three winners. And to achieve that, the show has to be flawless.

06 **Drawing With Flowers – Nature Artist Nils-Udo**

Drawing with flowers, painting with clouds, writing with water – this is the motto of Nils-Udo. The pioneer of the 'land art' movement finds his materials in the natural world: stones and twigs, leaves and petals, sand and salt. He processes these elements into pictures, metaphors and symbols – works that are not meant to last forever, but intended for the moment.

07 **Dancing to the Same Tune? – Life in the Orchestra Pit**

When orchestral musicians perform together, the focus has to be on harmony. But how harmonious is orchestral life behind the scenes? Is it true that down in the pit, string and brass players are locked in eternal rivalry? Or that harpists are sensitive types, and brass players machos?

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