

Tatler

SINGAPORE

Game On

Ian Ang and Alaric Choo of Secretlab take their gaming chair company to the next level

January 2021

\$8.00



8 18888 17193476 1

TATLERASIA.COM



PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE



BEGIN YOUR OWN TRADITION



INTRODUCING THE TWENTY~4 AUTOMATIC

PATEK.COM

Van Cleef & Arpels

Haute Joaillerie, place Vendôme since 1906



SINGAPORE

ION Orchard, Marina Bay Sands, Takashimaya S.C.

www.vancleefarpels.com

Client relations center and sales by phone available at 1800 3077 626



Frivole collection
Clip pendant and ring,
yellow gold and diamonds.

CRAFTED FROM THE EXCLUSIVE ROSE DE GRANVILLE
ELEVATED BEAUTY THAT RISES ABOVE TIME

DIOR PRESTIGE

LA MICRO-HUILE DE ROSE
ADVANCED SERUM

10,000¹ ACTIVATED MICRO-PEARLS, 2X CONCENTRATED²
DEEP REPAIR, VISIBLY UPLIFTED YOUTH

Born from a wild cliff-top rose, the Rose de Granville has been selected from 40,000, for its exceptional life force. Ascending through the stem, its vital sap continuously regenerates the plant, to defy time's aggressions. Crafted after 20 years of research, the 10,000¹ nutritive micro-pearls are now infused with the new regenerating rose sap to unleash the self-repairing power of the rose into all the skin's layers. The 2X more concentrated² advanced formula combines the nutrition of an oil with the penetration of a serum. Repaired layer by layer, skin seems densified and strengthened from the inside. Signs of ageing are visibly corrected on the outside. Smoother and firmer, contours appear uplifted, for visibly younger-looking skin.

20 YEARS OF LUXURY AGE-TRANSCENDING EXPERTISE



NEW

92%
NATURAL ORIGIN
FORMULA³

6
PATENTS⁴
TESTED ON ASIAN SKIN

DIOR
PRESTIGE

LA MICRO-HUILE
DE ROSE

ADVANCED
SERUM

Dior

+60%
FIRMER SKIN⁵

+66%
UPLIFTED CONTOURS⁵

-28%
WRINKLES ASPECT⁵

DIOR

Around Asia

Meet the inspiring people featured in *Tatler's* regional titles

TATLER HONG KONG

On the cover of this month's issue of *Tatler Hong Kong* is Veronica Chou, the founder of eco-friendly clothing and accessories brand Everybody & Everyone and a daughter of textile and fashion tycoon Silas Chou. She discusses the importance of embracing green fashion practices. tatlerhongkong.com



TATLER INDONESIA

Albert Pramono, the CEO and founder of Accossa, an engineering firm specialising in eco-friendly, prefabricated buildings, discusses his latest project, Kinetic Farm, which is located in the new town of Golf Island in north Jakarta. The development features a working farm and a store that aims to promote environmentalism in the city. tatlerindonesia.com



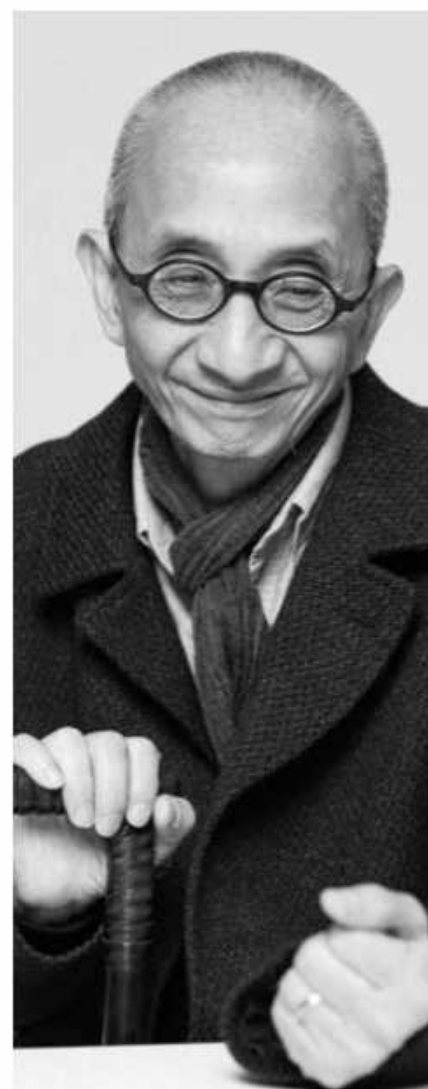
TATLER PHILIPPINES

Cover star Paloma Urquijo is the founder and creative director of lifestyle brand Piopio. The young designer discusses her belief in promoting traditional Filipino culture and how she is supporting local artisans through her label. tatlerphilippines.com



TATLER MALAYSIA

Winnie Loo, the award-winning founder of A Cut Above Hair Salon and Hairstyling Academy, looks back on her 41 years of experience in this month's Time Travel feature. Now 64, she shows no signs of slowing down as she channels her energies on personal advancement to prove that setting goals has no age limit. tatlermalaysia.com



TATLER SINGAPORE

To mark the new year, leaders from the *Tatler Singapore* community share their post-lockdown revelations and wishes for 2021. Read insights from personalities such as F&B entrepreneur Andre Huber (pictured with his daughters, Ashley and Hayley), lawyer Angelina Tan and sustainability advocate Stephanie Dickson. tatlersingapore.com

TATLER TAIWAN

On the cover of *Tatler Taiwan* is Delia Tseng, a choreographer and the wife of Terry Gou, the billionaire founder and chairman of Foxconn Technology Group. Tseng talks about her recent charity work and her plans for the new year. tatlertaiwan.com



SHANGLIU TATLER

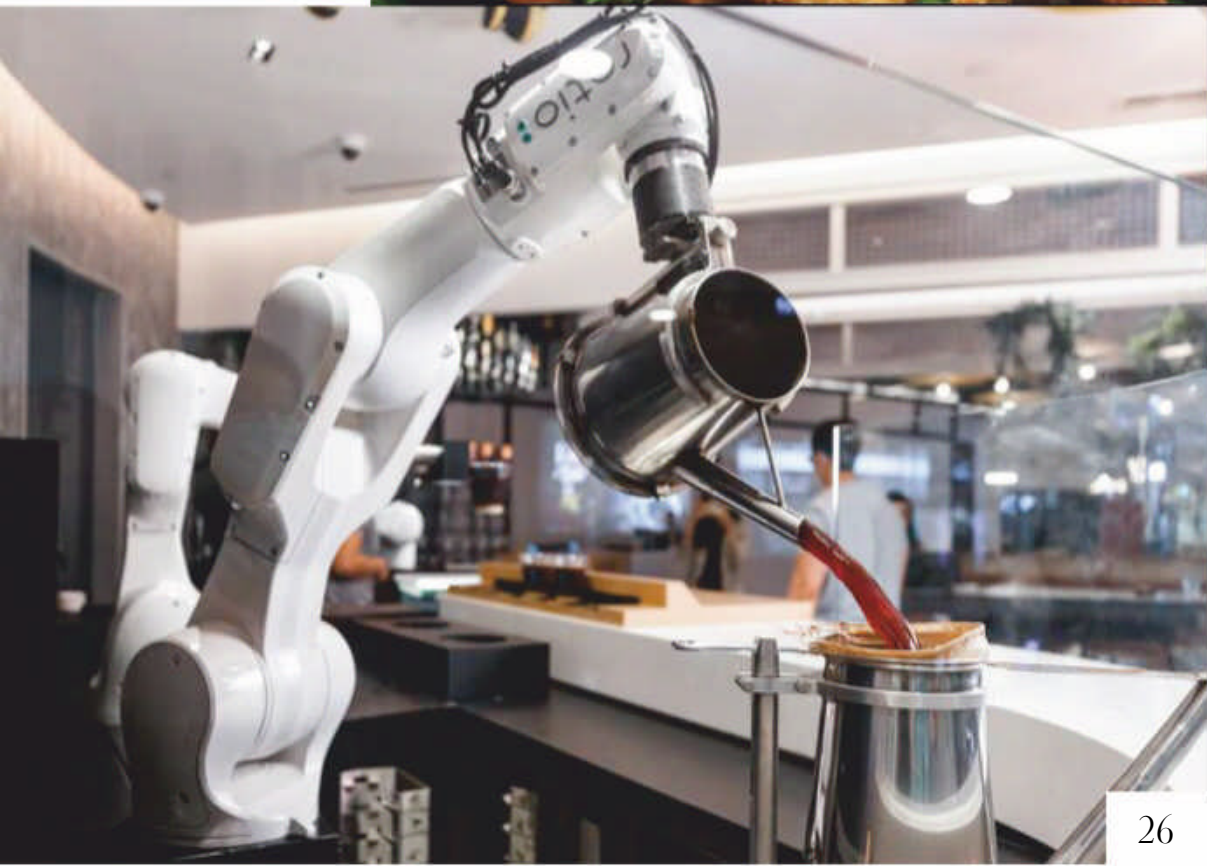
Film director Cheng Tsun-shing introduces his latest documentary, *Like the Dyer's Hand*. The award-winning film chronicles the life of 96-year-old Chinese classical poet Chia-ying Yeh, whose writing reinvigorated China's literary scene after the Cultural Revolution. shangliutatler.com

Photography Roni Ahn (Hong Kong); Felix Valentino (Indonesia); Paulius Staniunas (Malaysia); Shaira Luna (Philippines); Zhou Qi (Shangliu); Darren Gabriel Leow (Singapore); Ocean Chen (Taiwan) Outfit H&M Conscious top, Ssone trousers, available at Matchefashion, Roger Vivier heels, Pomellato jewellery (Chao)

Tatler January



28



26



18

DEPARTMENTS

14 Letter from the Editor
15 Contributors

THE SCENE

18 **What's On**
Make a date with Dick Lee, then check out the highlights from the Singapore Art Week 2021

20 **Secret Glow**
With its genetic-based technology, Sequential Skin can accurately identify what your skin needs

22 **A New Dimension**
The MeshMinds Foundation empowers artists in Singapore to use art and technology to bring sustainability issues to the forefront

26 **Man and Machine**
Autonomous robots are changing the way we live, work and play

28 **Meatless Magic**
Keep to your New Year's resolutions with these chef-approved plant-based protein alternatives

On the Cover



Photography **Darren Gabriel Leow**
Styling **Joey Tan**
Grooming **Zhou Aiyi/Makeup**
Entourage using **Armani Beauty**

Tatler

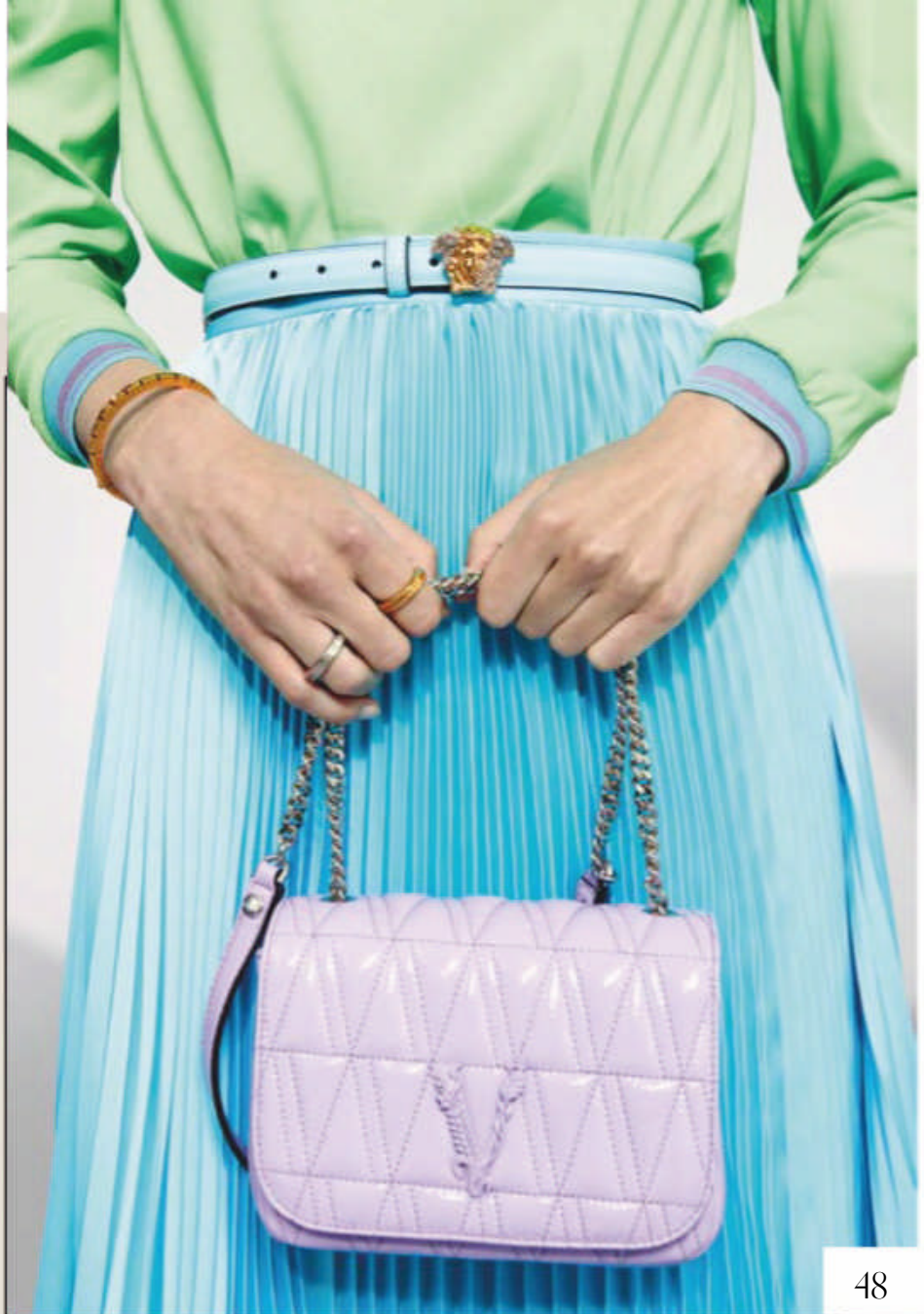
Contents

7

Tatler January



70



48



66

30 Begin Again
Tatler friends share their revelations from a year like no other

36 Carolyn Lam
The cardiologist is automating the fight against heart disease

38 Urban Abode
Three tastemakers from different fields welcome us into their well-appointed inner sanctums

STYLE

48 The Wish List
Everything you need to look your best this month

66 Style Report
What's trending in fashion

70 Shape Shifters
The best of the resort 2021 collections

82 Keep Calm and Listen to Paul
Paul Smith launches a foundation to impart his wisdom to young talents

90 Sweet Dreams are Made of These
All-natural sleep aids can help set the scene for a sweet night of rest

92 Now Listen Up, Me
Yoga and meditation instructor Natalie Söderström on how to improve your inner dialogue

RICHARD MILLE



CALIBER RM 037

RICHARD MILLE BOUTIQUES
SINGAPORE Grand Hyatt Hotel 65 6733 1313 | Marina Bay Sands Hotel 65 6336 1313

www.richardmille.com

Tatler January



JEWELLERY

96 Jewellery Report
The latest in jewellery

WATCHES

112 Watches Report
The most current tickers

120 A League of Her Own
A look at Lung Lung
Thun's watch collection

FEATURES

126 In the Hot Seat
Ian Ang and Alaric
Choo, the wunderkind
co-founders of gaming
chair brand Secretlab
are doubling down on

their vision for their
rising business

132 Witch, Please
The latest trend in
spirituality might just
cast a spell on you

138 Poetry and Purpose
As beauty and wellness
become increasingly driven
by values rather than value,

the influence of Aesop and
its pioneering concept is
becoming undeniable

144 Master of One
Shaolin master Shi Heng Yi
on how the path to
wellness can be as simple as
watching the clouds go by

148 The Mind's Eye
For hypnotherapist



172



148



126

Sonia Samtani, deep emotional healing begins with a journey into your subconscious

150 Shanghai Calling
For years the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art has been at the forefront of the art scene in Beijing—now it's expanding beyond the capital

156 They are Watching You
Tony Oursler's video installations offer a revelatory perspective on our collective obsession with technology

166 A Fresh Perspective
Embrace the art of slow travel, splurge on a hot-spring retreat in Japan and

plan for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure

172 What Goes Well with Ox?
Finding an appropriate gift for the Lunar New Year? There's more to consider than white or red

176 Alphabet City
E is for East Coast Park



EDITORIAL

sgedit@tatlerasia.com

Editor-in-Chief **KISSA CASTAÑEDA**

Editor **TERENCE LIM**

Sub-Editor **HASHIRIN NURIN HASHIMI**

Content Director, Dining **DON MENDOZA**

Writer **AMELIA YEO**

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

sgart@tatlerasia.com

Senior Art Director **MATILDA AU**

Art Director **JANA TAN**

DIGITAL

sgdigi@tatlerasia.com

Content Director, Digital **DAPHNE CHEN-CORDEIRO**

Assistant Digital Editor **ANDREA SAADAN**

Digital Dining Editor **DUDI AUREUS**

Senior Digital Writer **CHLOE PEK**

Multimedia Producer **NICOLA NG**

TATLER ASIA

Global Artistic Director **JOE ZEE**

Editorial Director **ERIC WILSON**

Creative Director **MIGUEL MARI**

Executive Editor **OLIVER GILES**

Editorial Director, Watches and Jewellery **ANNIE DARLING**

Fashion Director **ROSANA LAI**

Editorial Director, Dining **CHARMAINE MOK**

Travel and Design Editor **KISSA CASTAÑEDA**

Lifestyle Editor **COCO MARETT**

Wine Editor **SARAH HELLER MW**

Associate Editor **KRISTY OR**

Sub-Editor **RICHARD LORD**

Editor, Generation T and Director, Lists **LEE WILLIAMSON**

Editor, Generation T Southeast Asia **CHONG SEOW WEI**

Contributing Travel Editor **JEREMY JAUNCEY**

Regional Adviser on Engagement, PR and Business Development **PETER CHEUNG**

Editor-in-Chief, Tatler Hong Kong **ERIC WILSON**

Deputy Editorial Director, Tatler Shangliu **KAREN WANG**

Editor-in-Chief, Tatler Taiwan **YU LEE**

Editor-in-Chief, Tatler Philippines **ANTON SAN DIEGO**

Print Editor, Tatler Malaysia **ELIZABETH SOONG**

Editor-in-Chief, Tatler Thailand **NAPHALAI AREESORN**

Managing Editor, Tatler Indonesia **EDITH EMERALDA**

Tatler Singapore ISSN NOS 1793-4761 MCI (P) 061/09/2020 is published monthly by **Tatler Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd.**

34 Bukit Pasoh Road, Singapore 089848. Tel: +65 6323 1606. Email: sginfo@tatlerasia.com

Copyright ©2021 by Tatler Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd. All rights reserved. Printed by Times Printers Pte Ltd, 16 Tuas Avenue 5, Singapore 639340. Tel: +65 6311 2288.

Tatler Singapore is a registered trademark of Tatler Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd. All materials published remain the property of Tatler Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

Materials submitted for publication are sent at the owner's own risk and, while every care is taken, neither Tatler Singapore nor its agents accept any liability for loss or damage.

Subscriptions

Subscribe to Tatler Singapore for just S\$88 for local addresses (12 issues); S\$420 for Asia (12 issues by airmail); and S\$600 for the rest of the world (12 issues by airmail). Call +65 6323 1606 or subscribe online at www.tatlerasia.com

Privacy Policy

Please view our updated Privacy Policy at www.SGTatlerasia.com/privacy-policy. Please email SGDataProtectionOfficer@tatlerasia.com if you wish to (a) enquire about our Privacy Policy, (b) update or access your personal data, (c) unsubscribe from our magazine or communications, or (d) withdraw your consent for us to collect use, disclose and/or process your personal data.



President, Southeast Asia **SUSANA TSUI FITZPATRICK**

ADVERTISING

sgad@tatlerasia.com

General Manager, Commercial **STEPHANIE TAY**
Account Directors **WENDY SEAH, KELLYN LEE, STEPHANIE TAN**

EVENTS

sgevent@tatlerasia.com

Senior Events Manager **LAURA LOW**
Events Manager **KAREN ANG**

PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC

sgprod@tatlerasia.com | sgtraffic@tatlerasia.com

Production and Traffic Director **GRACE LIM**
Traffic Executive **JANE LAU**

FINANCE

sgfinance@tatlerasia.com

Financial Controller **SELVAMANI LOGANATHAN**

TATLER ASIA

hq@tatlerasia.com

Chairman and CEO **MICHEL LAMUNIÈRE**
Chief Marketing Officer and Head of Generation T **TAMARA LAMUNIÈRE**
Global Artistic Director **JOE ZEE**
Chief Commercial Officer **BRENDAN COOLIDGE MONAGHAN**
Chief People Officer **MAGGIE SHEN**
Head of Revenue, Southeast Asia **LEROY LIM**
Chief Content Officer **DANICA LO**
Chief Financial Officer **IDA CHEUNG**
Head of Growth **SHERRY HSIEH**
Acquisition Growth Manager **SERENA CHIANG**

Managing Director, Tatler Asia China **QING SHEN**
Managing Director, Tatler Asia Taiwan **APRIL HSU**
Managing Director, Tatler Philippines **IRENE MARTEL FRANCISCO**
Managing Director, Tatler Asia Malaysia **GERALDINE BEH**
Senior Adviser to the CEO and Brand Ambassador **FLORENCE FANG**
Chairman, Tatler Thailand **NIGEL OAKINS**
CEO & Bureau Chief, Tatler Indonesia **MILLIE STEPHANIE LUKITO**

Regional Financial Controller **ERIC FOO**
Regional IT Manager **MARK TAM**

France: LAURENT BRIGGS
laurent.briggs@affinity-media.fr

UK: AMANDA BENACHOUR
amanda@cranemedia.co.uk

Italy: PAOLO CASSANO
paolo.cassano@kmedianet.com

India: RACHNA GULATI
rachna.gulati@mediascope.in

Indonesia: MILLIE STEPHANIE
milliestephanie@mobiliarigroup.com

Korea: JOANE LEE
dbi@doobee.com

Japan: MATHIAS BOUEE
mathias.bouee@mediakeys.com

Middle East: SUDARSHNA RATHORE
sudarshna@iasmedia.com

Thailand: NARTNITTHA
JIRARAYAPONG
noo@njintermedia.com

Spain: DAVID CASTELLO
david.castello@kmedianet.es

Turkey: REHA BILGE
rbilge@medialtd.co.tr

USA & Canada: CONOVER BROWN
conoverbrown@worldmediaonline.com

EDIPRESSE GROUP

Chairman **PIERRE LAMUNIÈRE**
CFO & COO **MICHEL PREISWERK**
Vice President **SEBASTIEN LAMUNIÈRE**

We all deserve a proper holiday after surviving 2020 and a snail-paced sojourn aboard the newly restored *phinisi* yacht *Dunia Baru* is the stuff of dreams. Discover more slow travel ideas and epic off-grid adventures to pine for on page 166

| Letter from the Editor |

Setting Sail



Every sunset is an opportunity to reset, or so the saying goes, but the first dawn of a new year always feels distinctly different. After the extended lockdowns, endless Zoom calls and dashed hopes for travel bubbles, many of us could not wait to wrap up 2020 and begin anew. With the incredible news of the vaccine and gradual transition back into normality, the arrival of 2021 feels like a huge sigh of relief—a glimmer of light after what felt like a long year of darkness.

That said, we cannot let our masks or our guards down just yet. If we learned anything from last year, it pays to hope for the best and expect the worst. While the new year often entails promises of self-improvement, many of us actually made—and kept—resolutions in the throes of the pandemic. When our plans were left up in the air, life happened, and we all soldiered on together. A few of our *Tatler* friends share their pandemic epiphanies and hopes for the year ahead on page 30.

If you're looking for inspiration to set goals, we've profiled some individuals worth emulating. There's trend-defying beauty entrepreneur Suzanne Santos, who co-founded Aesop in 1987, which is one of the first brands to be gender-neutral, champion sustainability, and use architecture and literature to set itself apart. We've also interviewed visionary designer Paul Smith, who celebrates 50 years in the fashion industry, on how he remains staunchly original, independent and relevant.

Here on our shores, Ian Ang and Alaric Choo, co-founders of gaming chair company Secretlab, are

on the cover this month. Their company produces robust ergonomic gaming chairs shipped directly to over 60 countries worldwide, and their explosive growth resulted in their millionth chair being sold last year. Theirs is the quintessential entrepreneurial story of “if you can't find it, make it”, and with their intimate knowledge of gaming combined with true grit, they're growing Secretlab into a force to be reckoned with. Read more in our cover story on page 126.

Secretlab is one of the rare pandemic success stories but frankly I feel making it through 2020 is an achievement in itself. It's not about winning or losing, but more about acceptance and forgiveness. Last year taught us not to be too hard on ourselves and that it's essential to be mindful of our mental health. As such, many of the features in the January issue are devoted to self-care, helping you start the year on the right note. Our regional lifestyle editor Coco Marett spoke to beauty and wellness experts from myriad disciplines—uncover words of wisdom from a Shaolin monk and track the curious comeback of “witchmagick”.

Whether you've adopted a meditation routine or finally decided to start recycling, it's time to leave the negative vibes in 2020 and bring the good habits and learnings into this one. There are things that remain out of our control but what we think and whisper to ourselves have the real power to create bright, new beginnings.

— Kissa Castañeda, Editor-in-Chief

Contributors



CONNIE BERG

Connie Berg is a New York-based fashion stylist with more than a decade of experience. Her work has been featured in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue* and *L'Officiel*, among others. For *Tatler*, Berg styled this month's fashion shoot (p.70).



JOCEYLN TAM

Hong Kong-based photographer Jocelyn Tam is inspired by paintings, films and stories that focus on the emotional connections built between people and places. She has worked with brands including Apple, Credit Suisse and Ikea. In this issue, Tam photographed hypnotherapist Sonia Samtani (p.148).



LARA JADE

Originally from the UK, Lara Jade is a New York-based fashion and beauty photographer. Her photographs can be found in the pages of publications including *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *InStyle*. Jade shot this month's fashion shoot, which features the best of the resort 2021 collections (p.70).



KAREN TEE

Karen Tee finds joy in sparking inspiration and positive action through her work. Her love for writing is only surpassed by her love for yoga, which is why she considers the mat her second home. This issue, she speaks to Secretlab co-founders Ian Ang and Alaric Choo for the cover story (p.126).

A large-scale architectural model of a city skyline, constructed from numerous wireframe cubes and rectangular frames. The model is displayed under a dark, ribbed ceiling, with a large, textured concrete pillar visible on the left. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, creating a dramatic and artistic atmosphere.

Tatler The Scene

When art, technology
and sustainability collide,
pandemic epiphanies with
Tatler friends and stylish
nook ideas to inspire you



Photography: Darren Gabriel Leow (Koh) Image: Nelson Lim

Actress Janice Koh loves collecting vintage pieces for her home. **Opposite page:** Ceramicist Nelson Lim's *Construction of Memories* is on show at the *Singapore Ceramics Now 2021* exhibition at this year's Singapore Art Week

January

Make a date with Dick Lee, then check out the highlights from this year's Singapore Fringe Festival and Singapore Art Week *By Amelia Yeo*



19

THE MORE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF DICK LEE

Singer-songwriter Dick Lee performs songs from his earlier productions such as *The Adventures of the Mad Chinaman*,

along with unreleased tunes from his private songbooks, in this 90-minute solo recital in aid of the Singapore Repertory Theatre. Till January 24, at the KC Arts Centre –Home of SRT. srt.com.sg

M1 SINGAPORE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2021: QUIET RIOT

The 17th edition of this annual festival features nine works inspired by revolutionary change and protest, including *Havoc Girls & Kamikaze Boys* (pictured) by Brian Gothong Tan and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Presented in a hybrid format, the line-up is curated by The Necessary Stage artistic director

20



Alvin Tan, who returns to the role of festival director. Till January 31, at singaporefringe.com.

20

S.E.A. FOCUS 2021

Discover art from Southeast Asia's finest contemporary artists at the third edition of this fair organised by STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery and presented as a hybrid exhibition. Head to Tanjong Pagar Distripark to check out works from participating galleries in person or visit the



online S.E.A. Focus Digital platform for a seamless discovery-to-purchase experience. Till January 31, at stpi.com.sg

20

SINGAPORE CERAMICS NOW 2021

The contemporary ceramics of Singapore-based artists take centre stage as part of one of the largest surveys of ceramics art here since the 1990s. Organised by Singaporean artist Jason Lim and curated

by Seed Art Space, the showcase aims to deepen the understanding of the clay medium beyond the realm of pottery. Don't miss the artist talks, live demonstrations and clay installations. Till February 13, at Blk 7 Gillman Barracks. artweek.sg



21



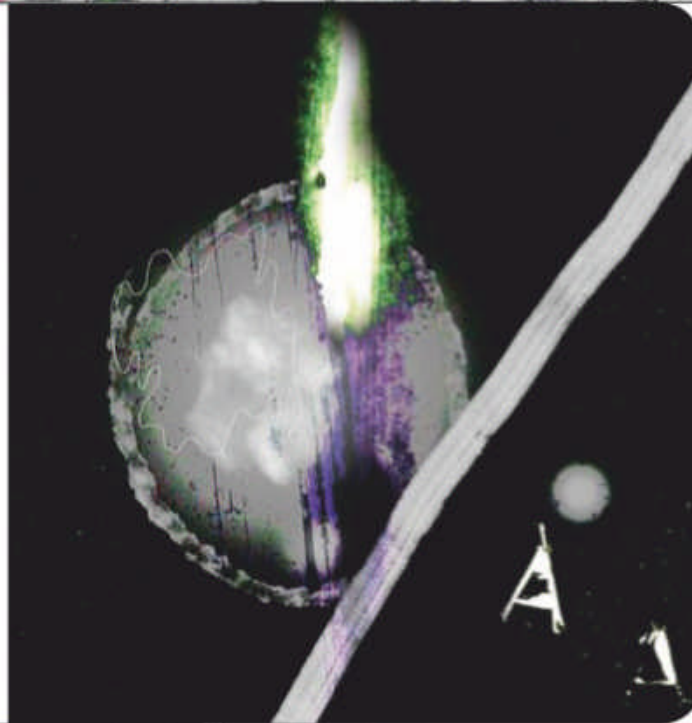
BUS.STOP.ART

Spot the works of 10 Singapore-based artists, including Hafiiz Karim and Alecia Neo, on the advertising panels of the bus stops along the route of bus 175, from Geylang Bahru to Gillman Barracks, with each responding to the theme of #ArtMovesUs. To encourage art to take place beyond the confines of the gallery space, participants can choose to hop on the bus for curator- or self-guided tours, or engage in meet-the-artist sessions. Till February 3. busstopart.com

21

ESCAPE VELOCITY V

In a bid to reflect on our current ecological crises, multidisciplinary artist Zai Tang presents sounds of the wild in his latest exhibition featuring recordings collected from sites threatened by urbanisation. Presented by the Singapore Art Museum, visitors will experience the sound installation in the dark, where they are invited to adjust their senses and listen to the sounds of nature. Till March 14, at the National Gallery Singapore. singaporeartmuseum.sg



22

MOO MOO PARK

Usher in the Year of the Ox with Asia's first drive-through exhibition presented by the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC), in partnership with The MeshMinds Foundation. Take a walk through the exhibition or hop on an electric car to view the works of eight local artists who are

exploring themes of Chinese culture and sustainability using digital technology with works such as 3D installations and augmented reality murals. Till March 28, at SCCC.

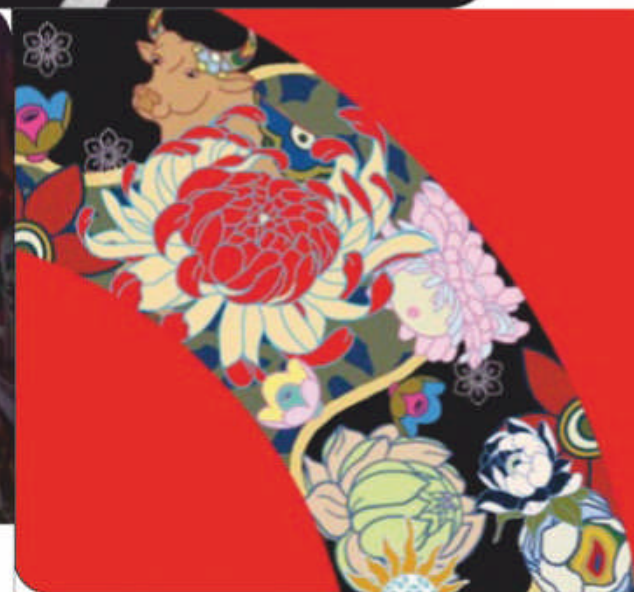
singaporeccc.org.sg

22

IMPART COLLECTORS' SHOW 2021: LEAP OF FAITH

Private art collectors such as Woffles Wu and Jim Amberson offer a rare glimpse into their collections, featuring over 300 works of such artists as Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ernesto Klar, in

the digital edition of this collectors' show. Highlighting the ways art shapes various living spaces, audiences can expect rare footage of the collectors' art-filled homes, galleries and workspaces that showcase their passion for art. Till January 31, at artoutreachsingapore.org.



23

ASIAN ART IN THE 21ST CENTURY NARRATIVES OF HISTORY AND CURATING

Art historians and curators such as Sotheby's Institute of Art's Zehra Jumabhoy and Katie Hill as well

as Lasalle College of the Arts' Jeffrey Say form part of this digital panel, which will discuss how Asian art history intersects with the curatorial approaches in Asia and beyond. sothebysinstitute.com



| Close-Up |

Secret Glow

With its patent-pending genetic-based technology, Singapore-based beauty startup Sequential Skin can accurately identify what your skin needs to improve its health *By Amelia Yeo*

What is the secret to healthy glowing skin? It's a question that still baffles us as we go through a lifetime's worth of trial and error to find the products that suit our skin. For the team at Sequential Skin, the answer can be found in science.

In 2018, genetic scientists Oliver Worsley and Albert Dashi, the co-founders of the Singapore-based beauty startup, created the world's first at-home skin test based on genetic analysis and microbiome identification to help its customers



The team at Sequential Skin includes (from far left) Albert Dashi, Pétronille Houdart and Oliver Worsley; the Sequential Skin test kit which includes the patent-pending test patch



find products that truly suit them. Microbiome refers to the living organism on your skin, including bacteria, fungi and viruses—or the “invisible players”, as Dashi aptly describes them. The Swiss national met Worsley, who is from the UK, while they were doing their PhDs in molecular biology at the National University of Singapore.

“We were both driven by the idea of bringing basic science into the beauty world and to commercialise it for the benefit of people, especially those suffering from major skin conditions,” shares Dashi. “As we were both into molecular biology—the study of molecules necessary for cells to function—we eventually developed a technology which allows us to collect your genetic material and microbiomes at the same time.”

Today, customers can get their hands on a test kit by ordering it from sequentialskin.com. The kit comprises five items, including a test patch, a test tube and an instruction card. The process is simple: stick the test patch on your forehead in order to collect your skin sample,

before mailing it back to the team. After which, you will receive a complete skin analysis in a week’s time, as well as recommendations for three products: a cleanser, a day treatment and a night treatment.

The sample will first be subjected to Sequential Skin’s next-generation sequencing technology, which gives the team a clear view of the skin’s genetic make-up (what you were born with) and the DNA of the skin’s microbiome (the environment you are in). From there, the team will make an in-depth assessment based on five key traits: hydration, sensitivity response, firmness, sun protection

and antioxidant capacity. These factors have the most impact on skin health.

The skin’s microbiome is dependent on external factors such as air quality and sunlight, and largely impacts the composition of protein—collagen and elastin—that retains the skin’s elasticity and radiance. Capturing the diversity of your skin’s microbiome informs the team on the good bacteria that requires a boost and bad bacteria that needs to be reduced, Dashi explains.

The microbiome is also unique to your geographical location. For example, the dry climate in Spain will show a very different microbiome set to that of Singapore. Mapping out skin microbiomes in different parts of the world is something that the team looks forward to in the next stage of their development. Not only will it help them to better understand the nature of microbiomes from a global perspective, it also offers a more accurate analysis for customers moving forward. Sequential Skin is also in the midst of scaling up its operations to reduce turnover time and eventually offer the service to more customers.

“People are now becoming more aware that it is really important to look at this external factor. At this moment, the number of skincare products that target the skin microbiome remains a small number, but it is increasing,” enthuses Worsley.

To better assist customers in their quest for better skin, Sequential Skin brought on board skincare director Pétronille Houdart, who brings with her a wealth of experience in the beauty and pharmaceutical industries. She explains: “Based on your skin profile, we will choose off-the-shelf products with suitable active ingredients for you, taking into consideration your preferred price points, among other factors.”

| In the Name of Art |

A New Dimension

The MeshMinds Foundation empowers artists in Singapore to use art and technology to bring sustainability issues to the forefront. Founder Kay Vasey shares how *By Hashirin Nurin Hashimi*

“Artists are some of the best-placed people on the planet to communicate complex topics,” declares Kay Vasey. “Not everyone is literate in the sense that they can read or write, but many people respond to visuals.”

The chief connecting officer of creative technology studio MeshMinds and founder of its not-for-profit arts organisation The MeshMinds Foundation is doing her part to address the single greatest threat to our sustainable future—and she is tapping on the power of art and technology. “When we are faced with important topics such as climate action, how can we use the work of artists to communicate what the problem is and what people need to do about it? Technology allows us to really expand on that storytelling ability.”

MeshMinds works with artists to translate their work into a set of social media tools that can then power youths and communities online to get behind causes they care about. Take, for example, its *Clean Seas* augmented reality (AR) experience, which was created for the ArtScience Museum’s Climate S.O.S. – Season of Sustainability showcase in 2019. Working with Singaporean artist André Wee, MeshMinds created a virtual ocean of sea creatures made from discarded bits of bottles and other plastic items. Audiences are encouraged to “clean” the sea and make a pledge they can share on social media.

Vasey has always been passionate about art since young. The former director of arts at the British Council would have pursued an artistic career but became a lawyer instead to

appease her parents. While no longer practising, her time as a technology and media lawyer opened her eyes to numerous “industry x tech” initiatives.

BRIDGING THE GAP

While researching about these “x tech” industries, she became curious about what was happening in the art world. “I discovered that big multinational technology companies such as Google, Facebook and Autodesk were running artist-in-residence or artist incubation programmes, primarily out of their US headquarters. I started to wonder why these opportunities were not being offered to artists in Singapore considering those companies all have their Asia headquarters here.”

Vasey quickly got to work to bridge art and tech. This led to the *MeshMinds 1.0: ArtxTechForGood* exhibition, which brought together over 20 Singapore artists, who underwent a four-month incubation programme exploring frontier technologies such as AR, VR (virtual reality), 3D printing and the internet of things, and then using them as the “canvas” to showcase their works.

The exhibition at the ArtScience Museum in January 2018 caught the attention of the regional marketing team of Apple (which came on board as the lead technology partner for MeshMinds 2.0 at the same museum in March 2019), and later led to a partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which strengthened MeshMinds’ focus on sustainability. Using these frontier technologies,





the studio pushes for environmental education, communication and pledging.

“My dream is that we come up with a formula pegged to what we want to do, which is to educate, enable and transform Singapore artists to become creative technologists for causes. From that Singapore network, we will then teach the rest of the region on how to become creative technologists for causes, and allow people in Asia to raise their voices about the importance of protecting our environment and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” explains Vasey, adding that MeshMinds is concerned with SDGs 11 to 15, which focus on sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, and life on land.

The partnership with UNEP is highly collaborative. Last year, MeshMinds created a new AR game called *Run for Nature* on Facebook and Instagram for World Environment Day on June 5. Built on the Spark AR platform, the interactive game features the original artworks of MeshMinds creative technologist

Tristan Lim of 25 endangered species, including the orangutan, sea turtle and polar bear, in their natural habitats. With a simple tilt of their heads, players navigate through obstacles such as marine litter to save as many of the endangered species as possible, before pledging #ForNature by sharing personalised photos and videos of their scores to their social media platforms.

There are numerous possibilities of application when it comes to creating art using technology. For its recent *Sustainable Singapore* online exhibition, the first one here powered by AR, The MeshMinds Foundation invited 20 Singaporean artists to share their vision for a sustainable future. Addressing environmental issues in line with the SDGs, the artists added additional storytelling elements to their static works using the AR app Artivive.

NATURAL CONNECTION

Born in Brunei, Vasey grew up being surrounded by nature. In her youth, she frequently spent her holidays at sea turtle conservation camps. These experiences have



Vasey with Tim Cook during his first visit to Singapore in 2019 as Apple CEO. **Opposite page:** The MeshMinds Foundation harnessed the storytelling power of augmented reality for this public art walking trail last year. One of the works featured is Singaporean artist Robert Zhao Renhui's *The Time Tree*

“always made me want to help conserve the beautiful biodiversity that this planet has to offer”. She considers her children as the third catalyst “for making meaning to how important it is to impress upon the younger generation that they have to protect what they are inheriting today and for the future”.

MeshMinds also works with Unesco on its mission to promote cultural heritage. Vasey explains, “If we teach people about their cultural heritage, from the buildings to the vernacular language they speak, they are more likely to protect and preserve their local environment.”

And this is exactly what The MeshMinds Foundation hopes to do with its latest project, *Moo Moo Park*, in partnership with the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC), which combines art, technology and Chinese cultural heritage in one immersive experience taking place within the SCCC carpark—a first in Asia. Together with local design studio Space Objekt, eight local artists such as Antz and Danielle Tay will present elements of the Chinese culture in various forms, including breathtaking installations enhanced with AR effects and Instagram filters.

Like many of MeshMinds’ collaborators, SCCC constantly seeks innovative ways to inspire Singaporeans to discover their cultural identity. “Artists have always worked with the materials of their time. Hence, it is no surprise that our local artists are increasingly looking to use digital technology in their art-making. The new experiences made possible by digital technology include the blending of physical and virtual worlds, the simultaneous activation of our different senses, and the ability to interact with many people around the world,” says CEO Low Sze Wee.

“If used in creative and imaginative ways, digital technology could create unprecedented experiences

that spark fresh conversations and new ways of thinking.”

So are creative technologists the artists of the new age? “Creative technologists can be seen as a progression of the artist’s role beyond the traditional sense of the word,” Lim, who is also the lead creative for *Moo Moo Park*, explains. “The democratisation of software and tech resources offers more people the liberty to utilise technology for their personal projects—and artists, with the way they think, can greatly push and innovate these ideas, pushing fantasies and stories into reality.”

While the exhibition, which opens on January 22 during Singapore Art Week and runs through the Lunar New Year period until March 28, can be enjoyed on foot, a fleet of electric cars is also available to offer an audio-guided tour, casting the spotlight on the future of sustainable mobility.

CLICK THROUGH

Since it first started in 2017, MeshMinds has grown from a team of three to 10 people, but the plan is to keep the organisation small and agile and work with a trusted group of creative technologists for causes. Some of its milestones include the *MeshMinds 2.0* exhibition in 2019, which was seen by over 10,000 visitors in 10 days. The majority of them rated the show as nine out of 10 for how much they learnt about the sustainable development goals.

And as a member of the Apple Consultants Network, MeshMinds was also selected to meet Tim Cook during his first visit to Singapore in 2019 as Apple CEO at a Today at Apple session, where Vasey used the iPad to show children how to design and draw their own plastic sea creatures inspired by *CleanSeas*. To have Cook say: “This is exactly what we want to see Apple technology being applied for” was like a pat on the back.

For now, Vasey is seeing a lot of interest in AR—and this is where MeshMinds is focusing its work. And she is excited about the 5G rollout this year, “which will open up a whole new world of augmented reality that we don’t even have yet”. But the dream is to work with UNEP on a project about marine pollution, so as to capture the attention of renowned British naturalist David Attenborough, who recently joined Instagram and is all about protecting the blue planet.

Man and Machine

Autonomous robots are changing the way we live, work and play. Here are four innovations that operate in the little red dot *By Amelia Yeo*

COOL BEANS

Powered by robotics and artificial intelligence, the team of “ratiologists” at Ratio Café and Lounge will brew your cup of joe, right down to your preferred number of espresso shots, in under one minute. And get this: the cafe transforms into a bar by night. There are over 50 fully customisable coffee—Nanyang and speciality coffee included—and cocktail selections to choose from. All you need to do is key in your order on the Ratio app or self-ordering kiosk in-store and the information will be stored for future reference. Ratio founder Gavin Pathross explains, “Robots and AI are not here to replace the human touch. Instead, the human-centric tech frees us from repetitive work. This way, we can do what humans do best—communicate and have great conversations [with our guests].”

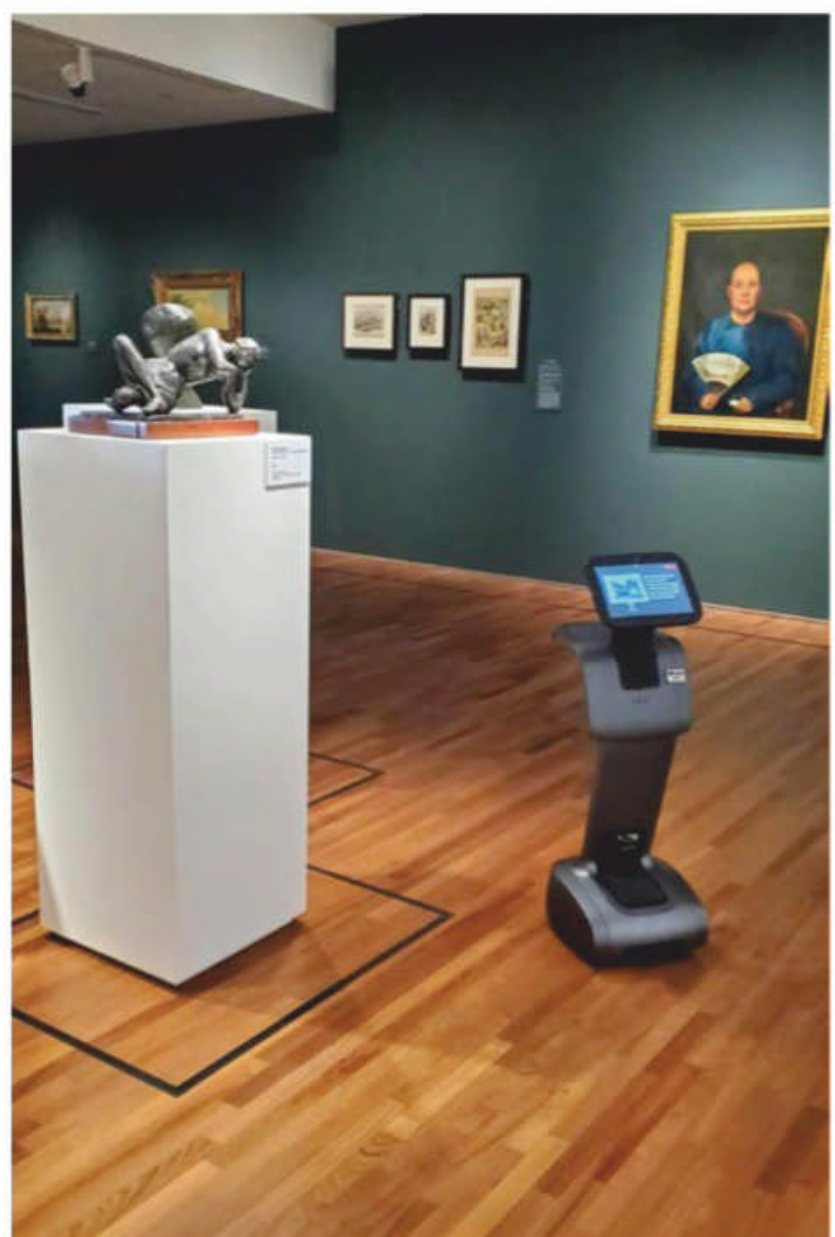


658

The number of industrial robots in Singapore per 10,000 employees. The country is only second behind South Korea, the leader in automation adoption, with 710 robots, according to the World Economic Forum

DOCENT ON DUTY

One of the best ways to enhance your museum experience is through a docent tour. As part of its ongoing bid to become a smart museum, the National Gallery Singapore piloted its first autonomous robot guide, Temi, in September last year. Developed by a US-based startup of the same name and helmed by Israeli robotics expert Yossi Wolf, the one-metre-tall robot offers visitors a 20-minute on-demand physically guided audio tour of a series of four artworks on people and portraits at the DBS Singapore Gallery 1.



Images: Ratio Café and Lounge (Ratio); LionsBot International (LeoBots); National Gallery Singapore (Temi); ATtreat (Emma)

ACTIVE RELIEF

Singapore-based startup AiTreat takes a modern approach on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) with its robotic masseuse Emma, or short for expert manipulative massage

automation. Launched in 2017, the robot mimics the action of a human palm and thumb to replicate the traditional Chinese therapeutic massage tui na strokes, which targets various acupoints. And this is according

to the prescription of a qualified TCM physician or physiotherapist, who keys it in on to Emma's touchscreen interface. The bot is equipped with advanced sensors to measure the stiffness of the patient's muscles

and will log all data into a server where artificial intelligence is used to compute the exact pressure that needs to be delivered during the treatment process. AiTreat's founder Albert Zhang says: "With Emma, we can now offer a longer therapy session for patients while reducing the cost of treatment. The human therapist is then free to focus on other areas which Emma can't attend to at the moment."



80%

The increase in enquiries about LionsBot International's cleaning and disinfection robots during the pandemic

CLEANING CREW

The next time you are at Jewel Changi Airport or National Gallery Singapore, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the LeoBots.

The cleaning crew of autonomous robots, which bagged top honours at the Amsterdam Innovation Award this year, offer essential services such as scrubbing (LeoScrub), mopping (LeoMop) and

vacuuming (LeoVac), as well as moving heavy items (LeoPull). The brainchild of Singapore-based robotics company LionsBot International, the bots are highly productive and designed

to be approachable and appealing. So far, there are over 60 LeoBots and LeoRays (its UVC disinfection counterparts) being deployed across Singapore to assist their human counterparts.



| Feast |

Meatless Magic

Plant-based protein alternatives have come a long way and even appear as the star of a menu. Keep to your New Year's resolutions with these delicious, chef-approved dishes

By Dudi Aureus

GREAT CATCH

With more people eating healthier, Lime Restaurant at Parkroyal Collection Pickering has expanded its plant-based menu with offerings that include fishless fish and chips. The fishless fish is the perfect vegan option—the main ingredients are soy proteins, yeast extract and organic cane sugar, which means it is lower in calories, fats and saturated fats. Presented as fillets, the mock meat is first seasoned with sea salt, onion and garlic powder before it is deep-fried to achieve the juicy and fork-tender texture similar to real fish, but sans the fishiness.



Images: Parkroyal Collection Pickering (fish and chips); Potato Head Group (Penney and burger); Grand Hyatt Singapore (sausage buns); Vineyard at HortPark (meatballs)



BEEF CAKES

“Sustainability is in our DNA,” says Adam Penney, the group executive chef of Three Buns, under the Potato Head group. So it was only natural for the burger joint

to expand its offerings to include more sustainable options. Under the burger section, you have Can You Dig It, which comprises an Impossible meat patty, created with soy, potato protein and the magic ingredient “heme”, which is responsible for its meaty flavour. “We treat them like normal patties,” explains Penney, which means the alternative meat is lightly seasoned with Himalayan salt and seared on the grill. The patty is stacked with Yeti cashew camembert cheese, which gives the burger a delicious creaminess that is offset by slightly nutty notes. Truffled aioli, ketchup, heritage tomato, lettuce and pickles are added into the ensemble before the ingredients are embraced by toasted demi brioche buns.

MIGHTY MEATY

More than anyone else, Derrick Ow, the executive chef of Vineyard at HortPark, understands the need to eat well. He has suffered from gout attacks since age 16—until he was introduced to a plant-based diet. The menu at Vineyard showcases his love for alternative meats with healthy and tasty dishes such as the Beyond Meatballs *al forno*, which he prepares in the same way as he would with regular meatballs *al forno*. The alternative meat, which is created with the same ingredients as Beyond Sausage, is first blended with a mix of homemade herbs and spice, formed into balls and deep-fried to retain their shape. These are then bathed in a rich and tangy tomato sauce and baked with vegan mozzarella cheese for an extremely indulgent finish. The dish is topped with wild rocket for an extra nutty bite.



A GOOD GRILLING

As part of its sustainability journey, Grand Hyatt Singapore is offering plant-based meat alternative dishes across its dining outlets. Take the all-day dining poolside restaurant Oasis, for instance, which has Beyond Sausage on its menu. Lucas Glanville, the hotel’s director of culinary operations, affirms that the plant-based sausage “has the same mouthfeel and texture as real sausage”. It is also healthier

as it is made primarily from peas and rice proteins, and does not contain highly-processed soy, GMOs and additives. “We didn’t want to create a dish that overshadows the flavours of Beyond Sausage,” explains Glanville. The chef simply pops the sausage on the grill to bring out its juicy flavours. It is sandwiched between homemade dairy buns and accented with dill pickled radish, crispy onions and whole-grain mustard.

A decorative border of various green tropical leaves, including monstera and palm-like plants, frames the central text area.

Begin Again

From getting into shape to tackling inner demons, *Tatler Singapore* friends share their revelations from a year like no other

The beginning of a new year presents the opportunity for everyone to enjoy a fresh start. While it's easy to allow the negatives from last year to cloud our positivity, it's always more fulfilling to adopt a growth mindset while looking forward to hopefully brighter months ahead.

Seeing as the pandemic has given people ample moments of quiet self-reflection, *Tatler Singapore* spoke to seven members from our community who shared their key takeaways from 2020. For some, the past months have allowed them to put the gears of unfulfilled fitness-related goals in motion. For others, it's a new-found appreciation for the company of loved ones. Regardless of their reasons, one thing's for sure: that our resilience will see us through tough times, just like it did in the throes of one of the most challenging years for humankind.



“Most importantly, I have learnt the value of good health”

— ANDRE HUBER

ANDRE HUBER

Executive director of Huber's Butchery

“There are multiple lessons I picked up last year but, most importantly, I have learnt the value of good health. Last August, I hurt my lower back and couldn't walk properly for three days after playing with and tossing my toddler son on to the bed. It was something so simple that caused the injury, and I knew it was mostly due to me being unfit. Hence, I made the decision to start eating well and exercising with correct form to strengthen various parts of my body. Since then, I have lost 12kg and I am probably at my strongest ever. My wife, Belinda, also started her fitness journey during this time and she is also at her fittest level. Together, we enjoy going to the gym and constantly encourage each other to eat well. This year, I will prioritise health over other things, making sure I spend time to exercise and eat well because you can't train with a bad diet. With obesity rates in the world on a steady incline, I will also look at bringing in healthy and wholesome ingredients for my customers so that they can prepare healthy and nutritious meals for their families, too.”



Andre Huber with his daughters Ashley (pictured left) and Hayley



BENJAMIN KIM

Aviation professional

“Prior to the pandemic, I had inadvertently taken two things for granted—namely health and family—both of which I had assumed would always be fine. While I have never been terribly unhealthy, this episode has driven home the need to be continually conscious and deliberate in maintaining a good dietary and physical fitness regime. I also have had more time to bond with my wife Serene (pictured right) and this has brought us closer

“It’s very clear our system is broken, and last year has given us the opportunity to redesign from the inside out”

—STEPHANIE DICKSON

STEPHANIE DICKSON

Founder of Green is the New Black

“Each of us has dark and light, shadows and gifts that we bring into our lives. I have spent a long time trying to escape the darkness and pain, while also never really facing it head-on. Last year, I had to confront a lot of it, largely due to the compounded effects of uncertainty and anxiety. I am still deep in the process of healing, but am doing my best to face my own fears and learn to accept

them. A big part of this is learning the art of surrender. And the deep truth that the only person who can really help you is yourself. I’ve done the courses, and spoken to people, including paid professionals. But in my experience, until you are ready to do the inner work with yourself, profound shifts will not happen. Till now, I am still really only scratching the surface of the learnings. It is a practice that will take time. So for this year, I will continue deep contemplation, facing the hard

truths. I look forward to what will be on the other side. I hope that as we are building back and working towards a new normal, we build back better and greener too. It’s very clear our system is broken, and last year has given us the opportunity to redesign from the inside out. Hopefully, we rise to the challenge to do things better, to change the status quo, focus on regeneration and making a more equitable world for all. It starts with small, collective steps, and we all play a role.”

Image: Darren Gabriel Leow (Dickson)

together. Amid the hustle and bustle of pre-Covid Singapore, we never really took the time to sit back and just spend time together. My hope

is that the new year would bring about a viable vaccine available for us to return to pre-Covid activities. Should that happen, I would be

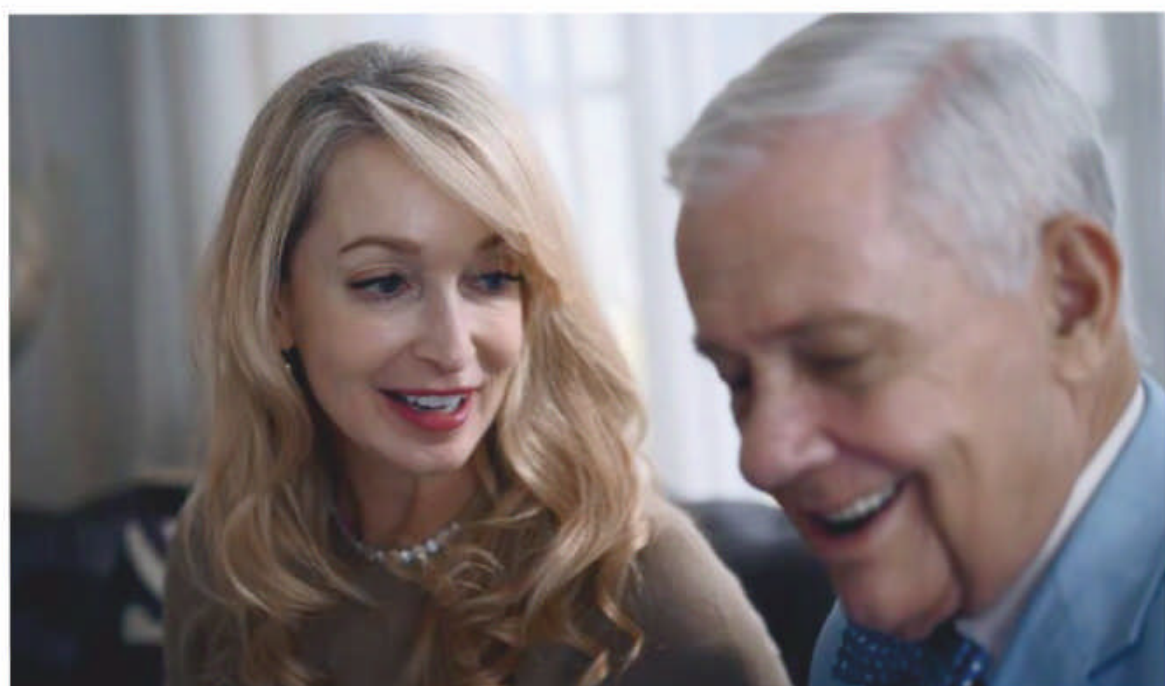
over the moon, to say the least, and then I would need to quickly remind myself to stay the course, lest the post-Covid euphoria and exuberance insidiously draw me back into the habits of old. It is crucial for me to continue to eat well and exercise, spend time with family, bask in the opportunity to mingle in larger groups, but still deliberately meet in small numbers to make for meaningful conversations. Aside from that, I look forward to Inauguration Day on January 20, when the new president of the United States will be sworn in. It will spell a fresh start for everyone and mark a turning point in global history, seeing world leaders lead in earnest and giving sound, science-based guidance that will see us through this pandemic.”



PAIGE PARKER

Author

“I always knew that people are good, but it was reinforced in the most incredible way with the outpouring of goodwill offered to others during the circuit breaker period in Singapore. The government stepped forward in an epic way, while citizens donated to charities, gave PPE (personal protective equipment) to those in need, and supported our essential workers. Even children created fundraisers to help out, and friends sent food, drinks and gifts to one another to tide them through the surreal time. My daughter Happy wanted to contribute, so she taught Mandarin lessons via Zoom. All proceeds from her classes (over \$8,000) went to the Ray of Hope initiative, a local crowdfunding charity to help families affected by Covid-19. There were countless examples, big and small, of people stepping forward to do good and help others. The sense of community was profound, and life-affirming. Last year, I was also able to spend five months at home with my family. Bee did home-based learning; Happy was forced home from boarding



school in the UK; and Jim (pictured right), who usually travels a great amount, were all mine. I will never again have my entire family together like that. For this, I am grateful. The pandemic taught us how the little things are, in fact,

the most important, as well as how time with those we love is our most valued luxury. My hope is we will continue to value experiencing the meaningful versus ticking the boxes of the multitudes of minutiae that too often consume us.”

“The pandemic taught us how the little things are, in fact, the most important, as well as how time with those we love is our most valued luxury” – PAIGE PARKER



ADRIAN NG

Anaesthesiologist

“I’ve had some time to reflect on the past year—as an anaesthesiologist whose work is intimately linked to the care of patients on ventilators; as a doctor who is plugged into the Singapore’s medical response to this pandemic, and as a member of society whose usual routine has been disrupted. I have observed that the human spirit remains indomitable and this is strongly reassuring. I have seen how the world can come together—if they choose to—for the greater good of mankind, and how many in society have lent their hands to fellow beings who might need that extra help during this crisis. Certainly, we have seen and heard negative rhetoric coming from various sectors, but if we filter through the noise, we will be able to discern the resolute human survival

instinct. Rather than changing my perspective of the world, I would say that it has further reinforced my appreciation of the human spirit. It is the never-give-up attitude of how we face up to this challenge that defines who we are, and I will continue this belief and echo these sentiments in 2021. But with the extra time on my hands this year, I’ve managed to tick a couple of things off my list. I learnt to solve the Rubik’s cube with speed (in about a minute on a good day) and improved my physical fitness with home-based HIIT or high-intensity interval training (my resting heart rate now is much better than that during my National Service days), among many others. The list goes on, but I’m a firm believer that if life deals you lemons, you should go make champagne with them!”

ANGELINA TAN

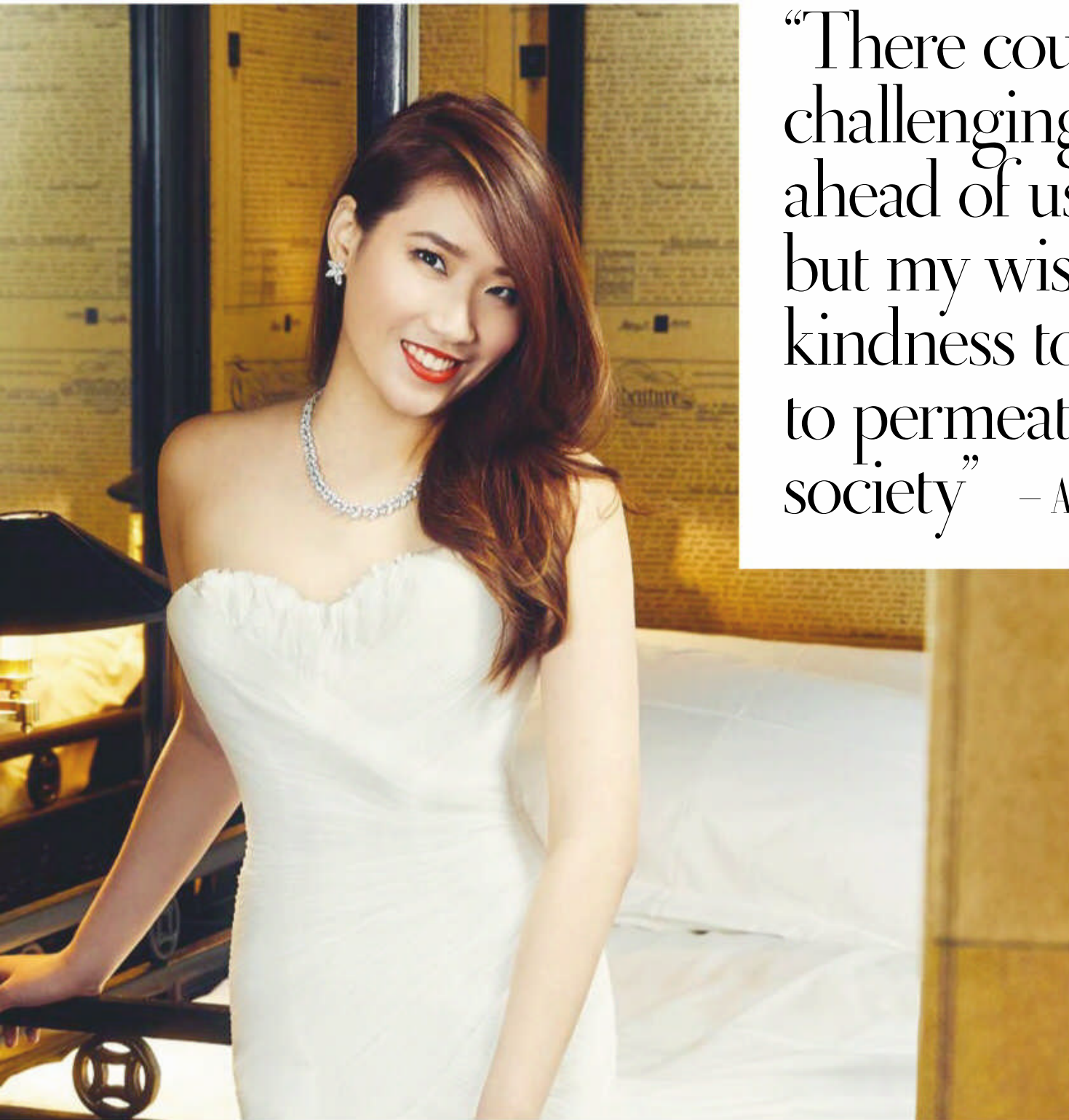
Corporate lawyer

“Learning to be adaptable in a year full of curveballs has definitely helped me to embrace new working norms. In fact, these new changes also brought an added advantage as I found out I was expecting at the start of last year, so working from home allowed me to spend more time with my husband just before our little one came along. With motherhood, things are ever-changing at every stage of your child’s development. I hope to be able to stay adaptable on this wonderful journey so that I can bring out the best in my child. As a first-time mum, I’ve benefitted a lot from the tips and support given to me, and would definitely want to pay it forward to someone who reaches out as well. During this time, I’ve also learnt the importance of staying connected with family and friends. While 2020 has been an isolating year, there will be no lack of warmth and mutual support if you reach out to your chosen community. There could be challenging times ahead of us in 2021, but my wish is for kindness to continue to permeate through society.”



“It is the never-give-up attitude of how we face up to this challenge that defines who we are”

— ADRIAN NG



“There could be challenging times ahead of us in 2021, but my wish is for kindness to continue to permeate through society” – ANGELINA TAN

RISHI NALEENDRA

Chef-owner of Kotuwa, Cloudstreet and Cheek Bistro

“The pandemic made me realise that life still goes on no matter how hard it gets—and it’s all about finding ways to keep moving forward. As we were not able to travel over the past few months, I ended up with a lot of time on my hands. That’s why I took up art and journaling during the circuit breaker period without realising how much joy these brought me. I learnt the importance of allocating time for myself, and would like to continue painting. As for my career, I’m still in the early stages and last year was a testament to how life can change so quickly and how as humans we can adapt with the times. There is no doubt that there will be more challenges to come in the future, and I can only hope that we stay open to change and new ideas.”

Rishi Naleendra and his wife, Manuela Toniolo



| Introducing the Young Leaders on the *Gen.T* List |

Carolyn Lam

Together with her husband, the cardiologist founded medtech startup Us2.ai to automate the fight against heart disease *By Chong Seow Wei*

Cardiologist Carolyn Lam wants to improve the efficiency and accuracy of doctors like herself in their diagnosis of heart conditions. The solution? Using machine learning to automate the analysis of echocardiograms, or ultrasound images of the heart.

This idea was sparked about three years ago when her technopreneur husband James Hare went for a routine check-up on his heart and received two opposing prognoses—one good, the other not so good. Thankfully, a third opinion found his heart healthy but that episode opened their eyes to a business opportunity that would make the diagnosis of heart conditions easier and more accessible to all doctors—and not just sonographers and cardiologists—using artificial intelligence (AI).

In 2017, the couple established medtech start-up Us2.ai with Dutch cardiovascular researcher Yoran Hummel and Englishman Paul Seekings, the former chief technology officer of internet of things solutions company Embodied Sensing. Us2.ai has been developing an AI diagnostic software and recently secured seed funding from investment firms Sequoia India and EDBI. The software is currently in the regulatory approval process and Lam expects to receive the green light from the US Food and Drug Administration early this year. She shares her startup's vision.

Medical doctor and 2016 Gen.T honouree Carolyn Lam co-founded Us2.ai with her husband James Hare



Us2.ai uses AI to fully automate the ultrasound screening procedure of the heart, which is the safest and most commonly used tool to image the organ. We're taking a process that usually takes 30 minutes and 250 manual clicks with less than 20 per cent variability and reducing it to two minutes and one click, with zero variability.

The name Us2.ai is a combination of the very common acronym for ultrasound, "US", and our mission to expand access to AI-enabled ultrasound to everyone.

Our target audience for now is the medical community. We want to make doctors like myself more efficient and accurate in their diagnosis. Eventually, we want to bring our software to everyone as a way of putting heart health

into one's own hands—similar to the way AI has democratised electrography from a specialist's tool to a feature on one's watch!

We are in the process of obtaining regulatory approval for our first clinical product. The biggest obstacle has been the length of time it takes to obtain the human readings on which we will validate our product against. It takes months to generate by hand the data that our software will produce in a few hours. This is precisely why we built our software—there are enormous efficiency gains possible with AI. ┘



Generation T is Tatler Asia's platform for the Leaders of Tomorrow.
generationt.asia

LONG BEACH

CREATOR OF THE ORIGINAL AND THE
BEST BLACK PEPPER CRAB OF SINGAPORE
A PREMIUM SEAFOOD RESTAURANT



Classic White Pepper
Live Alaskan King Crab



FESTIVE INDULGENCE

Embrace abundance and wealth with your loved ones as you
enjoy a delectable reunion meal.



Live Southern Australian Lobster
Sashimi in Superior Stock Steamboat



The Original Best Black Pepper Crab



Live Geoduck Sashimi

Long Beach @ DEMPSEY - Left turn to Dempsey via Holland Rd (before Peirce Rd), 25 Dempsey Road

Tel: 6323 2222

Long Beach @ ROBERTSON QUAY - (Next to Intercontinental Robertson Quay),
The Quayside, 60 Robertson Quay, #01-14

Tel: 6336 3636

Long Beach IMM - Level 3, Next to Rooftop Garden, #03-07 IMM Building, Jurong East St 21



Tel: 6566 9933

Long Beach UDMC - #01-04 East Coast Seafood Centre

Tel: 6448 3636

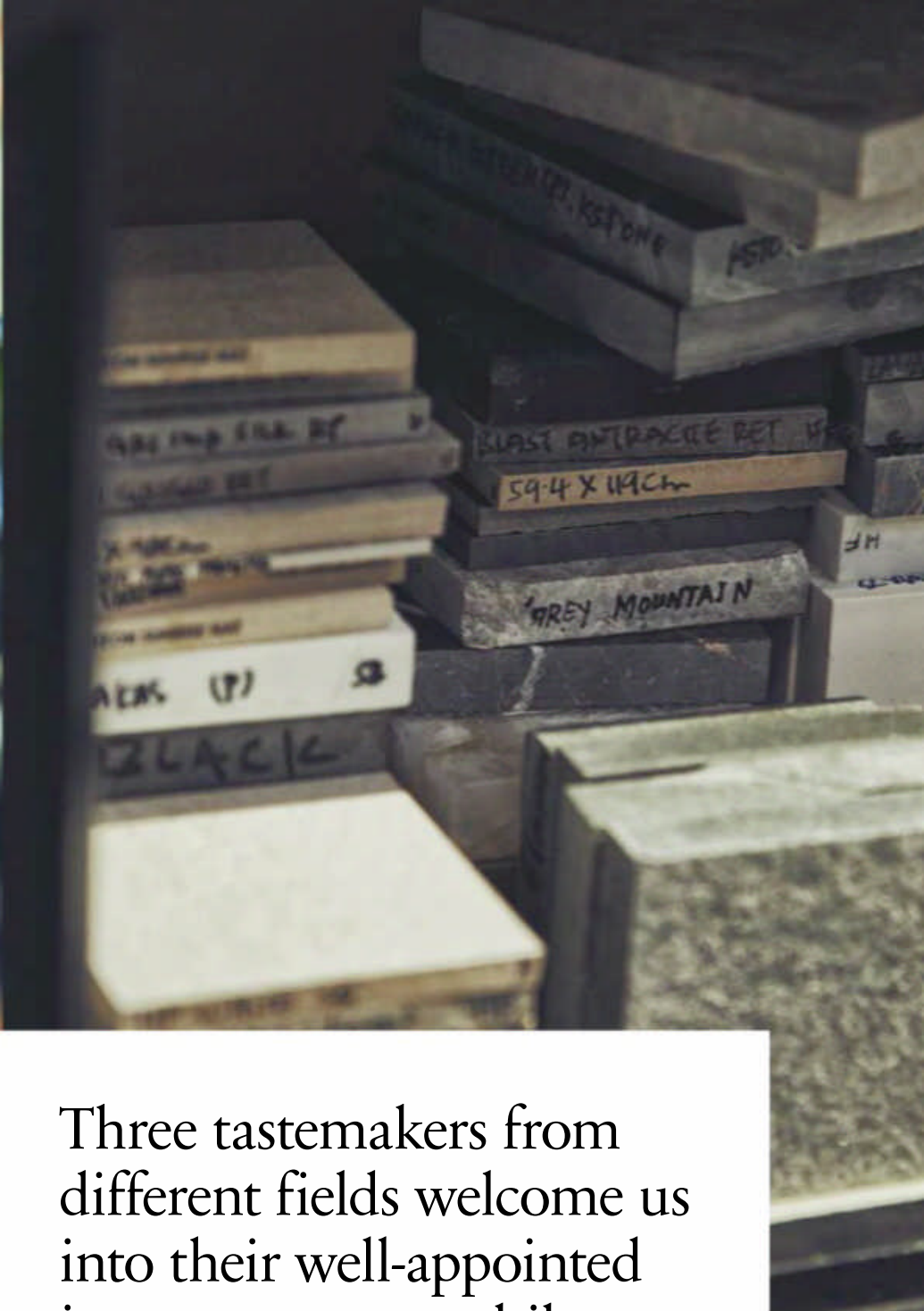
Long Beach KING - Next to Kallang Park Mcdonald's / KFC, Opp Mountbatten MRT (via Exit B)

Tel: 6344 7722

Head Office: 60 Paya Lebar Road #06-29 Paya Lebar Square Singapore 409051 | Tel: 6338 9398 | Fax: 6338 6398
email: one@longbeachseafood.com.sg | website: www.longbeachseafood.com.sg   @ longbeachseafood

Actress Janice Koh's dining room is a bright and inviting space that also functions as an informal work area. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** A wooden chess set and potted plants live up a corner in Koh's living room; material swatches in the home of interior designer Ed Ong; French businessman Matthieu Frey's living area features the Colombie armchairs by his great-grandfather, a notable furniture designer; Ong's cabinet of curiosities

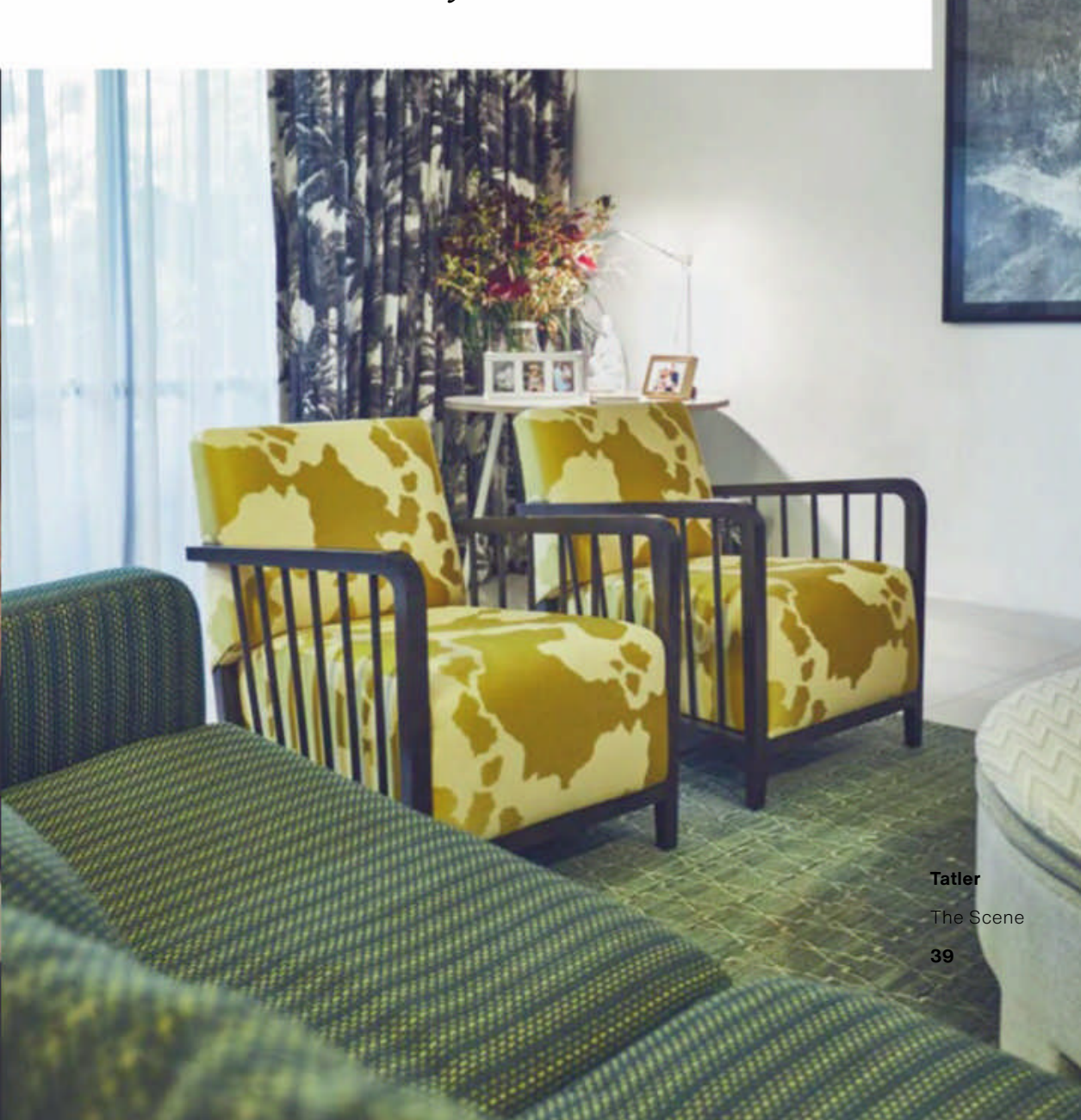




Urban Abode

Three tastemakers from different fields welcome us into their well-appointed inner sanctums, while reflecting on their plans for the year ahead

*By Hong Xinying
Photography by Darren Gabriel Leow
Art direction by Charlene Lee*





SEEING THE LIGHT

Rooted in his family's business in upholstery and furniture, Pierre Frey scion Matthieu Frey decorates his home in Singapore with a rich mix of styles and cultural influences

"I would describe my aesthetic as being optimistic and open-minded," says Matthieu Frey. "Interior decoration should be elegant but, most importantly, fun!" Indeed, that much is evident in his light-filled home. The Asia-Pacific director of Pierre Frey has lived in this apartment for six years, with his wife and their two children. He professes with some relief that the couple can finally own "nice furniture", now that their children are of schoolgoing age and less prone to doodling on the seats.

Together with his brothers Pierre and Vincent, Frey is part of the third generation that is continuing the family trade. Established in 1935 by their grandfather Pierre Frey, the French upholstery and furnishings company is led by their father Patrick. Frey oversees the regional development of the company from the brand's Singapore office, while Vincent and Pierre are the firm's deputy general manager and communications director, respectively. Frey tells us more about the design of his home in Singapore.

My favourite nook at home is ... a cosy spot between the kitchen and the dining area. I have my morning coffee and juice here when my kids are having breakfast before heading to school. It overlooks the luxuriant gardens and, most importantly, has direct morning sunlight which is essential to starting my day.

Left to right: Patinated candleholders perfectly complement the sideboard's earthy looks; Matthieu Frey, the Asia-Pacific director of Pierre Frey, enjoys reading at his favourite nook in the dining room; the double volume dining room is bright and breezy; Frey also enjoys using this cosy alcove in the living area, which features a vintage barber's chair and curtains in the Mauritius fabric from Pierre Frey





The biggest challenge for me in 2020 was ... not being able to head back home to Europe. It is usually a yearly pilgrimage with my wife and our kids to spend some time with our families in France and Denmark. We have been living in Singapore for more than 12 years now and loving it, but we do need our European summers with our close ones.

A silver lining of 2020 is ... spending quality time at home with our two kids. In normal times, we have lesser free time due to long working hours and I personally spend half of my time flying. So the time spent playing, reading, cooking and laughing with my children this year has been priceless.

In 2021, my wife and I are looking forward to ... not burying ourselves in work, to try and devote more time to our little ones and have a better balance in our professional and personal lives. I also hope to be able to do a two-week trek in Bhutan. Professionally, I hope to expand our business in Southeast Asia, launch our line of furniture in the Asia-Pacific region, and find new talented artists to work with.

Singapore is a fantastic design hub. It has amazing creative designers, very impressive projects, from hotels, apartments, black-and-white bungalows to restaurants and bars, but is lacking a major event to showcase these and promote young and talented creative minds. Hopefully, when everything is back to normal, we will see this dream come true.

From left: Actress Janice Koh's living area features several mid-century modern pieces such as the couch by the window, and the Eames lounge chair and ottoman from Herman Miller; displayed in an assortment of vases, the freshly cut leaves add a lush touch to the living area. **Opposite page:** Koh, who candidly describes her interior aesthetic as "shabby chic", loves collecting vintage pieces; the dining room features Tom Dixon Beat pendant lights





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For actress Janice Koh, a considered collection of art and furnishings marks her home's sense of place and the passage of time

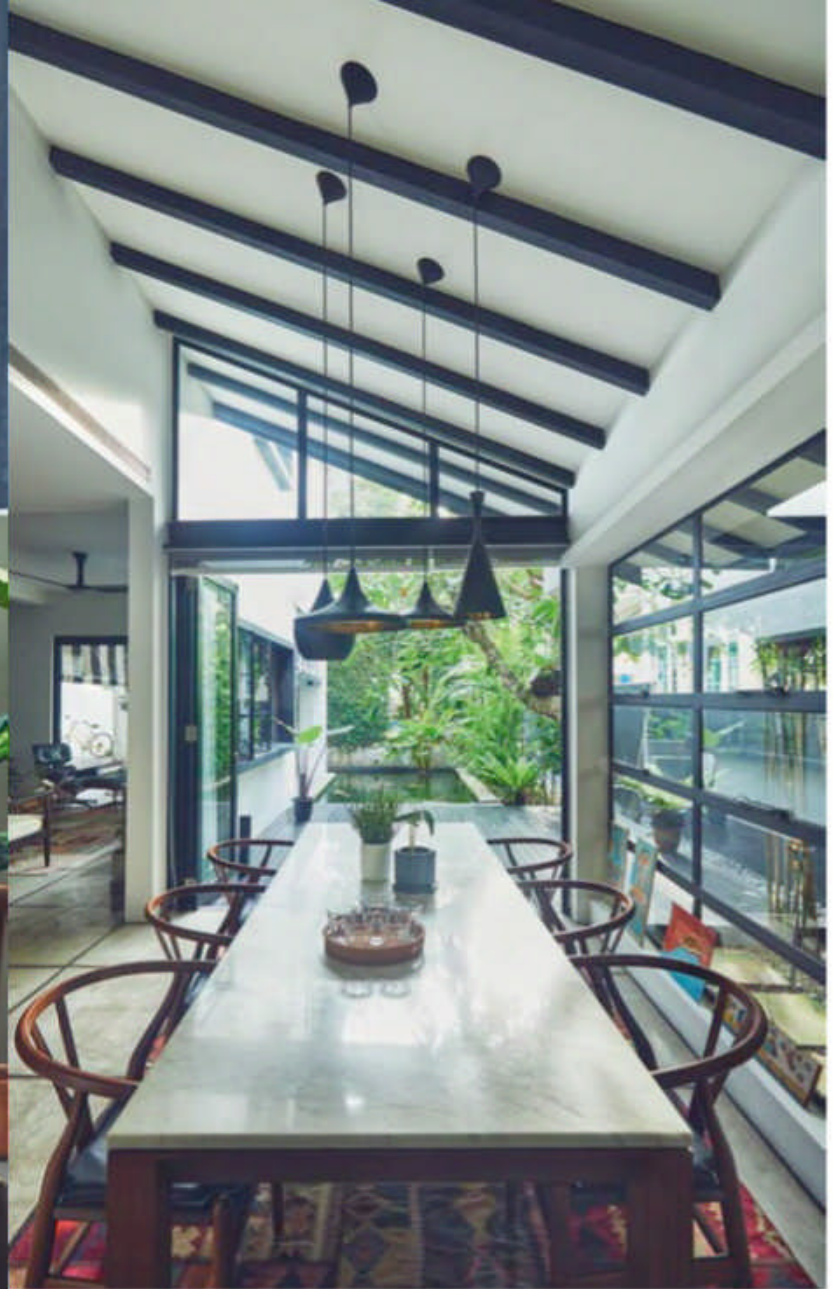
Years ago when Janice Koh and her husband started looking for a new home for their family, the search led them to their current house, which was constructed in the 1970s, and it was almost love at first sight.

"We liked that the house had a history and that it included Peranakan-style elements that reminded me of my childhood," says Koh. "The only thing we did was to tear down walls to bring nature into the home."

The family has lived in the semi-detached house for 10 years now. In spite of appearing like an effortlessly curated mix of furnishings, the thespian professes it took her some time to create this thoughtful, layered setting.

"I'm a terrible decorator because I'm an impulsive shopper. I tend to buy things that I like even if they don't go with the things I bought," she laughs. "I had to hire an interior designer to help keep me disciplined. It's taken me a long time to learn this, but if we look at furniture as art, it can give us a lot more pleasure. It's worth taking time to collect the pieces you really love."

The first storey is where the mother of two teenage sons spends most of her free time; it also functions as an informal workspace.



I like my dining area ... because mealtimes are really important. We catch up on each other's lives and it's over dinner when we get to have these meaningful conversations. I'm always at the dining table, getting photobombed by people during my meetings, and living with the smells of the kitchen. Entertaining, socialising and connecting with people over food is quite important to us. We try not to sweat the small stuff, like making the interior super neat; ultimately it has to be comfortable and reflect the way we live.

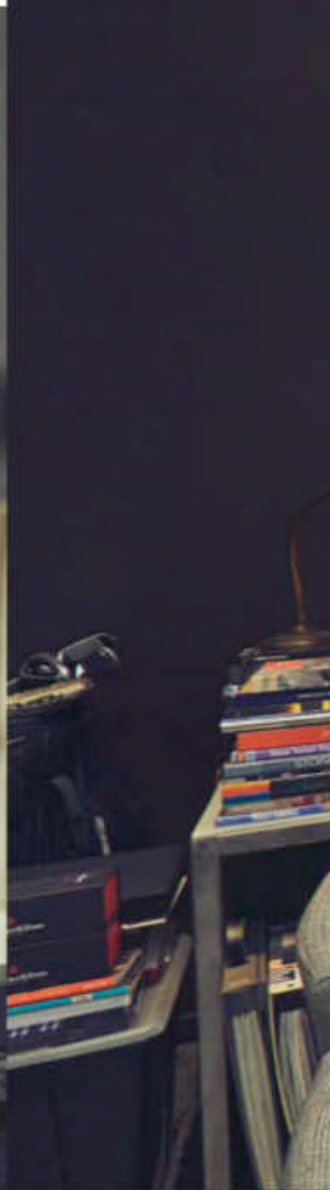
I was seriously considering ... whether I should change my profession. If I'm not performing, who am I? Maybe the Covid-19 pandemic was a necessary pause for someone like me; it has presented me with an opportunity to take a break and reconsider what I want to do for the second part of my career.

In 2021 ... I hope to travel, I miss it. A lot of our family holidays revolve around being outdoors immersed in nature, which they call forest bathing. I want to live in a cabin by a lake, and take a walk in the woods.

I hope that the local arts scene will ... go back to a time when people can gather at performing spaces once again. We're just waiting it out and hopefully as we wait, not too many people will pivot and we end up losing our talent pool. Live performing arts is about bringing a group of strangers to share an experience and having performers on stage communicating with them through dance, music and storytelling. You have that hair-raising experience together with fellow strangers. I don't think that digitalisation can replace that; it's just a balm to soothe our anxieties. There is no way that it can come close to a live experience.



Clockwise from left: In interior designer Ed Ong's house, the fountain next to the kitchen now serves as a display for design curios and found objects; Ong (pictured below) loves to collect vintage stationery such as antique staplers. **Opposite page:** Ong crafted the study as a calming zone to reflect and read in; the home office features black walls that contribute to the calming nature of the space



CREATIVE CONVICTION

Interior designer Ed Ong makes room for work and play in a shophouse his family is proud to call home

At a time when travel opportunities are scarce, Ed Ong's study continues to be a treasure trove of inspiration. Situated on the first storey of a shophouse where the interior designer and his family have lived in for a decade, this workspace is for him to read and reflect; it's also frequently a space where he meets his clients and guests.

The founder of Dwell Interior Design has kept a pared-down approach to the look of his home, in a way that stays true to his creative philosophy. "We didn't go nostalgic with the design of this shophouse even though it's a historic building; this reflects who I am. I believe in having strong, clean lines." This minimalist scheme is reflected in the concrete screed walls that run the length of the shophouse, matched with dark





Hair, make-up and grooming **Benedict Choo** using Nars
Styling assistant **Sarah Ng**

timber boards for flooring. These walls feature recesses that act as shelves to display awards, memorabilia and practical items.

Ong remains hopeful about the year ahead. “We’ve managed to overcome most of these challenges with the support and understanding of both clients and vendors,” he says. “A designer must always know that he needs a team; we depend on hands that are not ours to fulfil the vision. Communication is key to both the relationship and to the successful execution of a project.”

My favourite nook in my home is ... my study. I read a lot; I think a designer must always “feed” himself with things that he sees and experiences. Books allow you to travel across time and get into the minds and perspectives of others through both the visuals and words. I only buy a book if it makes me think and it’s able to spark new ideas. That explains the collection

of books that I have that I constantly refer to, even during meetings.

A silver lining of 2020 is ... we’ve learnt that with clear communication and clarity of thought, a lot can be achieved even without face-to-face meetings.

The Singapore design scene here has grown a lot over the past 10 years. The established firms each have their own unique design language. We just have to be very clear about that, and always strive to be better in terms of design. For a young designer who wants to become well-known to succeed, the willingness to serve and learn would be the most important ingredients to have within you. Until today, I find myself still learning from clients.

In 2021 ... the dream would be to do a road trip in New Zealand (if existing regulations allow).



Bottega Veneta coat, shoes.
Opposite page: Chanel jumper,
visor, earring

Tatler Style

Paul Smith imparts 50 years' worth of wisdom through his new foundation, minimalist styles take centre stage in the resort collections, and Indonesian designer Toton Januar shares his firsts

The Wish List

Everything you
need to look
your best this
month *By Rosana Lai*

ARM CANDY

If last year's bubblegum pink was a little too sweet for your taste, its pastel partner, purple, might be more your flavour. **Versace** Flash outfit, bag. **Opposite page:** **Gucci** Jackie 1961 hobo bag





BUDDING ROMANCE

The mercury might say otherwise, but when it comes to fashion's most lust-worthy accessories, spring is already in full bloom. **Chanel** flap bag, **Roger Vivier** Vivier Blossom pump. **Opposite page**, from top: **Gucci** scarf, **Christian Dior** dress, tote







YOU'VE GOT MAIL

The trusty envelope clutch makes a triumphant return to the spotlight, this time in soft leather bolstered by gold hardware.

Jil Sander outfit, clutch, **Alexander McQueen** clutches





FULL STRIDE

It may be a new year, but a 2020 trend we're not ready to let go of is the thong sandal, blown up and bedazzled for extra appeal. **Clockwise, from right: Roger Vivier Vivier slide, Balenciaga slide, Roger Vivier Vivier Blossom slide, MM6 slide**





FITNESS FIRST

A well-equipped wardrobe of sport-luxe staples is all the inspiration you'll need to get moving. **Loro Piana** outfit, **MM6** boot. **Opposite page:** Chanel slides, visor, **Louis Vuitton** Archlight trainer, **Sacai** outfit



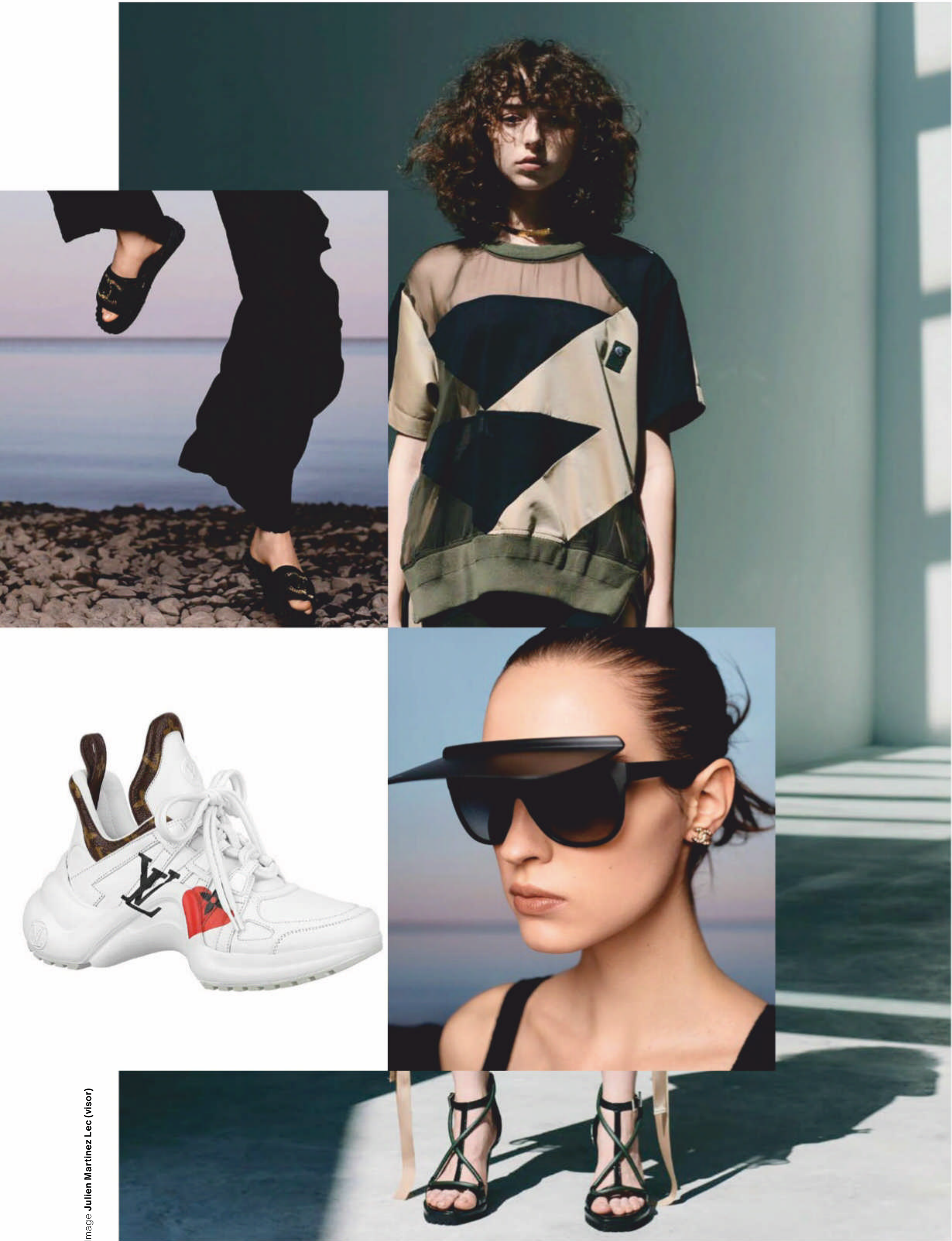


Image Julien Martinez Lec (visor)



BIG FANS

As our daily necessities outgrow last year's miniature bags, opt for architectural totes that are as chic as they are roomy. **From left: Esemblé fan bag, Bottega Veneta outfit, bag**



MAD FOR PLAID
Cop the back-to-school checks for your uniform, either with a subtle shoe or some statement layering. **Burberry** outfit, **Alexander McQueen** Tread boot







FINE LINES

Earn your sartorial stripes by sporting this season's most popular print from top to toe.

Clockwise, from top left:

MM6 boot, Louis Vuitton outfit,

Burberry bag, Louis Vuitton outfit.

Opposite page: JW Anderson dress



Tatler

Style

59

FRESH BLEND

Your go-to navy palette giving you the blues? Try teal, its quirkier cousin, which will perk up any monochromatic ensemble. **Boss** outfit.

Opposite page: Loro Piana jumper. **Inset:** Boss jumper







LONG SHOT

Score major style points with the football scarf, which steps off the field and into the spotlight this season, adding an athletic touch to suits and jumpers alike.

Salvatore Ferragamo scarf, **Burberry** jumper



**EXTRA
CUSHION**
Milder winters mean more versatile wardrobes. Eschew the full down jacket with a quilted gilet that can be worn as a statement vest or hidden under a long coat.
Louis Vuitton outfit



SOLE MATES

You can rely on the coolest kicks on the block to jump-start your fitness resolutions. **From left: Moncler** Trevor trainer, **Tod's** trainer. **Opposite page, from top: Dior Men** B27 trainer, **Ermenegildo Zegna** Triple Stitch trainers



Tatler Report

RAIN MAN

With consumer behaviour trending towards more practical clothing, Fendi has collaborated with affordable British brand K-Way for a functional capsule collection for men, women and children. Consisting of nylon jackets, bags and reversible windbreakers to help us through the cold, wet seasons, the pieces also feature Fendi's iconic FF logo pattern, giving the surprising collaboration a luxurious touch.



TOUCHING TRIBUTES

Kenzo's creative director, Felipe Oliveira Baptista, has collaborated with celebrated Japanese designer Kansai Yamamoto on a capsule collection of lively tiger drawings printed on youthful T-shirts and sweatpants, in honour of the playful spirit embodied in both Kenzo and Yamamoto's brands. "I believe this is probably how both Kenzo and Kansai would have liked to be remembered," says Oliviera Baptista. Sadly, both designers passed away in 2020. "Both dedicated their lives to infusing joy into the world through their work. My favourite piece is a black T-shirt with a Kansai tiger head on the front and, on the back, in Japanese calligraphy handwritten by Kansai Yamamoto himself, three lines that read: Kenzo, Kansai, Felipe."



COME AWAY WITH ME

Luxury German suitcase brand Rimowa launches its first ever soft bags this month in a collection called Never Still. The backpacks, totes and weekender bags are all designed with Rimowa's signature vertical ridges and also have elastic straps on the back, so they can be secured to the handles of suitcases. Made from sturdy canvas and offered in subtle hues like pastel pink and cactus green as well as plain black, the bags are as functional as they are sleek, just like the brand's popular suitcases.





CHANGE OF ART

For the first time since Jeff Koons did it in 2017, Louis Vuitton is allowing an artist to reinterpret its monogram this January. Swiss contemporary artist Urs Fischer, known for his conceptual sculptures and installations, has created a capsule collection of leather goods and ready-to-wear featuring his hand-drawn interpretation of the iconic logo print stretched and morphed into 3D, velvet-like textures. Some of Fischer's famously whimsical creations will also appear in the windows of Louis Vuitton stores around the world.





| *First Things First* |

Toton Januar

Indonesian designer Toton Januar's career has involved fields as varied as civil engineering and modelling, but he eventually settled on his true calling of fashion design. In 2012 he founded his label, Toton, with his business partner, Haryo Balitar, after cutting his teeth at The New School in New York City. The designer went on to win the 2016 International Woolmark Prize, the first year an Indonesian talent was selected, and most recently presented his spring-summer 2020 collection at a showroom in Paris.

How did you first realise you wanted to work in fashion?

I think ever since I was a little boy, I've always had this fascination with fashion, although maybe I didn't understand it at that time. My mum was a seamstress for some time and a fashion enthusiast. I got most of my early knowledge of fashion through her, but it was only after she passed away in 2008 that I decided to pursue fashion as a career.

What was the first roadblock you had to overcome?

My mother didn't approve of me choosing fashion as a career. I was born in Makassar and raised by a seamstress mother but my father was in the army and so were my grandfathers from both sides. Growing up as an only child and a son, I was expected to follow the path of a traditional man, so I had different ideas of what I was going to be when I grew up. I even enlisted—but never went—to a military high school, and also took a couple of semesters of engineering in university, before eventually dropping out. But one constant thing since I was a kid has always been my interest in arts and crafts. Watching my mother work instilled in me a sense of beauty. I think subconsciously I always knew where I wanted to be, but it took a lot of effort to convince my mother that this is actually what makes me happy.

What was your first job and what did you learn there?

My first job in fashion was not as a designer but as a model. I started working part-time for a fashion brand in 1999, and that was really when I got the chance to see fashion from the inside.



What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Indonesian fashion?

As an Indonesian I feel we need to be more confident and embrace our heritage. I think most Indonesian designs have existed as a novelty in the contemporary context; only recently have Indonesians come to appreciate our heritage as part of modern design. This includes using traditional techniques such as batiks, weaving and embroidery as part of contemporary fashion collections that now have global appeal. We have an abundance of creativity, from cultures passed on through generations, and to deny that would be such a shame.

When did you first realise your brand was getting a lot of buzz?

After our first collection presentation at Blueprint Singapore in 2012, a couple of journalists followed me backstage. I didn't think we got a lot of buzz at that time, but I realised that we didn't go unnoticed.

Who's the first celebrity you dressed?

Asmara Abigail was the first actress that we developed a relationship with. I fell in love with her performance in the film *Setan Jawa*.

What is the first thing you do when you need to recharge and reset?

Sleep. I need a really good sleep.



Bottega Veneta coat.
Opposite page: Versace
dress, **Stuart Weitzman** boots

Shape

Shifters



Sometimes the simplest silhouettes make the biggest statements.
Take these examples from the best of the resort 2021 collections

Photography By Lara Jade. Styling by Connie Berg





Givenchy jacket, trousers.
Opposite page: Jil Sander
jacket, skirt, heels





Burberry coat, dress, belt,
Giuseppe Zanotti heels,
Ming Yu Wang earrings.
Opposite page: Christian
Dior jacket, shirt, corset,
trousers, **Uncommon**
Matters earrings







Tatler **Alexander McQueen** jacket,
Style trousers, belt, shoes.
78 **Opposite page: Chanel**
cardigan, top, shorts, belt



Lanvin coat, trousers, belt.
Opposite page: Burberry coat,
Ming Yu Wang earrings



Hair **Yukiko Tajima** at **See Management** using **Kérastase** Make-up **William Murphy** at **Atelier Management** using **Make Up Forever** Manicure **Kana Kishita** using **Essie** Model **Aketch Joy** at **Fusion Models**
Photo Assistant **Hunter Arthur** Styling Assistants **Adam Van Osdol** and **Maria Mejia**



Keep Calm and Listen to Paul

Celebrating his 50th anniversary, Paul Smith launches a foundation imparting his wisdom to young talents, in the hope of cultivating good manners and good times *By Rosana Lai*

Paul Smith apologises for standing me up.

“Sorry about yesterday—that was a nightmare!” he says, palming his hands together in a prayer position. “It never happened to me before, but we were doing live TV to Russia and their technology was—I don’t know what happened. I was horrified when I had to cancel on you. I’m so sorry.”

Smith, as his legions of friends and fans know, takes good manners very seriously. The legendary 74-year-old British designer, renowned for his impeccably tailored suits imbued with a touch of humour, beams at me through the screen behind his tortoise-shell spectacles, wearing a navy turtleneck under a windowpane check suit jacket of his own creation.

Chances are, most men have owned something—be it a sharply cut suit with lime-coloured stripes, or a cardholder or a pair of socks with his iconic rainbow stripes—by Paul Smith, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. “Can you believe it? 50 years!” he exclaims. “It’s amazing to have 50 years in fashion; even many bands, musicians, restaurants, designers might have two or three years’ success, and suddenly people are not so interested in them any more.” In the Eighties, Smith pioneered a technique of using photographic prints on fabric, so to mark this milestone, he brought back his most popular, and quirkiest, prints of spaghetti and green apples in a capsule collection, adapting them to modern shapes like bucket hats and hoodies. Though Queen Elizabeth II awarded Smith, who was knighted in 2000, a Companion of Honour—one of the highest honours in the land, only given to a

maximum of 65 people—last October, 2020 was hardly the best for celebrating a jubilee.

“The sad thing for me is this is the first year in 50 years that we’ve lost money—it’s unprecedented times,” he says during our Zoom call in November, noting that people working from home in their sweats has made a dent on his livelihood, and that of all designers known for tailored suits. But he shrugs, refusing to let circumstances soil his mood. “I think it’s just temporary; it’ll go back, I’m sure. I think when people want to go out again, they’ll want to dress up and look special.”

Reaching the half-century mark inevitably leads one to ponder his legacy. In December, Smith launched Paul Smith’s Foundation, a digital destination where he shares his nuggets of wisdom or, as Smith puts it, “boring stuff I’ve said over the years that someone’s written down”, hoping to invest more energy into mentorship. (It’s not the first time he’s invested in young artists; he also funds a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Arts.) “The idea is that [the foundation] will provide advice for creative people, whether you’re a young graphic designer or a chef, even,” he says. “Over the years we’ve had so many people come to this building thinking that they want to be a fashion designer and I say, ‘It’s lovely to be a fashion designer, but it’s a very oversubscribed job.’ My approach has always been to demystify the job and make it more understandable and, in a way, more accessible.”

Smith is troubled by the attitudes of a new breed of designers, deploring the pressure luxury conglomerates place on them to drive sales at the expense of creativity. “It’s extraordinarily disappointing that a lot of people





are relying on a logo for turnover; it's almost a cop out. I've never done it because I know when a 14-year-old boy grows up, he won't want to wear it if he remembers his brother or father wearing it, while if it's just anonymous, nice clothes, it wouldn't matter," he says, opening his jacket to show its plainness. "Now, so many famous designers are doing so many lines; I just worry about their health," says Smith, who makes a point to swim at 6am every day and be at home for dinner with his wife, Pauline Denyer, whom he met at 21, every night. "Thankfully we're still independent, so we don't have this monster behind us going 'More! More! You must sell more!'" he says, making T-rex claws with his hands. "The only person I have to have a discussion with when I make a decision is me when I'm having a shave in the morning."

His independence has allowed him to decide on the many opportunities that have come his way over the years—collaborations with companies from Leica to Land Rover—not purely based on dollar signs. "Actually, I do something rather naughty," he says, lowering his voice and cupping his hand to his mouth as if to share a secret. "I think: do I want to see this person again?" He bursts into a chuckle.

But mostly, Smith just wants to be able to learn something new. He suddenly whips his watch off his wrist and pushes it into the camera. In November, he lent his playful touch to German watch brand Braun to create a special timepiece, a monochromatic face with a rainbow second hand. "I love working on things that are solid or that have a longer process of design,

like spectacles or watches or bicycles, unlike clothes, where you can just take some scissors and make a form quite quickly," he says. "With Braun, though, they're famous for minimalism, so I wanted to do something tiny, just enough, just a touch, without the danger of overwhelming it. Each collaboration, you have to remember to think about the history of the product."

At this point our call drops out for nearly five minutes, and when the picture resumes, Smith has disappeared temporarily, leaving me with a clearer view of his office, or "Paracetamol Room" as his staff call it because of its chaotic, headache-inducing state. Hundreds of books on art, design and photography are sandwiched on shelves and wobbly towers of papers and paraphernalia, like a plastic plate decorated with noodles and robotic bears, line the foreground. A known magpie, Smith famously collects seemingly random objects from his travels that he then showcases at his stores, located in more than 70 countries, painstaking curating displays in each space. A Phaidon book featuring 50 objects from his treasure trove came out in October. Having been to Japan "more than a hundred times", thanks to a loyal fanbase, it's unsurprising that some of his favourite items come from there. He bounds out of shot to the left, returning with miniature vintage Japanese encyclopaedias filled with intricate drawings and *sashiko* fabrics, old indigo blue work cloth with distinctive white stitches.

The space is a fire hazard, we joke, but if it really were to be set ablaze and he had to select a few choice items to save, what would they be? "Oh my God," he starts to say, then exits stage right and returns with a box full



Early portraits of Smith, who began a career in tailoring after an accident at age 15 thwarted his ambitions of becoming a professional cyclist



Clockwise, from top left:
Paul Smith 50th Anniversary capsule collection featuring an archival photo print of green apples; the Paul Smith store in the Roppongi district in Tokyo; a painting of Paul Smith in his London office; Smith's wind-up toys and books in his office





“It’s so important that if you go onto great fame, or I go onto great fame, to always remember, it’s not heart surgery; it’s just fashion. Just keep your feet on the ground” —PAUL SMITH

of frames. “I’d take this box of photographs of visitors who’ve come to this building, like Harrison Ford or Bill Nighy,” he says without hesitation. His famous friends have run the Hollywood gamut—Gary Oldman, the late David Bowie and Daniel Day Lewis, to name a few. Prince Charles and Princess Diana wore his shirts in their engagement photograph. “Then Pauline sometimes makes things for me by hand, like this embroidered box that holds a porcelain tape measure, so I’d take anything she makes, and I’d take my dad’s camera from 1958.” Like his father, who was an amateur photographer, Smith takes his camera with him wherever he goes, believing that “you can find inspiration in anything. If you can’t, you are not looking properly”. This determined optimism saw him through times of struggle in his youth, like when his professional cycling dreams were dashed in an accident at age 15, or when he juggled odd jobs as a stylist or photographer to keep the lights on in his first Nottingham store in 1970, and it continues to fuel his childlike curiosity.

“Oh, and I’d take him!” Smith declares.

A red plastic dog comes into view, its side plastered with stamps. It was a gift from an anonymous fan who has been sending Smith objects for decades, always covered in stamps. “This dog’s name is Cedric.” Smith then points behind my head to the pictures hanging on my wall, asking me for a show-and-tell, as if we’re friends casually chatting and he’s not one of the most beloved designers in the world.

“It’s so important that if you go onto great fame, or I go onto great fame, to always remember, it’s not heart surgery; it’s just fashion. Just keep your feet on the ground,” he says. “Pauline has never let me be anything else other than the man she met when she was 21. She always tells me ‘You weren’t good looking but you always made me laugh’, and that always keeps me grounded.”

I’ve come to learn that Smith likes to end every solemn statement or pithy thought with a punchline, perhaps to illustrate the advice he most loves to share: don’t take things too seriously.

Paul Says

Paul Smith tells the stories behind some of the nuggets of wisdom he shares through his foundation

Paul on... DECISION MAKING

When deciding whether to agree to a collaboration, I ask myself, "Do I ever want to see them again?" We say "no" to far more than we say "yes". It's normally completely about instinct. I just think, "Why would I do this?" I don't want to give up my time for something that I don't think is going to be wonderful, or that I'll enjoy. Life's too short, you know.

Paul on... MAKING AN IMPRESSION

I often talk about something called the squirt of lemon. It means having something in your job or conversation that people will remember.



MORE ABOUT THIS

ON COLLABORATIONS ...

We have a little expression about collaborations: we always say, do things that are right and not just because they're easy. You can do things just for the money but they might be detrimental to your image or end up not being something you enjoy. I've done some collaborations that I think I should have said no to, not because they were bad, but they just used up a lot of my energy and time. I don't make that mistake any more, though, because of my experience. So I just mostly say no. It's easier!

ON LEAVING AN IMPRESSION ...

I call it the squirt of lemon because the idea is if we were having a lovely meal together and I'm squirting some lemon onto my fish and it goes—blip!—into your eye, you'd cover your eye and scream, but the next day when you have dinner with your friends and they ask how it went, you'd say, "It was lovely but he squirted lemon in my eye!" And it's the thing that you'll remember strongly from our encounter. It's about doing things that are memorable and more special.

Paul on... DECISION MAKING

[MORE ABOUT THIS](#)

When people suggest an idea to you, always answer with enthusiasm. But then say, 'Can I come back to you tomorrow?' Give yourself time to think it through. Then, by the next day, almost every time you'll say "no" because you question why you'd actually do it.

ON SAYING NO ...

When I started in the 1970s, I was doing lots of odd jobs to keep my business going, like freelance styling or photography, and I was designing fabrics for a company in the middle of England. I distinctly remember that the guy who owned the company taught me: when someone offers you something, give yourself time to think about it overnight, because you may not want to do it or you'll find another way you want to do it and it will end up being more evenly balanced as it's more on your terms.

Paul on... MAKING AN IMPRESSION

[MORE ABOUT THIS](#)

In the creative world, a lot of people take themselves very seriously, but there's no reason why you can't have a lighthearted approach. Provided you're gentlemanly, well-mannered, do things properly and don't let people down, that will definitely get you through life a lot better.

ON POLITENESS ...

When I first started making shirts, my orders were for 28 shirts when they said the minimum order was 2,000, and then through conversation—by telling them I was a young designer and that I was just starting out, and asking nicely if they'd please help me—they eventually came around. I later went and got a little gift for the man to say thank you for giving me my start. You get so much more if you're just polite to people. And just

before lockdown in the UK back in November, I hired a boy and told him, "I'd like you to come work for us, but just so you know we say please and thank you here, we open doors for people and we ask, we don't tell." And he burst into tears, telling me that the people at the job he just came from swore and shouted all the time and he ended up having a nervous breakdown. Hearing him say that brought me joy to know I can give him a different environment. Being well-mannered isn't being uncool.

Sweet Dreams Are Made of These

Despite spending more than a third of our lives in bed, falling (and staying) asleep remains elusive to many. These all-natural sleep aids can help set the scene for a sweet night of rest *By Coco Marett*

In a project that ranked global cities for their sleeping environment, based on research about the leading causes for lack of sleep across 75 cities, London-based wellness company Alphagreen produced the *2020 City Sleep Index*. On it, Hong Kong came in

at No. 56, Kuala Lumpur at 63 and Singapore at 66.

The benefits of sleep are plenty—better skin and mood, weight loss, hormone balance, improved performance and focus—so if your 2021 goal is to improve your overall health, then we suggest you start by

getting back into bed and getting acquainted with these wellness products. Whether it's stress or the blinding city lights from your penthouse apartment keeping you awake (a first world problem, but a problem nonetheless), these all-natural remedies can save your sleep.





1



2



3

4



5

1 BODHA CALM RITUAL OIL

Infuse a few drops of the Calm Ritual Oil by Los Angeles-based perfumery Bodha into your evening bath or shower. The soothing blend of lavender, Californian sage and wild geranium will soothe your senses. Calming music isn't a must, but we recommend it.

2 OTO CBD SLEEP DROPS

Just one dose of OTO's CBD Sleep Drops delivers 50mg of CBD, paired with a blend of botanicals that includes butterfly pea flower and lavender, to help you wind down for a peaceful night.

3 SUBTLE ENERGIES SLEEP EASY NASYA OIL

Using the Ayurvedic practice of Nasya, where oil or powders are applied around the nostrils for a potent nose-to-brain delivery, the Sleep Easy blend by Subtle Energies works to promote sleep while reducing sinus congestion and snoring.

4 BAMFORD B SILENT NIGHT-TIME PILLOW MIST

"Sleep is one of the essential pillars of wellness," says Bamford

founder Carole Bamford. Just a few spritzes of her skincare brand's B Silent Night-Time Pillow Mist will have you drifting into a dream state.

5 SOL EYE MASK

Light is the enemy of a good night's sleep, and research has shown that using an eye mask can mean more REM time and a melatonin boost to promote a healthy sleep pattern. Science aside, this soft-as-heck eye mask by sustainable label Sol is like a silky blanket for your eyes.

Now Listen Up, Me

The way you speak to yourself matters. Yoga and meditation instructor Natalie Söderström explains how to improve your inner dialogue

By Coco Marett

Photography by Jocelyn Tam





If a friend or loved one ever spoke to you the way that you speak to yourself, would you want to keep that person around? The answer seems obvious. And yet our inner critic's voice is louder than that of our inner cheerleader's more often than not, even though negative self-talk can be just as toxic and limiting as what others might say.

"Our brains are wired to notice negative things. It's an instinct that dates as far back as when we were cavemen and women, when we had to constantly look out for danger," Natalie Söderström, a Hong Kong-based yoga and meditation expert, explains.

We might not be on the lookout for sabre-toothed

tigers any more, but day-to-day stresses (a global pandemic, for one) still keep our minds busy. Here, Söderström breaks down five ways to practise kindness to yourself by shifting your inner voice to one that is positive, uplifting and productive.

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

We might not have control over everything that happens around us, but what we can control is our perspective. Instead of thinking "this rain sucks", you could think, "I'm grateful for this home to stay warm and dry in".

"Having a gratitude practice is a simple way to shift out of a negative

headspace, and can be done through meditation, keeping a gratitude journal or anything that makes sense for you," says Söderström. "Personally, I take several pauses during the day when I stop, breathe and think about what I'm grateful for. It doesn't have to be anything grand; it can be as simple as the sun shining, the coffee you're drinking, living in a city you love, or gratitude for your friends and family."

DON'T HATE, MEDITATE

"Sitting in silence and cultivating awareness by observing your thoughts creates space between reacting to something, and responding to something" says Söderström. "It's a practice of looking for guidance internally and, to me, that's the most powerful source."

It's easy to react quickly to pessimistic thoughts, like quitting a project or hobby when feelings of self-doubt creep in, but taking the time to observe those fleeting thoughts and responding to them with patience allows you to catch yourself mid-fall and continue doing what's important to you once those thoughts have passed.

Söderström adds, "Use meditation as a tool to ground yourself and allow yourself to feel more and think less; get out of your head and become present in your body."

IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK

In short, don't let a bad day trick you into thinking you have a bad life. "We all have bad days when we feel we aren't like our best self,"

says Söderström. "Being OK and accepting that, acknowledging that it's just a bad day, remembering that your thoughts on days like this don't define you, creates space for you to pull yourself out of that negativity."

CHOOSE YOUR WORDS

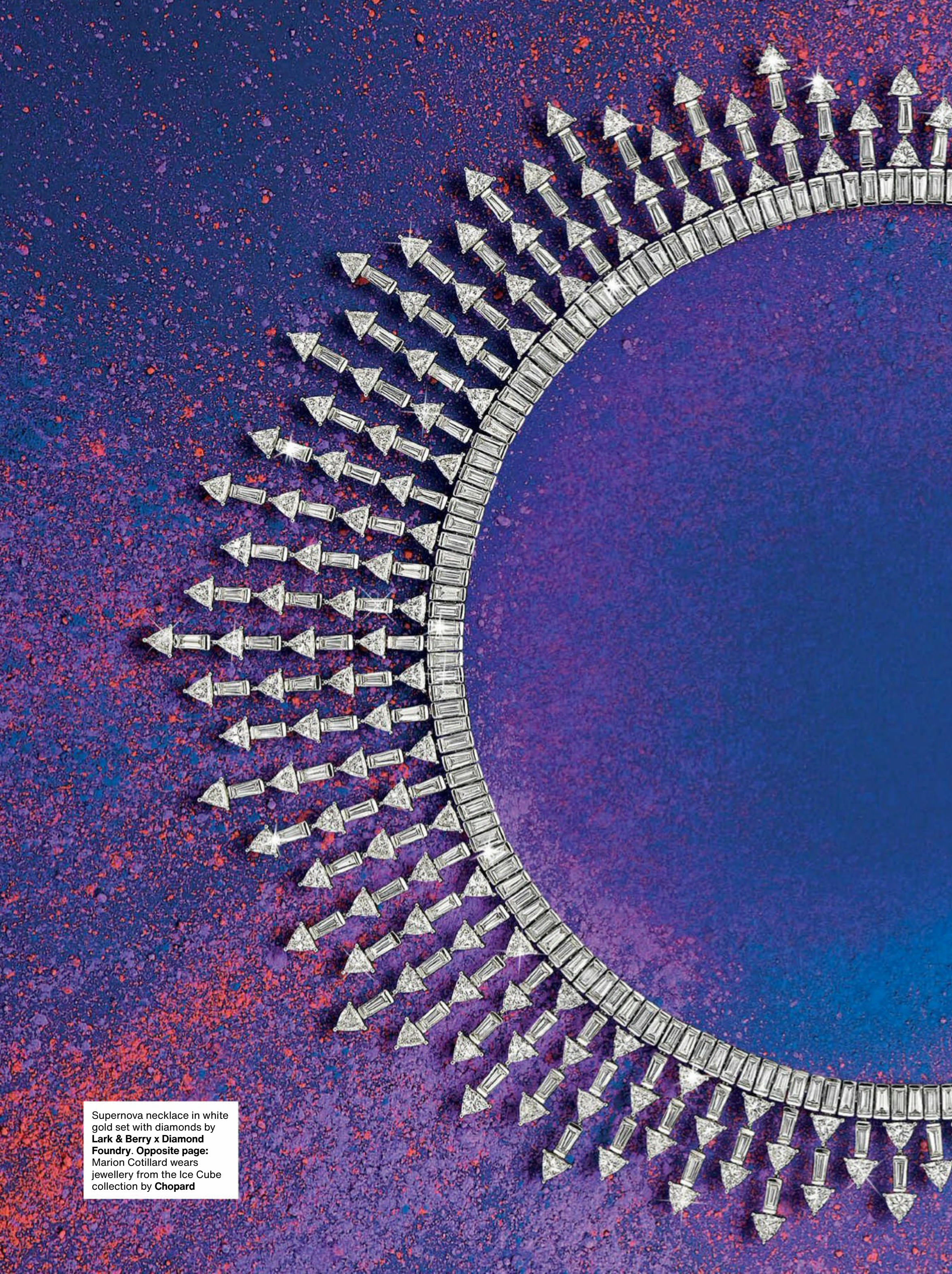
"We have an average of 6,000 thoughts per day," says Söderström, citing a recent study by a team of psychology researchers at Queen's University in Canada. "Eighty per cent of them are negative and 95 per cent are repetitive. If you keep repeating thoughts like 'I'm not beautiful' or 'I'm not worthy', eventually, you start to believe them."

The solution? Flip the script. "Words are so powerful," Söderström says. "Break your negative self-speak by focusing your internal dialogue towards an intention or a goal. Give yourself one or more positive affirmations to repeat to yourself, like 'I am good enough', 'I am healthy' or 'I am strong'. Your personal affirmation can be anything you want or need it to be."

LOVE MORE

"The more thought you put into choosing the words you use towards other people, your inner dialogue will begin to shift. If you are kind and you speak to people from a place of love and compassion, you'll find that you begin to do the same for yourself. Through giving and showing love to others, you can learn to love yourself."

Go on, you heard the woman—love yourself.



Supernova necklace in white gold set with diamonds by **Lark & Berry x Diamond Foundry**. **Opposite page:** Marion Cotillard wears jewellery from the Ice Cube collection by **Chopard**



Tatter Jewellery

Five exceptionally rare blue diamonds
are mined in just one week,
and ear cuffs make a comeback

Tatler Report

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

London-based brand Lark & Berry's Supernova necklace, which was worn at last year's Academy Awards by *Pose* actor Billy Porter, has been reworked into a brand new collection. The 64.5-carat diamond-set necklace was one of three pieces in a suite created for the 2020 Oscars, and was worn by Porter, who performed the ceremony's opening musical number. Set with gemstones by American lab-grown diamond specialist Diamond Foundry, this spectacular necklace has been remodelled into a limited-edition collection of 39 smaller pieces, all set in 18-karat white gold.

Supernova necklace in white gold set with diamonds by **Lark & Berry x Diamond Foundry**



MONUMENTS (WO)MEN

Last year, Chaumet unveiled its Trésors d'Ailleurs rings to celebrate the reopening of its flagship at 12 Place Vendôme in Paris. Now, the brand has once again turned to architecture for inspiration. Six high jewellery parures inspired by Paris' landscape and history beautifully capture Chaumet's rich heritage, as well as its modernity. We particularly love the Lacis suite, which is cast in white gold. Slivers of metal conjure up images of stone latticework, while a smattering of diamonds in white and yellow play with light.

Tatler

Jewellery

96

Lacis necklace and ring in white gold set with diamonds by **Chaumet**



ANIMAL KINGDOM

Gucci's most recent high jewellery collection, Hortus Deliciarum—Latin for “Garden of Delights”—was designed by creative director Alessandro Michele. More than 200 one-of-a-kind pieces are on offer, including oversized cocktail rings and Victorian-style ornate crosses. Gucci's animal emblems also make an appearance, such as the lion, tiger, snake and, of course, the humble bee.

Earrings in white gold set with sapphires by **Gucci**

DODGY DEALER

Nirav Modi, who became famous following the sale of a necklace at Christie's Hong Kong in 2010, has been featured in one of the episodes from Netflix's new documentary *Bad Boy Billionaires: India*. The series focuses on the corruption and money laundering scandals of several Indian billionaires and Modi is one of them. The pear-shaped Golconda diamond-set necklace went under the hammer for HK\$27.5 million, earning Modi the nickname “Diamond King”. He was later arrested in London and, at the time of writing, is fighting an extradition case. When asked in 2016 during a *Tatler* interview how he felt being called “India's youngest billionaire”, Modi replied: “I just want to make beautiful jewellery; everything else is secondary.”



Image Fabio Pianigiani (Gucci)

Small Talk JEMMA WYNNE



Co-founder Stephanie Wynne Lalin launched her brand alongside Jenny Klatt back in 2008, after the duo discovered their shared interest in jewellery

Tell us about the first jewellery piece you owned.

It was a Tiffany ID bracelet, which remains iconic. At the time, it felt like every pre-teen girl had one.

What's special about vintage jewellery?

Vintage pieces stand the test of time and are almost always weighty—it's like you can feel the very hand of its jeweller. Plus, they come with amazing stories that are always special.

Describe Jemma Wynne in five words.

Luxurious, casual, timeless, effortless, feminine.

What would you be if you weren't a jeweller?

An interior designer.

Emeralds or rubies?

Emeralds are one of our favourite stones to work with and we love setting them into chains for a look that's rich but a little unexpected.

Silver or gold?

Gold.

Which show are you bingeing on?

Schitt's Creek.

What music are you listening to?

Jill Scott and Erykah Badu on repeat, always.

Small Talk

DEBORAH PAGANI



The New York-born designer is known for her wearable jewellery that looks dangerous and dramatic

Tell us about the first jewellery piece you designed.

It was a medallion, which was inspired by the only piece of jewellery my grandparents brought from Cuba. During the revolution, everything of value—especially gold—was confiscated by the government. My grandfather had a little medallion, which he would hang from his belt, and it went unnoticed. I worked it into a pendant.

What do you love about remodelling jewellery?

We only live one life. If a piece is dated or doesn't suit you right now, it's better to rework it into something you will wear. There's no point having it sit in a safe.

Which piece have you most enjoyed remodelling?

The Honey necklace, which I made for myself. I reset my grandmother's ring, which sat in my safe for 15 years, and now I never take it off.

If you could dress anyone, who would it be?

Jackie O. I know she is famous for her American elegance, but I'd love to see her a little sexier. I'd also just love to chat with her.

What's your favourite time period?

I love everything about the 1920s and '30s—art deco never goes out of style.



DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

Five extraordinarily rare blue diamonds, which weigh 25.75, 21.25, 17.57, 11.42 and 9.61 carats, respectively, have been recovered within a single week from Petra Diamonds' famous Cullinan mine in South Africa. They are among the world's most expensive diamonds, having been sold to a partnership between De Beers and Diacore for US\$40.36 million, and were formed deep within the Earth—about 650 kms below the surface, four times as deep as where white diamonds are formed.

STILL IN LOVE

Florentine jewellery designer Carolina Bucci's latest collection Kiss, which is an acronym for "keep it super simple" (not stupid in this case), is inspired by the coiled mechanism of a watch's balance spring, which regulates the speed at which the hands move around the dial. Available in yellow, pink, white, black or brown gold, these fantastic pieces are the result of a four-year relationship between Bucci and Audemars Piguet, with whom she launched the watchmaker's iconic Royal Oak Frosted Gold line.

Kiss bracelet in yellow and pink gold by **Carolina Bucci**



Image **Donald Woodrow** (blue diamonds)



ALL ABOUT MARION

Actress Marion Cotillard has partnered with Chopard for more than 15 years, and has now taken that working relationship to a whole new level by helping to design a capsule collection. Her pieces sit under the brand’s Ice Cube collection and take inspiration from the line’s boldness and asymmetry. “Marion Cotillard is very creative and all our discussions on this project have been extremely inspiring,” says Chopard artistic director and co-president Caroline Scheufele. “By bringing her interpretation to our Ice Cube collection, she is inventing a contemporary and relaxed way to wear diamonds.”

Marion Cotillard wears jewellery from the Ice Cube collection by **Chopard**



ZERO WASTE

Katkim's sleek and sophisticated structures are made using recycled metals set with responsibly sourced gemstones. Handmade in Los Angeles, California, this brand's unconventional pieces are bursting with personality.

Asscher Diamond Cosma ring in yellow gold set with a diamond by **Katkim**



PEARLS OF WISDOM

Fashion label Comme des Garçons has teamed up with fellow Japanese brand Mikimoto for a capsule collection of seven pearl necklaces. Get yours now!

Necklace in sterling silver set with pearls by **Mikimoto x Comme des Garçons**



MADE IN ITALY

These brand-new yellow gold earrings by Italian jeweller Gismondi 1754 are framed with diamonds just along the tips for added sparkle. Wear yours with one of the brand's stackable bracelets to complete the look.

Segno earrings in yellow gold set with diamonds by **Gismondi 1754**



RAINBOW COLOURS

Los Angeles-based jeweller Suzanne Kalan's latest eternity rings explode with pops of colour achieved using clusters of baguette- and round-cut gemstones. This ring is cast from 18K white gold and is set with sparkling sapphires, which come together like a frenzied fireworks display.

Rainbow Mosaic Eternity Band ring in white gold set with sapphires and diamonds by **Suzanne Kalan**

QUALITY CONTROL

Gübelin has launched what it describes as the first-ever rating system for coloured gems, which the brand hopes will provide a method to categorise coloured stones similar to the way diamonds are currently rated. Called Gübelin Points, the system looks at three factors: quality, rarity and salience, which considers what makes a gemstone exceptional, with the hope that connoisseurs will be able to buy jewellery with added confidence.



GO GREEN

An exquisite emerald- and diamond-set necklace was sold for more than HK\$54 million by Christie's Asia at its Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels sale on November 29. The piece was designed by Edmond Chin on behalf of Boghossian and showcases 28 near-flawless emeralds, which weigh a total of 117.50 carats. Albert Boghossian, the jeweller's CEO, personally selected the exceptional gemstones for the necklace.

Necklace in white and yellow gold set with emeralds and diamonds by **Boghossian**



GO BIG

In 2019, the house of Cartier added the Clash de Cartier jewellery collection to its stable of iconic lines such as Love and Juste un Clou. The first-generation Clash de Cartier collection comprises pink gold rings, bracelets, necklaces and earrings, all of which blend duality and tension in perfect balance. This year, to breathe new energy into the collection, Cartier has unveiled new supersized designs, including a generously proportioned

ring, earrings, bracelet and necklace. The collection's ultra-contemporary aesthetic comprising beads and studs are magnified to exude an even stronger and bolder appeal. Stacking the jewellery pieces remains the name of the game but we recommend pairing the XL versions with the original ones for maximum effect.

English-Brazilian actress Kaya Scodelario wears the new additions to the **Cartier** Clash de Cartier collection; Clash de Cartier XL bracelet

IN FULL BLOOM

Van Cleef & Arpels gives the peony, one of its favourite flowers, a modern and feminine touch with the Pivoine clip. Inspired by a gold and platinum piece of the same name from 1937, the new iteration is more voluminous and bold with each petal shaped and angled slightly differently, bringing a three-dimensional effect. Surrounded by spinels of different colours and sizes, the flower features a sparkling pistil in white gold set with round diamonds. The bejewelled clip is part of the Flora collection, which was recently launched to pay tribute to nature and celebrate the impending arrival of spring.

Pivoine clip in pink and white gold set with pink, red and peach spinels and diamonds by **Van Cleef & Arpels**



Who Says It's a Man's World?

The first woman to hold the chief gemmologist position in Tiffany & Co's 183-year history, Victoria Reynolds talks us through the biggest moment of her career

I was nine years old when I first visited one of Tiffany & Co's boutiques with my father to help him purchase a brooch for my mom. I still remember walking through the doors and being mesmerised by the diamonds and coloured gemstones that were displayed on the shop floor—it's a feeling that's really stayed with me.

Fast forward to today, and I'm incredibly proud to be Tiffany's first female chief gemmologist. I joined the company in 1987 and over the years I must have looked at tens of thousands of diamonds. I've become obsessed with every detail, facet and nuance that make our diamonds so perfect, which is good because it's my job to travel the world, searching for the most extraordinary gemstones to set into our jewellery collections. Quite frankly, I have the best job in the world.

I have loved gemstones my entire life, and as a woman who also loves wearing them, I believe they are incredibly personal and unique to the individual who owns them. If I wasn't sure of this before, it was proven to me a few years ago when I was tasked with procuring and bringing to life an incredible colourless diamond, which weighed more than 30 carats.

It can take several years to find a perfect diamond, and what was extraordinary about this piece was its absolute beauty. It was probably one of the most beautiful diamonds I've ever seen. It was internally flawless and an absolute showstopper—a must-have piece. We thought for some time about what we were going to do with it,

before eventually deciding to set it into a ring.

Mined in South Africa, the rough diamond, when I first saw it, weighed several hundred carats. It was one of the largest stones unearthed from this particular mine and was cut and polished into several smaller jewels. A lot of people take this for granted, but what's amazing about a stone that big is that it takes an incredibly skilled diamond cutter to do it justice. If it's cut in the wrong way, the diamond can become clunky and awkward. It loses its elegance.

The resulting 30-carat jewel was put into a simple platinum setting. And you'd be surprised: it wasn't really that heavy. It's hefty, of course, covering most of the knuckle, but the ring itself sat beautifully on the hand.

At the time, I was working with two clients who were both interested in seeing the finished piece. About an hour before it was scheduled to be unveiled at an event, one of these two clients arrived early to inspect it. Her connection to the diamond was immediate and electric—she literally put it on and never took it off.

Seeing it on her hand, it looked like we had designed the ring especially for her, which isn't always the case. Jewellery doesn't look the same on everybody; it depends on the person and how they carry themselves. Jewellery showcases the personality of the woman who wears it. But I'm happy to say that in this case, this diamond found the perfect person.

This is an ongoing series in which we ask jewellery experts to weigh in on industry trends, innovation and more



Allora ear pin in yellow gold set with diamonds by **Katkim**. **Opposite page:** Chance Infinie ear cuff and double ring in white gold set with diamonds, both by **Fred**



| *Trend* |

Cuff'Em

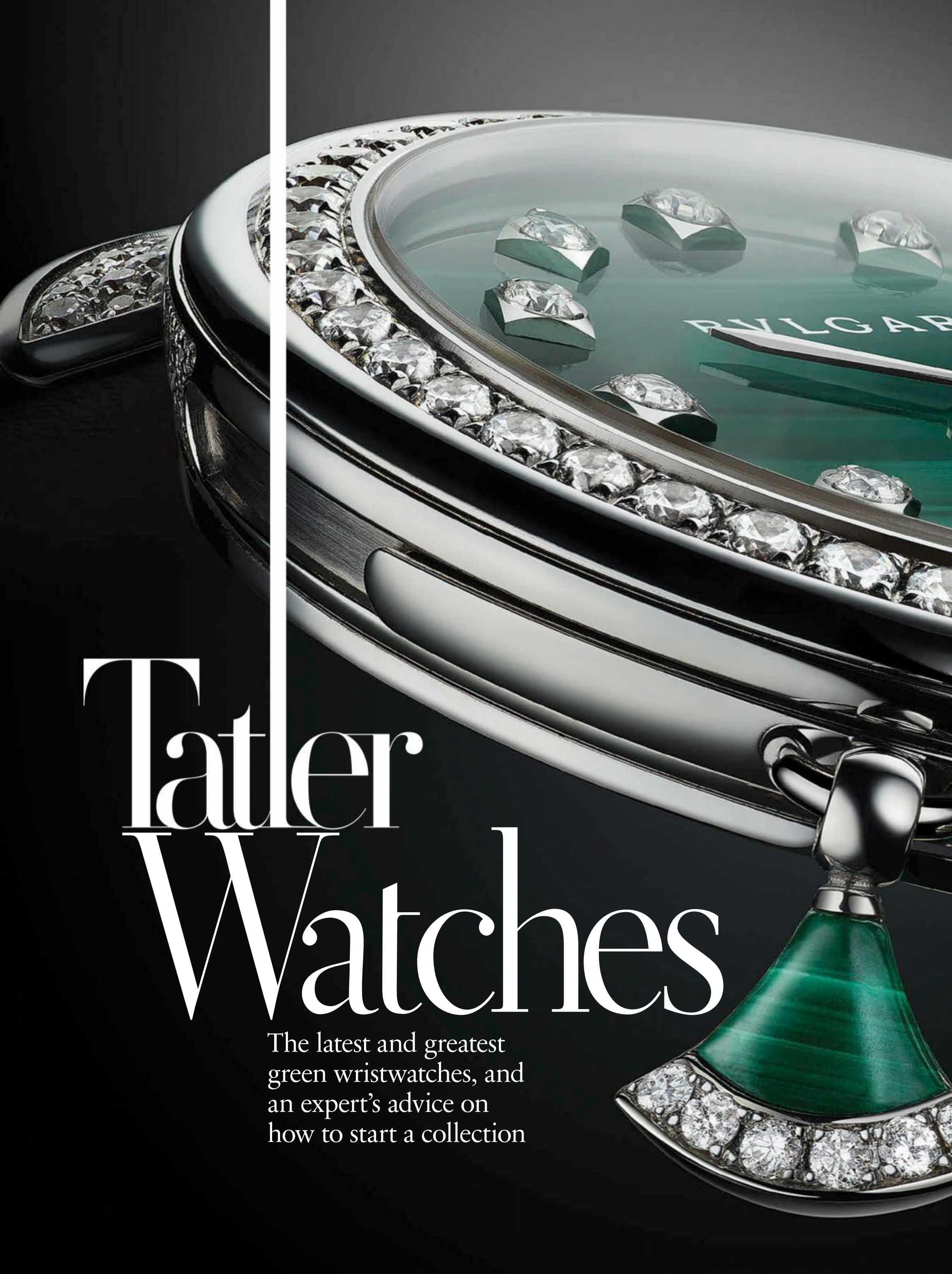
There's something edgy
about ear cuffs



Bois de Rose ear cuff
and earring in rose gold
set with diamonds, both
by **Dior Joaillerie**



Clockwise, from top left: Wings of Light ear cuff in white gold set with diamonds by **Piaget**; Coco Crush earring in yellow and white gold set with diamonds by **Chanel**; cuff earrings in white gold set with diamonds by **Chopard**; ear cuff in rose gold by **Bulgari**



Tatler Watches

The latest and greatest
green wristwatches, and
an expert's advice on
how to start a collection



Model, actress and entrepreneur Sheila Sim wears the Defy Midnight by **Zenith**.
Opposite page: Divas' Dream Finissima Minute Repeater Malachite by **Bulgari**





Tatler Report

CRYSTAL HEALING

Girard-Perregaux continues to push the boundaries of high-tech materials with its new Laureato Absolute Crystal Rock wristwatch. The Laureato line was first designed in the 1970s and was relaunched in 2017. Crafted from carbon glass, the new Crystal Rock comes with a gradient grey-coloured dial that covers a self-winding chronograph movement. The sporty 44 mm case weighs just 93 grams.

Laureato Absolute Crystal Rock by **Girard-Perregaux**

SMOKING HOT

The latest addition to Bremont's Armed Forces collection is the handsome Broadsword Bronze. This military-themed timepiece takes inspiration from the "Dirty Dozen", a series of watches made to the British Army's specifications during the Second World War. A 40mm case is made using bronze because of the material's association with naval engineering

and its resistance to corrosion by saltwater. Bremont's propeller logo is etched into each model's oversized screw-down crown, while the caseback is stamped with the badges of the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force. Choose from three different dial colours.

Broadsword Bronze Tobacco by **Bremont**



TO THE FINISH LINE

At a watch auction in New York last month, Phillips, in association with Bacs & Russo, sold a Tag Heuer Monaco worn by actor Steve McQueen during the filming of his iconic racing film *Le Mans* (1971). On the last day of filming, McQueen gave the timepiece to his personal

mechanic, Haig Alltounian, who treasured it for nearly 50 years. Introduced in 1969, the Monaco was one of the world's first self-winding chronograph wristwatches and became famous for its square-shaped waterproof case.

Steve McQueen wore the **Heuer Monaco** in *Le Mans* (1971)

Image **Bernard Cahier/Getty Images (McQueen)**

STARRY NIGHT

As part of the global Zenith Dreamers campaign, local model, actress, and entrepreneur Sheila Sim, who recently gave birth to a baby girl, was photographed wearing the Defy Midnight collection launched last

year. Inspired by the starry night sky, the dramatic inky-blue dial of the Defy Midnight is set with 11 brilliant-cut diamonds.

Model, actress and entrepreneur Sheila Sim sports the Defy Midnight by **Zenith**



BENEATH THE SURFACE

Blancpain has enjoyed links to the high seas for decades, ever since the launch of its iconic diving watch, Fifty Fathoms, in 1953. Now, the watchmaker

has announced it has become the exclusive watch partner of Oceana, which is the largest international organisation dedicated solely to ocean exploration and conservation.

SKULL AND BONES

The Mexican holiday of Día de los Muertos, which celebrates the cycle of life and death, is the inspiration behind Chopard's latest spooky timepiece. Limited to 100 pieces, gilded hour markers sit on a moody black-lacquered dial that's decorated with a trendy, albeit gap-toothed, skull that rocks a handlebar moustache. The stainless steel case comes with a brown calfskin leather strap, which adds a sleek and sophisticated feel to this otherwise wacky watch.

LUC Skull One by **Chopard**





Small Talk

ANTOINE BERARDI

The head of Watchfinder & Co for Hong Kong and Macau gives us the lowdown on which pre-owned luxury timepieces you need to start a collection

1 IWC Schaffhausen's Big Pilot

Now discontinued, the famous Big Pilot's watch in rose gold comes with a blue Arabic dial and seven-day power reserve. Initially produced as a highly legible timepiece for pilots and navigators in the Luftwaffe German Air Force in 1940, it has since become a modern classic. Insider tip: be sure to check the warranty when purchasing limited editions second hand.

2 Tudor's Heritage Black Bay

If you're thinking about dipping a toe into the world of luxury watch collecting, the Tudor Black Bay Ref 79230R is a classic timepiece you won't regret. Tudor is a highly respected brand, and the Black Bay is an easy piece to exchange as your collection matures and expands.

3 Patek Philippe's Perpetual Calendar Chronograph

No serious collection is complete without one of these beauties—but getting your hands on one is easier said than done. Produced in famously small numbers, a grand complication combines multiple complications into one watch. In this case, a chronograph, perpetual calendar and moonphase are all housed together. It's a sophisticated choice

and would be considered a champion piece in anybody's collection.

4 Vacheron Constantin's Vintage Ref 44005

Tracking down an eye-catching vintage timepiece is an adrenaline rush, and as you dive deeper into the world of collecting, you start to go back in time when researching stories of each watch. This vintage Vacheron Constantin comes in yellow gold, which was a big trend in the 1970s and 1980s. Make sure that whenever you're buying a vintage piece, the seller gives you access to authentication papers, as well as a brand-accredited service centre.

5 Rolex's Cosmograph Daytona

According to our research at Watchfinder & Co, the single most sought-after watch in Hong Kong is the Rolex Cosmograph Daytona. It was introduced in 1963, and designed by Rolex in the hope that it could compete with the already popular Omega Speedmaster, which ended up becoming the first watch worn on the moon. Although the Cosmograph Daytona was sadly passed over, it has since secured itself as the go-to watch for celebrities and sportspeople, including Paul Newman and Fernando Alonso.

CLOCKWORK ORANGE

At first glance, this wristwatch is overwhelming. Incredibly complex, the Legacy Machine Perpetual is an extraordinary perpetual calendar conceived for MB&F by independent watchmaker Stephen McDonnell. The collection's latest model comes in a 44mm case made from lightweight zirconium and has been redesigned

with a monoblock shock-absorbing "FlexRing" system that makes this watch MB&F's most robust to date. Generous heaps of Super-LumiNova coat the time and calendar indications for added visibility, while a new CVD dial plate colour, which the brand has dubbed "atomic orange", simply takes your breath away.

Legacy Machine Perpetual Evo by MB&F



Image Alex Teuscher (MB&F)



Samuel Ross wears the Big Bang Unico by Hublot

| One to Watch |

Samuel Ross

A former protégé of Virgil Abloh, Samuel Ross is the founder of fashion house A-Cold-Wall. Ross was a finalist for the LVMH Prize and Andam fashion award, and also won a British Fashion Award. Now, 29-year-old Ross, having won the Hublot Design Prize, has produced a minimalist sculpture for the watchmaker that combines granite

with steel and aluminium in a creative explosion that elegantly epitomises Hublot itself. “Hublot symbolises daring innovation, the fusion of time between tradition and innovation, and the endless capacity to invent and reinvent materials,” says Ross. “My sculpture tells the story of Hublot using simple, clean lines, with a monochrome palette.”

| Trend |

Green With Envy

These audacious
dials are both bold
and beautiful



Clockwise, from top: Fifty Fathoms Bathyscaphe Chronograph Flyback by **Blancpain**; Limelight Gala by **Piaget**; Precious Emerald by **Harry Winston**; Révélation d'une Panthère by **Cartier**





Editor's Pick

Annie Darling
Watches & Jewellery
Director of Tatler Asia

Franck Muller's watches are easily recognised by their rectangular cases and distinctive numerals, which come in flashy colours and add a playful touch to the brand's many creations. This decadent Long Island timepiece, which was released late last year, pays special attention to design codes from the 1920s and 1930s. Expertly handcrafted, this watch is embellished with dazzling diamonds that are artfully set into the bezel. Wear yours with a timeless alligator strap.

Long Island by **Franck Muller**

We Made It!

As we enter 2021, we look back on a troubled year for the watch industry. But things aren't as bleak as you might think *By Christian Barker*

Last year wasn't entirely bad, watch-wise. In fact, we saw some great new pieces released, a few of which I'll call attention to below. Nonetheless, for most luxury watch producers, 2020 was an *annus horribilis* from the get-go.

Last January, watch companies were hit by plummeting demand from China's consumers and tourists when the initial outbreak of Covid-19 began to cause borders to close. The 1.4 billion Chinese consumers the industry had banked on for two decades all but disappeared, almost overnight.

After the virus spread worldwide and air travel virtually ceased, sales to tourists, which normally account for about half of all watches sold, dried up. Large-scale events were banned, so the Watches & Wonders and Baselworld fairs in Switzerland were cancelled (permanently, in the case of the latter, with few mourning its passing).

As the crisis deepened from April onwards, demand was further stymied by a lack of consumer confidence. With a catastrophic recession on the horizon, the majority of rank-and-file watch collectors were busy pondering which of their prized pieces they'd sell if they were laid off. New purchases were the last thing on their minds. Unless, of course, you're talking about purchases of loo rolls, hand sanitiser and, in the US, guns and ammo.

Those undeterred in their desire to buy a new watch were hamstrung by the industry's abiding aversion to e-commerce. Stores were shut but willing buyers were prevented from purchasing online, mainly due to the stubborn refusal of many watch companies to sell and ship their products direct to the consumer. It was a wake-up call, causing numerous formerly reticent brands to hastily embrace digital commerce.

Coupled with a dip in demand came an inability to manufacture products, as most Swiss watchmaking factories and their suppliers closed, and watchmakers sat idle at home. The result of this supply-and-demand crunch? According to figures from leading trade association the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry, April 2020 exports were down 81 per cent on numbers from the same month in 2019.

Today, watchmakers are back at work, China's shops are hopping, tills are ringing, and things have recovered somewhat. However, at the time of writing, it appears total Swiss watch exports for 2020 will be a quarter to a third lesser than 2019. Figures for January to September 2020 (the latest available at press time) show a 28.3 per cent year-on-year decline.

Sales of low-priced watches have been hardest hit, with the top end more resilient. Industry insiders inform me that even in the darkest



Altiplano Ultimate
Concept by **Piaget**.
Opposite page:
Bulgari Octo
Finissimo Automatic
Satin-Polished Steel
by **Bulgari**



days of the Covid-19 lockdown, watch companies had no problem shifting big-ticket timepieces. Insulated from the economic downturn, and in some cases growing exponentially wealthier during the crisis, the super-rich kept snapping up diamond-pavé tourbillons and platinum perpetual calendars as per usual.

If you're in the enviable position to purchase something in this rarefied segment, one of my favourite launches of 2020 was

Piaget's made-to-order Altiplano Ultimate Concept. The thinnest mechanical watch ever created, at just 2 mm thick, it's a true work of horological art. Appropriately enough, the price of US\$450,000 (and upwards, depending on customisation options) is on a par with that of a small Warhol.

For those being a bit more bearish with their money during these lean times, I'm very fond of the Bulgari Octo Finissimo Automatic Satin-Polished Steel,

the slimmest time-only automatic watch on the market. As canny as it is skinny, it's remarkable value, retailing at about \$16,800.

At less than half that price, take your pick of Rolex's colourful new 36 mm Oyster Perpetual 41 watches, featuring vivacious lacquer dials in yellow, green, coral red, turquoise or candy pink. Quite the sunny spot in what was a gloomy year for the watch industry—and the world. Here's to a brighter 2021 and better times ahead.



Thun wears the Royal Oak Frosted Gold Self Winding Ref 15454BA by **Audemars Piguet**. **Opposite page, from top:** Royal Oak Openworked Double Balance Wheel Ref 15466BC by **Audemars Piguet**; a vintage pendant watch by **Seiko**

| Collector's Corner |

A League of Her Own

Lung Lung Thun's collection has been a long time in the making—though the relationship between watch and owner has not always been easy

By Annie Darling. Photography by Stephanie Teng

Lung Lung Thun whizzes around Singapore in her cherry-red Ferrari, down Orchard Road and past the city's upscale shopping malls and high-fashion houses. It's 2012, and the 23-year-old is hot off yet another spending spree. In the boot of her car are several unopened shopping bags from similar splurges. She comes to a stop light and bursts into tears. "I was buying so much and just couldn't understand why," she tells me over gin and tonics at Hong Kong's The Upper House hotel. "I felt really empty and wasn't satisfied at all. I was feeling super unfulfilled."

Now 31, Thun is crushing it as a successful financier who manages her own securities brokerage. Crackling with energy, she wears a moss-green jumpsuit that ties around the waist. Yellow gold bangles light up her wrists alongside an Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Openworked Double Balance Wheel. It's hard for me to believe that Thun, who is so sweet and self-assured, is the same woman that she describes from 2012. "In that very moment, as I sat there in that car, I made a mental note to always remember that buying things won't make me happy. And that I can live without all that extra stuff."

Born to a Malaysian father and a Taiwanese mother, Thun grew up in Singapore, where she attended an international school. Surrounded by teenage girls who

were obsessed with boys and make-up, she became more self-conscious, a feeling that lasted well into early adulthood. "I thought: 'Maybe I'm just weird and need to change myself in order to fit in.'" She began buying designer bags and shoes, but still felt like an outsider. "I'd tell myself: 'You know why you feel this way? It's because you don't have a Birkin.' So, I went and bought myself an Hermès Birkin. I remember opening the box and trying it on and thinking: 'I just don't *feel* anything.'"

A visual explosion of glitz and glamour, deep down Thun's a tomboy. An only child, she spent her childhood playing rough and tumble with her male cousins. She loves sports and playing video games, but watches are what really caught her eye. She recalls flicking through pages of high-society magazines, including *Tatler*, which her mother would leave around their home. Instead of drooling over the jewellery, Thun swooned over the watches.

She bought her first serious timepiece, a Chanel J12, in 2010 after graduating with a bachelor's degree in business from University of Warwick in the UK. In retrospect, the J12 was, for her, a mistake. "I had no clue what I was doing," she admits. "I liked it, but I didn't feel that it was a true reflection of my personality. I felt like a fraud wearing it."



“When people first meet me, they think: ‘Oh, she just likes pretty things.’ But my watches really mean something to me” —LUNG LUNG THUN

Over the next several years, Thun bought dozens of watches in a bid to figure out what she wanted—and who she is. “At one point I had every Rolex Daytona in every colour.” She seems nervous and hesitates, perhaps wondering whether she’s already said too much. “Honestly, a part of me is super embarrassed about how outrageous I was.” For many collectors, watches are a status symbol but, for a long time, they represented a dark part of Thun’s life, as she struggled to recover from a romantic break-up and move past her feelings of self-doubt.

Opening up about her struggle to find happiness has made Thun stronger. She moved to Hong Kong in 2016 and has become one of the city’s most respected and knowledgeable watch collectors. She wears two of her Audemars Piguet wristwatches for *Tatler*’s photo shoot: a Royal Oak Frosted Gold Self Winding; and a Royal Oak Openworked Double Balance Wheel. She bought the latter after visiting the watchmaker’s factory in Le Brassus, Switzerland, in 2018. On the trip, she was asked to describe her dream timepiece. “I told them it would be yellow or white gold, with an openworked double balance wheel, measuring about 37 mm.” A few weeks later, Audemars called to tell Thun that the very model she had described had just been made. She, of course, had to buy it.

Thun also owns pieces by Patek Philippe, Richard Mille and A Lange & Söhne, including

an extremely rare Datograph Flyback. Made from 18-karat pink gold, the handsome dial comes with an oversized date display. Thun had its brown alligator strap replaced with a playful sky-blue version that has a hot pink underside. Also among her favourites is an old-school Seiko pendant watch made from yellow gold that’s shaped like a sphere. More recently, she acquired Cartier’s vintage Tortue Monopusher Chronograph CPCP Ref 2396B.

Thun enjoys watch-spotting on Instagram and regularly posts pictures of her collection using the handle @lunglungthun. “When people first meet me or visit my profile, they assume my watch collecting is very superficial,” she says. “They look at my feed and see how I dress and think: ‘Oh, she just likes pretty things.’ But my watches really mean something to me. They’ve helped me find myself.” But being a woman in a traditionally masculine watch world isn’t easy. “A lot of guys would send me messages online saying: ‘You’re a woman! How can you afford this stuff?’”

The joke’s on them—misogynistic comments like these have spurred Thun to break her silence and encourage more women to get involved in watch collecting. “As women, we’re always told that there are limited spaces for us as at the top.” She leans forward. “That’s simply not true. And we should be working to build each other up, rather than tear each other down.” ┘



Clockwise, from top left: Thun wears the Royal Oak Frosted Gold Self Winding Ref 15454BA by **Audemars Piguet**; Datograph Flyback Ref 403.031 by **A Lange & Söhne**; Thun wears the Royal Oak Openworked Double Balance Wheel Ref 15466BC by **Audemars Piguet**; Datograph Flyback Ref 403.031 by **A Lange & Söhne**



Aesop's signature amber glass bottles are used for many of its products, including fragrances.
Opposite page: Shaolin monk Shi Heng Yi

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a man in a dynamic, almost acrobatic pose. He is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. His arms are raised, and his legs are spread wide, creating a sense of movement and power. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky in shades of blue and grey. The overall mood is energetic and aspirational.

Tatler Features

Secretlab co-founders Ian Ang and Alaric Choo on future-proofing their gaming chair business, Shaolin master Shi Heng Yi's top wellness tips, and Tony Oursler opens his largest-ever art exhibition in Asia





In the Hot Seat

Ian Ang and Alaric Choo, the wunderkind co-founders of gaming chair brand Secretlab are doubling down on the vision for their rising business

By Karen Tee. Photography by Darren Gabriel Leow

As a new year rolls around, some people resolve to lose weight, learn a new language or achieve a career goal. Not Ian Ang and Alaric Choo. Instead, the co-founders of gaming chair company Secretlab want to spend more time playing computer games.

Not that these millennial wunderkinds are slackers by any measure. Hot off a stellar year for the business despite the raging global pandemic, their goal is to achieve more work life “harmony” by doing what they love the most, in an attempt to balance out a madcap few years of seemingly never-ending hustle.

Since Secretlab was launched in December 2014, its ergonomic chairs—designed for a gamer’s comfort even through 14-hour marathon sessions in front of a computer screen—have been garnering rave reviews on

Alaric Choo wears
Prada sweater

“We try to treat each day as if it is our Day One. Basically, we have to constantly innovate, improve and prove ourselves so that we keep growing” — IAN ANG

multiple tech websites including CNet, TechRadar and PCMag. In 2018, Temasek subsidiary Heliconia Capital Management took a minority stake in the company which was, at that point, valued between \$200 million and \$300 million.

Then last year as the pandemic forced desk-bound workers to set up WFH (work from home) offices, sales for Secretlab chairs surged. It sold its millionth chair in 2020, a feat which Ang quips means that they managed to sell “a million more chairs than we expected when we first started”.

The chairs, codenamed Omega, Titan and Titan XL, are designed to support users of different sizes and come in different upholstery options, including synthetic leather (or PU leather), SoftWeave fabric or genuine napa leather.

To cap the watershed year, the 28-year-old Ang, who is the company’s CEO, became the youngest winner of the coveted EY Entrepreneur of the Year award in November. “It’s definitely been a huge surprise and honour to win this award, especially considering that past winners and this year’s finalists are such talented and experienced entrepreneurs,” he says. “But nothing has changed as a result of receiving this award. We are still very focused on building a solid, sustainable business with explosive growth.”

So, even though they hope to reclaim a bit of their past lives as hardcore gamers who spend their waking

hours exploring the swashbuckling digital worlds of heroes and villains, there is a business rationale behind this as well.

“We’ve gamed for years and on top of the quality of our chairs, I think that is what has allowed us to stay relevant and collaborate with the biggest game publishers in the world,” says Choo, 32, who is Secretlab’s chief strategy officer. The duo first met when they were competitive gamers and became business partners when Ang approached Choo to start a company to build the ideal gamer’s chair.

One of the brand’s biggest claims to fame are its hyped-about collaborations with top gaming companies including Blizzard Entertainment’s *World of Warcraft* and Riot Game’s *League of Legends*. Secretlab, which ships directly to customers in over 60 countries, has also snagged partnerships with popular franchises such as HBO’s *Game of Thrones* and Warner Bro’s *Dark Knight* and *Harley Quinn*.

“We understand the franchises very well because of our gaming experience and that has allowed us to collaborate on a level that other brands can’t. We want to stay true to that,” Choo adds.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

In fact, this year’s big game plan is to double down on the same guiding principles that have brought them this far—which is to make the best chair possible for gamers,



Alaric Choo wears
Prada sweater

Tatler

Features

130

“We’ve gamed for years and on top of the quality of our chairs, I think that is what has allowed us to stay relevant and collaborate with the biggest game publishers in the world” — ALARIC CHOO

the people who they believe will stress test these chairs to the limit with their habits.

“Alaric and I are obsessed with gaming chairs,” says Ang. At any given time, both of them will personally test out a few different chair models in their own offices, he says. “We’ve never developed chairs for mainstream users but for hardcore gamers, the one percentile users who demand a lot. And if it is good enough for them, we think that it would be an option for anyone else, who needs it just a little bit less such as when working from home.”

To stay ahead of the competition, they are not letting up their quest for the perfect chair and continue to invest heavily in research and development for each new series they launch. Prototypes are tested in glass chambers to test the effect of sweat, humidity and other conditions on the wear and tear of the materials. They also consult ergonomics experts and doctors to tweak the designs to ensure maximum comfort.

Improvements include using foam with a more uniform consistency and leatherette that is softer, more supple and more durable. Likening the design progression to Apple’s iPhones, Choo says, “If we were to really compare the chairs side to side, there’s almost no similar parts at this point.”

A SUSTAINABLE DIRECTION

While some startup founders launch companies with an exit plan, Ang and Choo are clear that they are in this for the long haul. “We are planning for a strong future and are very focused on building something that is

long-term,” Ang says, noting that he keeps a close eye on Secretlab’s bottom line to ensure that its profit margin remains healthy.

In part, this is borne out of a drive to ensure their legacy lives on, especially with the ongoing hard slog to expand to more new markets. Ang reflects, “While we have successfully expanded to the biggest consumer markets in the world, each extension was risky and painful as hell.”

As they function on a direct-to-consumer model, their expansion entails not just setting up an office but hiring the right personnel who are willing to innovate and also establishing an entire logistics chain.

Last year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, they launched in China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. “We are fortunate that we’re still growing in times like these where a lot of companies are struggling to survive, but it wasn’t without issues as well,” says Choo. “Our supply chain, production and operations are unique to us. The team has been working extremely hard around the clock to adapt rapidly and scale up the business.”

This drive is inspired by Ang’s “Day One” philosophy, which the duo says is how they have stayed the course through the daily bustle of steering their company all these years. He says, “We have gone through so many phases of growth that it is easy for us to be complacent and stagnant—but this is what kills many companies. So we try to treat each day as if it’s our Day One. Basically, we have to constantly innovate, improve and prove ourselves so that we keep growing.”

Modern-day witches
like Gabriela Herstik
say life is more fun
with a little magick





Image Alexandra Herstik

Witch, Please

The latest trend in spirituality might just cast a spell on you. Is there really something behind all the fuss about ‘ritual magick’, or is it all just hocus pocus? *By Coco Marett*

“Witches don’t burn, honey,” Sabrina Villard, a modern-day shaman, tells me as we’re standing in a ceremony room inside her chic apartment on Robinson Road in Hong Kong’s exclusive Mid-Levels district. “We are not going anywhere.”

As a baby, Villard took her first steps in the Sahara desert, just south of Algeria, holding the hand of her great grandmother, a Bedouin shaman who lived to be 123 years old. It was from her that Villard inherited her craft. “She is still with me every day, guiding me,” Villard tells me as she looks fondly at an altar adorned

with candles, flowers and a faded photo of her great-grandmother.

By day, Villard is the project manager for Asia-Pacific at one of the world’s biggest luxury fashion houses. By night, she guides clients on shamanic journeys, straddling the living and spiritual realms, and if some people might think that’s a little woo-woo, it turns out that there are a growing number of others who are tapping into ancient practices, witchcraft included, as a means to navigate and find balance in an ever-changing world. And Villard is among those who are approaching spirituality through a more modern lens.

“The traditional definition of a shaman is a seer in the dark,” she says. “I don’t know about anyone’s life when they come to me. I am shown what you are ready to see by your spirit guides, ancestors and your own memories. I have a conversation with your soul.”

As more people allow themselves to explore spirituality outside traditional religions, ritual magick (the preferred spelling in these circles) and witchy ways of healing that were once banished to the fringes of society now have people’s interest piqued. These include beginner-level basics like meditation and tarot reading, or more out-there concepts such as reiki, aura cleansing, dream reading, moon worshipping or spell casting.

“Our lives are so chaotic and so much of modern life is designed to take us out of the present moment,” says Nathalie Kelley, an actress who appeared in *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* and *Dynasty*, and a co-founder of Ritual Community, an online platform that provides resources to incorporate sacred practices into everyday life. “Rituals like meditation or tea ceremonies are ancient practices designed to bring us into, and ground us in, the present moment.”

The other co-founders of Ritual Community, based between Sydney, Australia and California, US, are Isis Indriya, who identifies professionally as a “visionary, creative director, experience designer, community leader, ritualist, culture maker and educator” and “a carrier of the Oracle Clan Fire and ordained Priestess of the Fellowship of Isis”, and Brooke Brash, who left an unsatisfying career in the corporate world to pursue wellness and ritual study three years ago.

“People are seeking a more sacred way of living,” Indriya says. “They’re

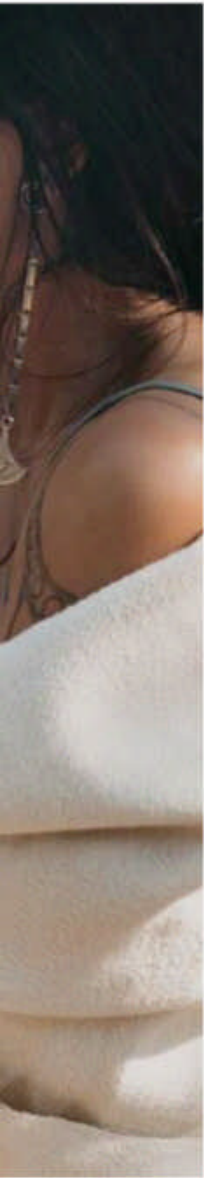


“People are seeking a more sacred way of living” —ISIS INDRIYA

seeking that depth of connection with the self, other humans, plant and animal beings and the elements; how to be part of the ecosystem again rather than sticking out of it. We need that equilibrium in order to help with this transitional time.”

As it turns out, there are many ways to witch. There are sea witches, plant witches, city witches like Villard, kitchen witches and the newer generation of digital witches.

The coronavirus pandemic, in fact, might be one reason why we’re seeing a rise in coven gatherings, moon ceremonies and energetic healing sessions held over Zoom. The #witchesofinstagram hashtag, an amalgamation of cheeky witch memes, DIY spells and potions, and neo-goth outfits of the day, is more than five million posts strong and growing. And of course, witches remain a fixture of pop



Photography Kwannam Chu (Villard)



Sabrina Villard is a modern-day shaman who guides her clients on spiritual journeys. **Opposite page:** Isis Indriya (pictured right) is one of many tapping into ancient practices to help others find balance in an ever-changing world

culture, from the 2020 remake of *The Witches* with Anne Hathaway, which reset Roald Dahl's story in 1968 Alabama, to so many television series—from the *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* to *A Discovery of Witches*—that bring their heroines to face challenges of the modern day.

“What’s the point of a practice that doesn’t evolve with the times?” asks Gabriela Herstik, author of books including *Inner Witch* and *Bewitching the Elements*.

History has shown that surges in interest in witchcraft have always come in times of instability, particularly when trust in establishment ideals begins to wane. Second-wave feminism in the 1960s to the '80s, and the #MeToo movement that started in 2017, all saw witches come together to help their fellow women. Last October, with the looming election between Donald Trump and Joe Biden in the US, a video went viral of a Hong Kong “villain hitter”—older women who perform black magic rituals beneath a flyover in the city’s bustling Causeway Bay district—cursing Trump by repeatedly hitting a photo of the presidential candidate with a slipper. Did it work? It’s hard to say. But we’ll get into the topic of a placebo effect a little later in this article.

“Because of the hyper-connectivity we have today, and the intensity of what’s happening politically, with Covid-19 and climate change, there’s never been a more important time for people to understand their own power,” says Herstik, who regularly shares mantras and astrology-based advice to her 42,000 Instagram followers. She also previously wrote an online column for *Nylon* magazine in which she taught readers how to use magick to fix their money problems and manifest better sex.

While most witches would agree that there are no real prerequisites,



Actress Nathalie Kelley co-founded Ritual Community, an online platform that provides resources to incorporate sacred practices into everyday life

or even a clear definition of what constitutes being a witch, some aspects of the recent phenomenon of mystic hedonism has made more purist practitioners wince. Palo santo, the sacred wood traditionally burned by shamans, is now a staple of yoga studios and trendy lifestyle stores around the world. Retailers like Lane Crawford and Revolve sell water bottles that contain crystals, promising a hit of good energy with every sip.

“Some people like the theatrics of it; the crystals, the potions or dressing a certain way ... but it’s not

for me,” says Villard, who prefers not to use any tools in her shamanic practice. “For me, the modern witch is sure of herself and her intuition.”

I can personally vouch for Villard’s witchy intuition. During a session with her, she was able to recall people and memories from my childhood, and her descriptions of animals and flowers she saw were identical to those I had witnessed while in a light shamanic sleep state.

No matter which witch one decides to be, there’s one thread that binds them. “We use the natural world to

Ritual magick and witchy ways of healing that were once banished to the fringes of society now have people's interest piqued

manifest our intentions, and to understand life," says Villard.

Rebecca Howe, a practising witch, medium and Tarot reader in Hong Kong, agrees. "Shamans, witches, naturalists and psychics all work with nature's energy and the cycles of the world; the cycles of the self, the moon, the sun, the planets and the seasons." But how they interpret signs may differ from one practice to the next.

Take the pentagram. It carries spooky connotations for its association with Satanism, but in neo-paganism and witchcraft, the pentagram is a symbol of life, as each point of the star represents the five elements: spirit, air, water, fire and earth. It is one of many symbols or tools used in magick that are easily misunderstood.

The wand, Howe explained to me, is used to point and direct energy and intention, not dissimilar to prayer flags in areas like Bhutan and Tibet, where the wind is believed to carry their blessings to the surrounding land and people. Abracadabra, far from a curse, comes from the Aramaic phrase "*avra kehdabra*", which translates to "I will create as I speak".

"What people call spells are really just intention and manifestation," Villard explains. "It is no different to praying for something or

setting an intention for yourself when you meditate."

Shoshana Weinberg, a practising witch for 40 years who previously worked as the spa director for Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts across Asia, says, "Witchcraft, for me, is just knowing how to heal mentally or physically. Knowing how to channel the whispers of the spirits around us, crafting the wisdom of the unspoken. All one has to do is listen to the breath and quiet the mind. All the answers will come."

Today, Weinberg dedicates herself completely to sharing her ritual practices; she hosts monthly moon gatherings and brews healing herbs and elixirs, which she learned over decades of travelling and working with spiritual masters around the world. I asked Weinberg why she thinks so many people, including herself, have found themselves delving deeper into witchcraft in the last year or so.

"The vibrations have been lifted higher by shifts in the planets and the stars, the astrologers will all tell you, and the veils are being exposed and we are seeing for the first time," she explained. "We are ascending as a people and so our hearts are becoming open. I have been healing and studying and learning from the Earth for more than 40 years, and I feel that the youth already know what took me a lifetime

to learn. Everything is speeding up and the knowledge is easy to access. We are in a beautiful time."


The rise of spiritual practices and witchcraft doesn't come without questions, though. Like, does any of this stuff actually work? Howe, who has seen a surge in clients from the corporate world, says, "Whenever bankers tell me that astrology is crap, I remind them JP Morgan was believed to have once said, 'Millionaires don't need astrologers, but billionaires do.'"

Throughout history, royals and elites have been known to employ spiritual advisers like sorcerers, oracles and astrologers and held them in high regard for their advice on everything from how to decorate a home to when to launch a new business and even how to take down an enemy.

Still, that doesn't really answer the question of whether witchcraft and ritual magick work, or if it's all a placebo effect. For believers, however, a placebo is actually proof that humans have the ability to heal and create outcomes based on belief and expectation.

"When you start to understand how connected everything is, and how powerful our thoughts and vibrations are, the right things start to appear," says Howe. "There are no coincidences."





A New Way to Well

Wellness has become more than just the products in our beauty cabinet or a quiet meditative moment. Instead, many people are looking to wellness as a way to reclaim their power: the power to do better for themselves and the environment, to cultivate self-awareness, to know who they are and what they stand for.

To mark the start of a new year, *Tatler* spoke to three experts who, in their own unique and unconventional ways, are shifting people's perspectives on what it means to be well. Aesop co-founder Suzanne Santos addresses the growing ethical demands being made on the beauty industry. Shaolin master Shi Heng Yi shares three essential steps to self-mastery. And hypnotherapist Sonia Samtani talks about the life-changing potential of healing on a subconscious level. Their examples might just give you the inspiration to start the year on a positive and productive note.

Suzanne Santos
co-founded Australian
skincare brand Aesop
in 1987

Poetry



and Purpose

As beauty and wellness become increasingly driven by values rather than value, the influence of Aesop and its pioneering concept is becoming undeniable *By Coco Marett*

Cult is a word that gets thrown around often in the beauty world. But few brands can claim to have such a legion of loyalists as Aesop. Since it was founded in 1987 in Melbourne, the Australian skincare brand has drummed up an army of conscious customers who care about design, the environment, consumption and, if we're being real, status.

I first met Suzanne Santos, co-founder and chief customer officer of Aesop, when we appeared together on a panel to discuss how Covid-19 has transformed the beauty industry. "We've lived in the bathroom in a very matter-of-fact way, where we've tried to do things quickly; slap product on our face and rapidly clean our teeth," she lamented at the time. "Now, we have this pause, and the bathroom is a place where there is consideration. I personally welcome the shift in demand for more time to nurture and celebrate oneself. We have always encouraged our customers to use each product with a sense of purpose."

Conducted over Zoom, Santos spent much of our discussion pacing around her sun-soaked Melbourne living room, dressed in a loose white ensemble and thick-framed glasses. Her demeanour is at first intimidating, then refreshing, then captivating. You soon come to realise that, like Aesop, Santos simply doesn't operate the same way others of her ilk do. There are no rehearsed or publicist-approved answers; careful and considered in her responses, she possesses the kind of contemplative

authenticity that has shaped the brand she's helped to build over three decades. My interest piqued, I asked if we could continue our conversation after the panel.

"We have adhered to a fiercely independent approach to skincare, and found our voice by operating outside of the industry," Santos tells me in a follow-up conversation. Aesop has been a renegade of sorts in the wellness space, and as more brands move towards becoming cleaner, greener and more inclusive, they're taking notes on the codes that have defined Aesop from day dot, as they say in Australia.

Some examples: Aesop has never used animal testing on any of its products, which are 100 per cent cruelty-free and vegan, and housed in eco-friendly amber glass bottles to preserve the potent botanical extracts. Its androgynous packaging also makes Aesop one of the early gender-neutral beauty companies, characterised by using art and literature, rather than models, to represent the brand, which is apt since it was named after an Ancient Greek storyteller.

"The ideals of this generation in terms of fairness and equality, of what is inside a jar and the parameters of how it got there ... [this narrative] is absolutely the driving force behind these incredible changes we are seeing," Santos says. "The beauty industry has acknowledged that it can no longer speak in the same voice [that it has] and the demands of that will become higher, and the relinquishing of brands that don't respond will be clear."



A pioneer in slow, clean beauty, Aesop has always used sustainable packaging—its amber glass bottles are instantly recognisable, and a common sight in upscale hotel and restaurant restrooms around the world. Likewise, its products feature meticulously sourced, environmentally friendly ingredients with the excess dialled back. “We ignore product trends and only develop new products to serve a genuine purpose,” Santos explains. “It is our quest to do less and do it well.”

A perfect example is the recently launched collection of Aesop candles. As a brand known for its unmistakably earthy scents—Aesop has made faces smell of herbaceous parsley seed, nourished hands with notes of cedar atlas and rosemary leaf, and even masked bathroom unpleasantness with its tangerine peel and ylang ylang

“Post-Poo Drops”—one wonders why it’s taken 33 years to release something as simple and, frankly, commercial, as a candle. But, hey, that’s just the Aesop way.

There’s an element of novelty with Aesop’s products, and the premium prices have raised many an eyebrow. In 2018, the *Wall Street Journal* published an article about Aesop titled “Should I Splurge on \$40 Hand Wash to Impress My Guests?” More than seemingly basic skincare, customers are paying for ethical ingredients, the appeal of treading lightly on the environment and the meticulous in-house research and development that promises both quality and moral consistency.

Aesop has also rejected the promotion of beauty ideals. “We don’t believe in preying on the weaknesses or insecurities of our customers,” says Santos, adding

“We ignore product trends. It is our quest to do less and do it well”

—SUZANNE SANTOS



From left: An Aesop store in Kyoto, Japan; the use of amber glass bottles is a brand signature



that she and her colleagues “view ageing as a dignified process, believing the marks of its progress should be embraced rather than obscured”. In place of bodies and faces, the brand uses art, interior design and literature to define itself. Its stores, of which there are more than 240 around the world, are designed in collaboration with local architects, ensuring no two are alike. Santos describes them as “places for peace and quiet contemplation”. Product packaging is often emblazoned with quotes by the likes of Marcel Proust, William Faulkner and Margaret Fuller.

“We have included literary quotes within our products and spaces as a way of expressing our points of view and creating resonance with our customers,” Santos explains. “Our relationship with the arts has been integral to the

development of Aesop; it has fuelled and inspired us for 30 years.”

In October 2019, the brand launched *Aesop: The Book*, published by Rizzoli. More than a retrospective journey into the brand’s history, it is a love letter to the artisans, artists and architects that have inspired and shaped the brand. The book opens with this quote by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *Le Petit Prince*: “If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up the people to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and open seas.”

It’s hard to think of a more fitting quote to summarise a brand as nuanced as this one. After all, Aesop has made people do something that skincare brands usually don’t: it has made them think.



Shaolin master Shi Heng Yi, who is the headmaster of the Shaolin Temple Europe, introduces three steps to self-mastery



Master of One

Shaolin master Shi Heng Yi talks about the power of self-mastery, and how the path to wellness can be as simple as watching the clouds go by *By Coco Marett*

“How does one begin an email to a monk?” I wondered when I first reached out to master Shi Heng Yi, who belongs to the 35th generation of warrior monks known as Shaolin masters, after watching his TEDx Talk about self-mastery. A joke came to mind once told by a Hindu priest named Dandapani, about someone who asked him whether it was appropriate for monks to use email. He replied, “Yes, as long as there are no attachments.”

Non-attachment is one of the first, and most important, lessons taught to monks. Traditionally, when entering a monastery, everything must be forfeited: contact with friends and family,

money and all worldly possessions. That principle has new resonance for many people in today’s vastly altered world, and some see a valuable lesson here for starting the year with a fresh perspective, unencumbered by material things. But I’m not suggesting you go Awol and donate all of your nice things to charity. You can still be mindful while dressed in your Manolos, as long as you recognise that you own them, and not the other way around.

“All material things can be lost and even the healthiest of bodies will deteriorate,” Shi tells me from the office of the Shaolin Temple Europe, in Otterberg, Germany,



where he is currently headmaster. He is dressed in a grey robe, his hands clasped together. “If you invest everything in something that, by nature, is unstable, while there is nothing wrong with doing so, you must acknowledge that one day, you will have to let it go.”

According to the non-profit Global Wellness Institute, mental wellness is now a \$121 billion-dollar industry. But self-mastery—a commitment to a lifestyle of never-ending self-improvement—is something money cannot buy, and there is something beautifully brutal about the Shaolin way of life, a frightening yet liberating understanding that without external stimulants and things to blame, all that’s left is how well we know and are in control of ourselves.

“There is only one area of control that is in your hands, and that is what you are carrying inside of you. This is something about you that nobody in this world can access,”

“An unsettled mind is either worrying about the future or travelling into the past, getting lost in thought” —SHI HENG YI

says Shi. “Self-mastery is about exploring, observing and learning about exactly this. And once you have that understanding, you can make better decisions and respond to life, and to others, with more clarity and understanding. You can find stillness in an unstable world.” I asked him to give some advice that everyone, even non-monks, can

think about to take a first step on that journey.

OUT OF THE CLOUDS

Step 1: Clear your mind

“An unsettled mind is either worrying about the future or travelling into the past, getting lost in thought. You start to wonder;

can I do this? Is this the right path? What will the others say? What if?” says Shi, adding that as a result, “the mind cannot synchronise with your own actions any more, and you become disconnected from the goals and aspirations you set for yourself”.

An important part of self-mastery is learning to observe our wandering thoughts, rather than engage with them. This allows us to move seamlessly through the clutter rather than allowing it to bog us down. Shi likens thoughts to clouds: “Sometimes the sky is clear and sometimes there are clouds. Your thoughts are like clouds; they come and go. But we can get so consumed by our fleeting thoughts and worries that we forget behind them is a clear, blue sky,” he explains. “You are not your thoughts. You are the sky.”

DON'T CHEAT YOURSELF

Step 2: Stop looking at hard work as “work”

Incredible physical feats aside, the Shaolin warrior monks view their training as a form of moving meditation; it is discipline, self-control and self-mastery in motion. Relocating to a Shaolin temple might not be an option for everyone, but there are ways to apply aspects of the monastery mindset to modern life.

“You might feel inspired to change your life after reading or watching something, but inspiration is merely a kind of energy—if you don’t take action, it does not stick. It’s best to start with small steps, like taking control of your sleep and nutrition,” says Shi. “If you find you are cheating yourself, or

you’re struggling to stay on the right path, find someone to hold you responsible, like a personal trainer.”

At the end of the day, Shi says, “It is about finding something stable for yourself, so that no matter what the circumstances are, you know you can’t get lost or swept away by anything external. Honesty and respect to yourself is essential. Taking care of yourself is a must.”



YOU ARE WHAT YOUR MIND EATS

Step 3: Put yourself on a healthier diet when it comes to what you read

“Try to become more aware of what your mind is consuming from the moment you wake up until the moment you fall asleep,” says Shi. “The books we read and the conversations we have feed our consciousness and can shift our perception of the world, and of ourselves.”

The same way a steady diet of junk food can leave us feeling sluggish, uninspired and unhappy with ourselves, excessively scrolling through social media, or “rage viewing” the news can have the same effect on our mental wellbeing.

Says Shi: “If you find yourself constantly feeling anxious, angry or you’re always comparing yourself [to others], then it’s time to adjust your mind’s diet.”

The Mind's Eye

According to hypnotherapist Sonia Samtani, deep emotional healing begins with a journey into your subconscious. Here's how she can take you there *By Coco Marett*

Photography by Jocelyn Tam

A registered hypnotherapist and founder of Hong Kong's All About You wellness clinic, Sonia Samtani has spent the past 15 years helping patients work through crippling phobias, substance abuse, eating disorders and other personal traumas or blocks. "People only change when staying the same is too painful," she says. "That's when we begin to look inwards."

By using hypnotherapy to tap into her clients' subconscious, Samtani works with them to provide a safe space where they can access and address defining moments in their life that have led to long-term behavioural patterns or distress. Many people see hypnosis as a form of entertainment, but it can be a life-changing therapy, one with practical applications when you look at the underlying principles of seeking out the roots of our behaviour.

"We go into the subconscious mind with hypnotherapy to understand where, when and why a particular issue was created, and give you an opportunity to release the beliefs and emotions you've stored. This gives you the chance to reinterpret the same event with acceptance," Samtani explains, adding that every one of us experiences life through our own unique filter, one shaped by our personal experiences and beliefs about ourselves and of the world around us. "When we experience a situation, especially when we are children, we respond by creating an interpretation of that experience. That interpretation then becomes a belief."

For example, a seven-year-old boy gets up in front of his class

to make a presentation. He gets nervous, freezes up and other students begin to chuckle. In that moment, he interprets speaking in front of others as unsafe, and forms a belief that he is a terrible public speaker, or that people don't care what he has to say, which he carries into adulthood. This could manifest itself as a lack of confidence or an inability to connect and communicate with others.

"These beliefs become an energy, and while energy can't be created or destroyed, it can be transformed," says Samtani. In a session, she acts as a kind of chaperone as you meet the figurative ghosts of your past; the moments and traumas that spark seemingly illogical psychological blocks that continue to haunt us; the ones we are desperate to dissolve.

"If you want to be a confident public speaker, but your subconscious mind tells you 'you can't do it, people won't like you; they'll reject you; you might fail and go blank,' that subconscious thought is 6,000 times louder than what you want, because your conscious mind is only about 10 per cent of the brain while the other 90 per cent is subconscious," Samtani explains. "Oftentimes, the only reason you can't get what you want is because your subconscious mind is saying something different from your conscious mind. As hypnotherapists, we look at aligning your conscious goals and desires, to your subconscious mind. Once you do this, all other parts of you begin to change and the adult of today is now different, because you are now able to look at the past through a different filter."



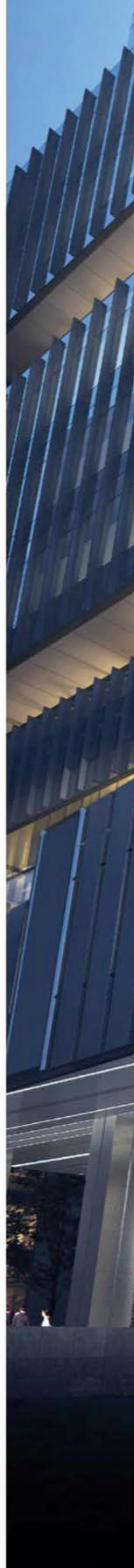
I am loved I am safe I am happy
I am accepted I am powerful
I am worthy I am complete
I am confident I am beautiful
I am successful I am free



Shanghai Callings

For years the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art has been at the forefront of the art scene in Beijing—now it's expanding beyond the capital

By Oliver Giles





A rendering of Edge, the tower in Shanghai's Jing'an district that will house UCCA Edge, a new art museum. **Opposite page:** Philip Tinari, director and CEO of UCCA Center for Contemporary Art

Images K Wah Group (Edge); UCCA (Tinari)



The Covid-19 pandemic hit museums like a tsunami. Institutions around the world were forced to close their doors for months on end, leading to huge losses in revenue, drastic cost-cutting measures and desperate calls for funding. But while galleries in the US and Europe floundered, one prominent museum in China was not only staying afloat—it was planning a major expansion.

“We are hoping to open our space in Shanghai at the end of the first quarter of 2021,” says Philip Tinari, director and CEO of UCCA Center for Contemporary Art. “It is a very exciting moment for us.”

UCCA was founded in 2007 in a 110,000 sq ft former factory in Beijing’s 798 Art District, where it has

hosted nearly 150 exhibitions and draws more than a million visitors a year. In late 2018, Tinari opened the museum’s first outpost, UCCA Dune, an underground, cave-like gallery buried beneath the beach of the popular resort town of Aranya on China’s Bohai Sea coast. Now, Tinari is opening a third space: UCCA Edge, a 50,000 sq ft space in Shanghai’s up-and-coming Jing’an neighbourhood. “For the first ten years we were very focused on Beijing, but we felt it was time for the institution to build a more national profile for itself,” says Tinari.

For Tinari, the opening in Shanghai is a moment of great opportunity and huge responsibility: he and his team will oversee all three spaces. “It is one curatorial



From far left: Jincheng Airport; *The House Where I Grew Up*; and *Li Wu Works the Night Shift and Still Can't Sleep By Day*, all by Liu Xiaodong for his 2010 exhibition at UCCA in Beijing. Liu is working on a new series for a show at UCCA Edge in Shanghai scheduled for the summer



department working on all of these locations. This is not a franchise model,” says Tinari, 41, who is American and moved to China in 2001. Some exhibitions will move between Beijing and Shanghai, but others will be devised for a specific venue. “Each space has its own character, but all of them share the same mission. Everything we do comes out of the idea that art can impact people’s lives, that art is an important way of making global connections and that art is an important way of understanding China’s place in the world.”

UCCA Edge will occupy three floors of a new 18-storey office tower being built by Hong Kong-based developer K Wah—a very different environment from UCCA’s sprawling, industrial headquarters and the subterranean Dune. “Both 798 and Dune are destinations,” says Tinari. “People come to 798 in the mindset to see art and go to Aranya looking for a vacation, but in Shanghai we’re right in the middle of the city, just an escalator ride away from the public.” The building sits atop the intersection of two subway lines, is walking distance from the People’s Square and a stone’s throw from the Bulgari Hotel, and Joy City, one of the busiest malls in Shanghai.

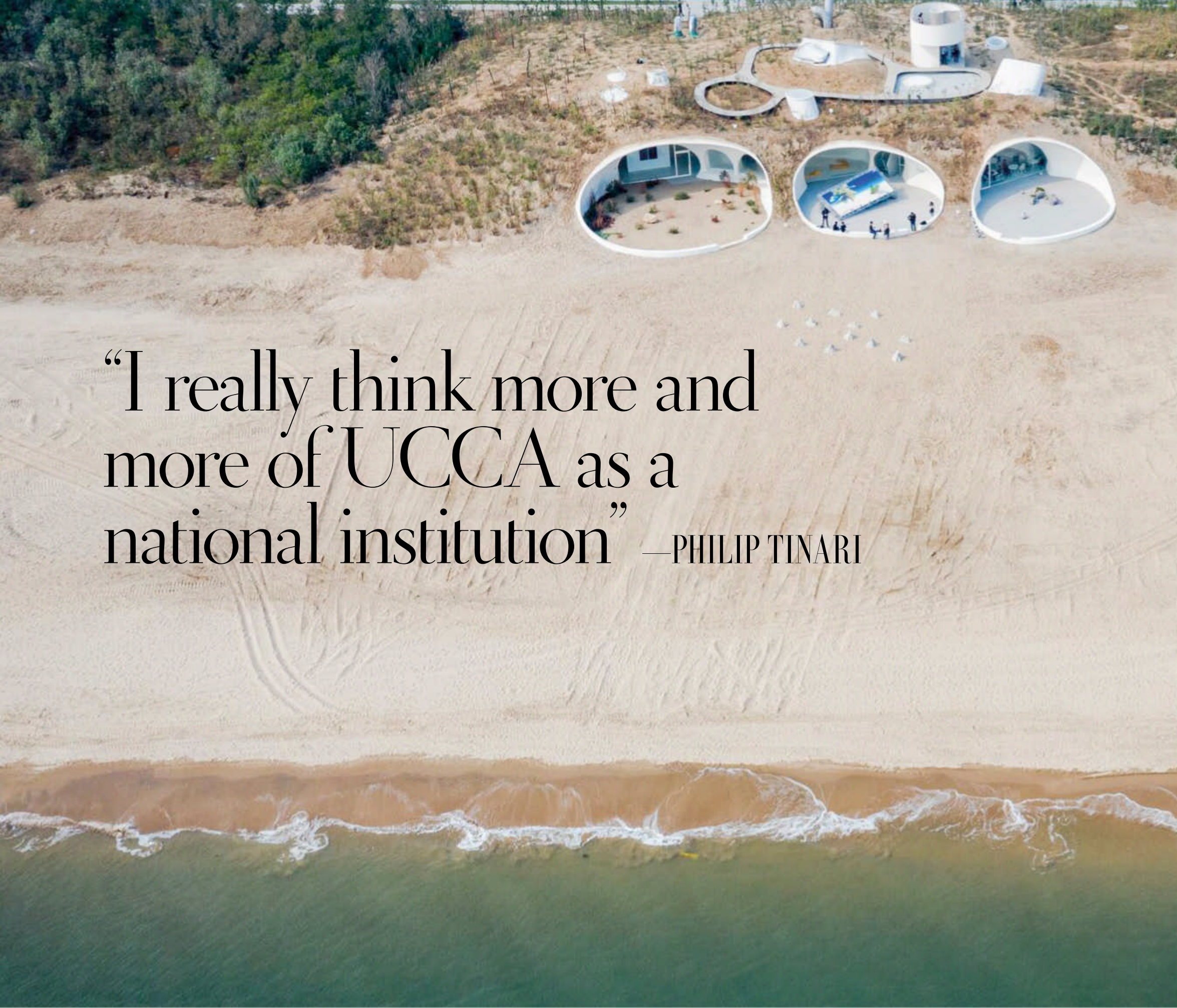
New York-based architecture studio SO-IL has been tasked with transforming what would have been space for shops and restaurants into world-class galleries. “It is not a small task,” admits Tinari. “The building was already under construction as a commercial tower when we started designing the museum space. There are trade-offs—the ceilings on one floor aren’t as high as we would like—but it was still a great a possibility for us.”

SO-IL’s co-founders and lead architects, Jing Liu and Florian Idenburg, are using texture to define different rooms in UCCA Edge: rough, stucco-like finishes dominate public areas like the lobby, while the galleries will feel more polished. An architectural highlight is a wraparound terrace with impressive city views that Tinari will use to exhibit large sculptures outdoors,

something he has never had space for in Beijing. SO-IL has also carved out space for a museum shop and a bistro, which will be operated by Da Vittorio, an Italian restaurant in Shanghai that was recently awarded its second Michelin star. The restaurant will be called New Wave in honour of the first exhibition UCCA ever hosted, ‘85 *New Wave: The Birth of Chinese Contemporary Art*.

The inaugural exhibition at UCCA Edge will also be a nod to that show. “‘85 *New Wave* was a group show that was really the first time you had an attempt by a non-governmental Chinese institution to make sense of the Chinese art scene in the Eighties,” says Tinari. “The opening exhibition at UCCA Edge is inspired by another moment—this time the year 2000, when the Chinese art world became international. Shanghai was the epicentre of that.”

In 2000, the Chinese government invited western artists to take part in the Shanghai Biennale for the first time. South African painter Marlene Dumas, British-Indian sculptor Anish Kapoor and Swiss video and installation artist Piplo Rist were just a few of

An aerial photograph of the UCCA Edge building, a modern architectural structure with several circular and rectangular openings, situated on a sandy beach. The building is surrounded by greenery and a few people are visible near it. The ocean is visible in the foreground, with waves breaking on the shore.

“I really think more and more of UCCA as a national institution” —PHILIP TINARI

the international stars whose work was shown in the state-run Shanghai Art Museum, marking a major shift in cultural policy. There was also a series of daring off-site events, including a screening of Matthew Barney’s experimental Hungarian opera, *Cremaster 5*, part of his nine-hour-long, sexually explicit *Cremaster Cycle* film series.

Chinese art also enjoyed a boom at the turn of the millennium. “In the Nineties there was an underground scene, especially in Shanghai, then in 2000 art suddenly came out of the basement—there were public exhibitions, galleries were opening,” says Tinari. “If we can do this exhibition right, it’ll be a love letter to millennial Shanghai.”

After that show ends, UCCA Edge will open a solo show of new paintings by Liu Xiaodong in the summer. In 2010, Liu had a show at UCCA in Beijing, *Hometown Boy*, for which he returned to the city of Jincheng in northeastern China where he grew up,

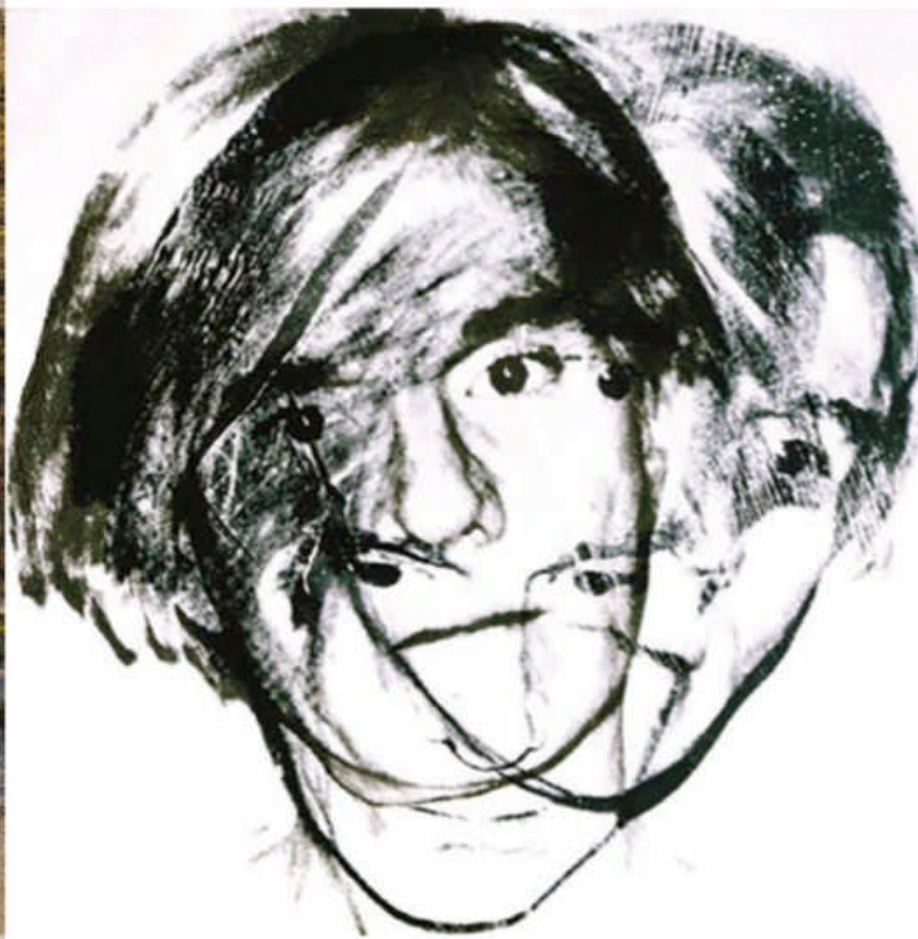
and painted his childhood friends in their middle age. “It was a beautiful reflection on social mobility and migration and how many people in China have built new lives for themselves in the midst of this economic transformation,” says Tinari.

Liu is delighted to have the first solo exhibition in UCCA Edge. “It’s a great honour,” he says. “The service UCCA provides is first-class. I’m not only talking about what they do for artists, but also for society and the whole contemporary Chinese art scene. For this show I will paint my mother, my brother and a migrant worker who often works with my brother, as well as a few friends of mine: [author] Ah Cheng and [film directors] Wang Xiaoshuai and Zhang Yuan. I will also paint my wife, Yu Hong, and do a self-portrait.”

Chang, Wang and Zhang are all celebrated in their fields, as is Liu, but they knew each other before they became famous. “I met them in university, and we have been friends ever since,” Liu says. He is particularly



Left: Aerial views of UCCA Dune, a gallery buried beneath the sand in the seaside town of Aranya. **Below:** *Self-Portrait* (1978) by Andy Warhol, one of the more than 200 Warhol works that will travel to China this year to be exhibited at UCCA in Beijing and UCCA Edge in Shanghai



the millennium, with dozens of billionaire-backed, privately funded museums springing up on the West Bund. “The number of new ‘museums’ and cultural institutions is overwhelming and begs the questions, who are these spaces being created for? Has the art-going public increased in pace with the number of venues?” says Mathieu Borysevicz, an art critic and founder of the gallery Bank and cultural consultancy Mabsociety. “UCCA’s advantage in this landscape is that it is a brand that has been cultivated in Beijing for over a decade and carries with it a strong track record. We hope that it will bring the same calibre of exhibitions, educational programmes and vibrancy to the Shanghai scene.”

Tinari is also keen to emphasise that he and his team hope to learn from Shanghai as well as contribute to it. “The culture of exhibition-going in Shanghai is by far the most sophisticated in China, it’s a point of pride for the city. As a cultural experience, going to galleries is completely normalised and is very much part of the urban culture, especially among younger people,” he says. “By all accounts people in Shanghai are quite picky in what they’re looking for from a gallery experience, so I’m sure there is a lot we can learn from being there.”

Whatever lessons Tinari and his team learn in Shanghai will, he hopes, help them expand UCCA even further. “I really think more and more of UCCA as a national institution, with spaces in a number of the most important cities and a few more architecturally driven places like Dune, which are sites for cultural pilgrimages,” says Tinari. “That’s the vision.”

excited to paint his wife, who is an acclaimed artist in her own right. “We met in high school when she was 14 years old and I was 17 years old. When we were in college, we fell in love. All aspects of my life are inseparable from her.”

A major Andy Warhol exhibition will end the year. First the show will run at UCCA in Beijing from July 3 to October 10, then it will move to the Shanghai space in November, where it will stay until roughly Chinese New Year 2022. With more than 200 works being lent by the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, it will be the largest Warhol show ever held in China. Art critics are already anticipating that the show will break UCCA’s attendance record, which was set in 2019 when more than 350,000 people visited the institution’s Picasso show in Beijing.

There are naysayers who question whether Shanghai needs another art museum: the city has famously gone through a gallery-building boom since the turn of

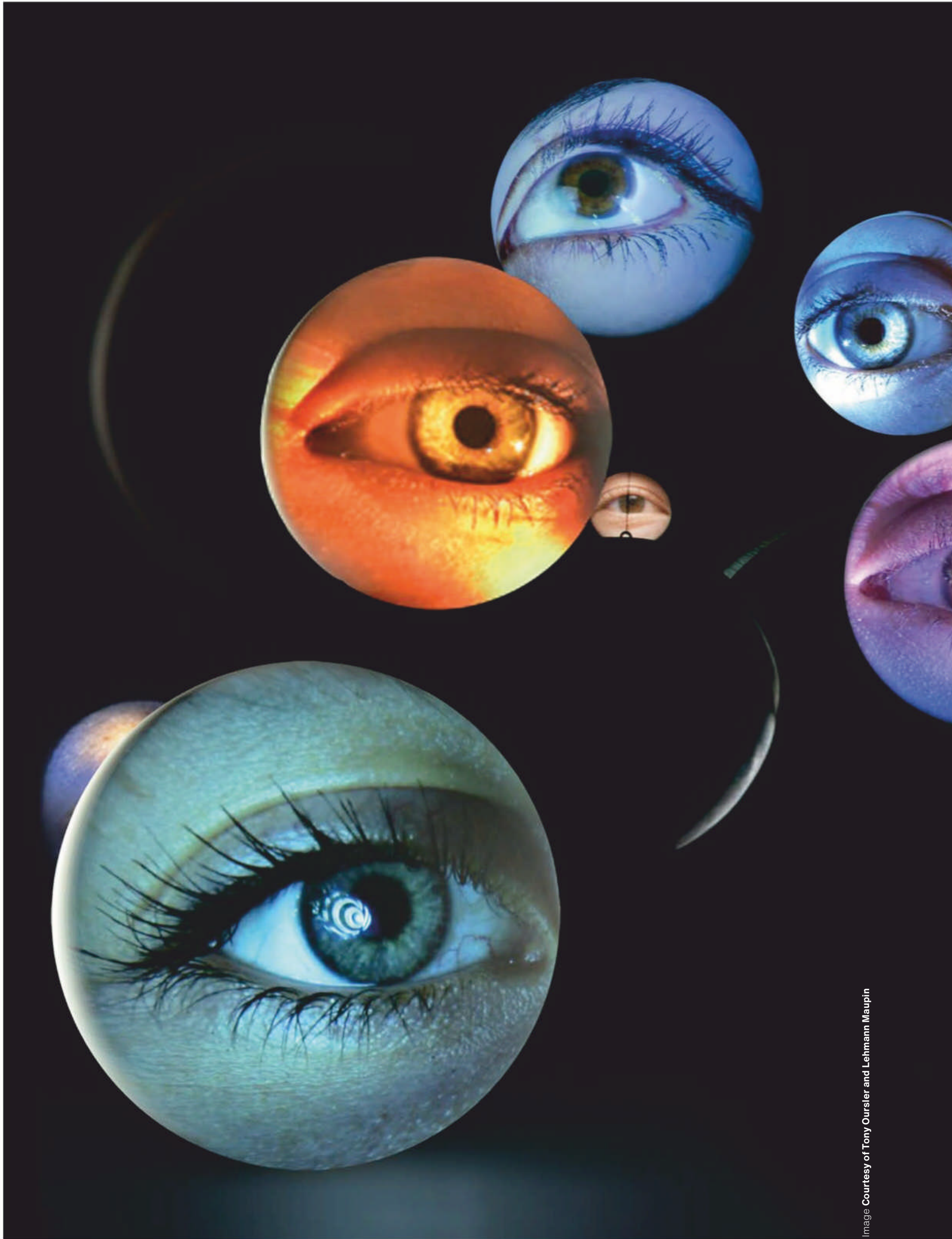


Image Courtesy of Tony Oursler and Lehmann Maupin



They Are Watching You

Tony Oursler's video installations offer a revelatory, and sometimes creepy, perspective on our collective obsession with technology. A new exhibition in Taiwan brings his life's work into focus

By Oliver Giles

Obscura (2014) by Tony Oursler, which features videos of eyes projected on to sculptural orbs. The eyes stare and blink at gallery-goers as they walk past




Artist Tony Oursler has spent the past 50 years making eerie installations that pose big questions about humanity's future. Will artificial intelligence help us or harm us? Is it possible to end our addiction to smartphones? Are we in charge or have machines already taken over? But last year, when the pandemic tore across continents and millions of lives hung in the balance, Oursler took a step into the past.

"I shrunk my studio down to just a table—it was a little bit like going back to the Seventies or Eighties," Oursler says, speaking over the phone from his home in New York. "Most of the time I was alone, and it was a chance to go back to enjoying creativity in a very classic sense. It was just me and some clay or a piece of paper or a video camera."

Oursler also spent a large chunk of the year digging through his archives to choose works for *Black Box*, a retrospective exhibition opening on January 23 at the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts (KMFA) in Taiwan. Showcasing pieces made from the 1970s to the present day, *Black Box* is Oursler's first major museum show in Asia and one of the largest projects of his career. "It is a great honour to have people interested in my work in Asia, and it has been such a journey looking back at my work," he says.

A pioneer of video art, Oursler started experimenting with the medium when he was a student at the California Institute of Arts in the 1970s. "I used the first video camera ever designed by Sony, the Portapak, which came out in 1967. I started using them in



“Television was really a drug, but it was never controlled like a drug. People are realising the same thing about smartphones” —TONY OURSLER

Oursler’s art has developed in step with the advancement of technology. By the mid-Eighties, he had moved beyond tapes and started constructing elaborate installations filled with boxy TVs playing videos on a loop. A few years later, he began working with projectors, casting videos of faces on to mannequins and sculptures. Slowly Oursler made those images more abstract, reducing them to recordings of a single eye or mouth screened on bulbous orbs. He now makes projections large enough to cover the sides of buildings, as he has done on galleries around the world, and to reach the tops of trees, where characters in his videos float like ghosts among the leaves.

As well as enabling the making of his art, technology—and its exponential growth—is the subject of Oursler’s work. “I’m in the TV generation and the computer generation,” he says. “Television was really a drug, but it was never really controlled like a drug, but I think it should’ve been in retrospect. And I think people are now realising the same thing about smartphones.

“In 1980 there was, I believe, one machine that could capture 30 seconds of digital TV. And that was a million-dollar machine. Now you’ve got in your pocket something that’s got tens of thousands of times that computing power, yet what do people do with that technology? They use it to become distracted, they use it to mesmerise themselves, they use it to nullify themselves to some degree. What at one time was an information gathering machine, a focusing machine, a calculating machine is now kind of inverted into a dystopian gadget used to manipulate consciousness in the direction of distraction and spectacle.”

Oursler’s exploration of technology is part of what the team at KMFA believes makes his work relevant to show in Taiwan. “Taiwan continues to strengthen its position as a technological powerhouse,” says Alice Ko Nien-pu, who is co-curating *Black Box*. “Global companies such as Google, IBM and Microsoft continue to invest in Taiwan’s artificial intelligence sector. As Oursler’s work elaborates on questions raised by research and practices in technology, media, telecommunications and human-computer interaction, it can definitely resonate with people in Taiwan.”

Tony Oursler with one of his video works, this one projected into a plume of smoke

1976 when they were kind of dumped into the art department,” Oursler recalls. His early experiments were scripted short films, many of which were populated by creepy casts of dolls and explored religion, sex and death—sometimes comically, sometimes morbidly.

One of these videotapes, *Grand Mal*, released in 1981, is a 23-minute series of hallucinatory, loosely connected moralistic tales about good and evil acted out by a mixture of cardboard cut-out characters and actors smothered in body paint, all filmed in a grainy, shaky style. “Regardless of the artistic value of those tapes, I’m proud of being a part of that moment in history where we went from plastic arts to digital,” Oursler says. “The camera opened everything up for my generation.”



Left: *Kceps* (2005), an example of how Oursler sometimes reduces the face to eyes and mouths.
Opposite page: *Xes* (2015), part of a series of works exploring facial recognition technology

“There were a lot of people doing interesting things with film until Hollywood figured out how to commodify video” —TONY OURSLER

Despite his scepticism, Oursler says he is at heart an optimist. “Smart people understand the social issues with smartphones at this point,” he says. “I think that people will recapture this space and use it for creative endeavours.”

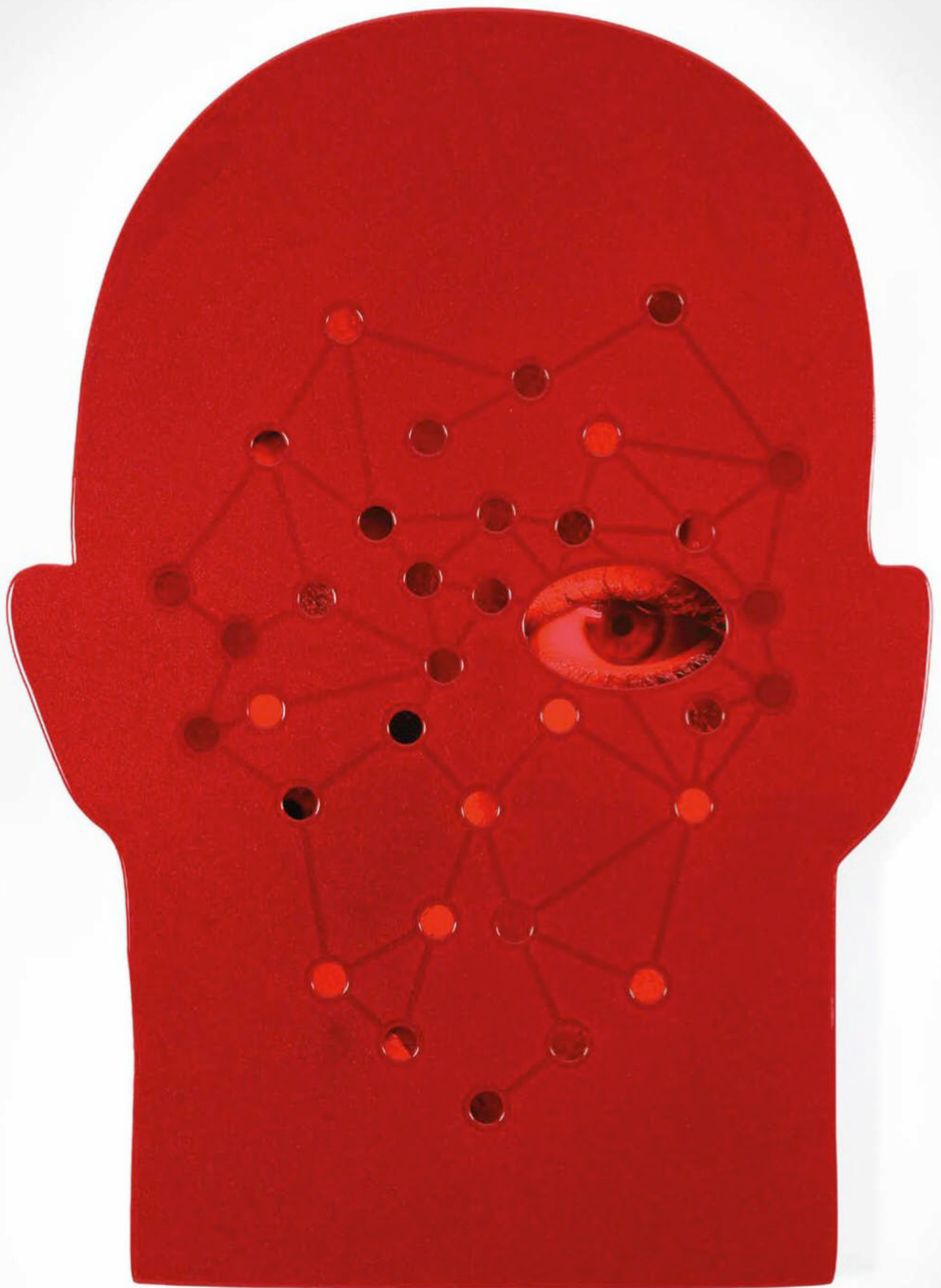
Oursler has dedicated much of his career to preserving video as a medium for experimentation, pushing against the dominant, slick aesthetic of Hollywood films and Netflix shows. “There were a lot of people doing interesting things with film until Hollywood figured out how to commodify video,” he says. “Then it became rigid: the editing became standardised, movie theatres became standardised and proscribed a proscenium set-up, and we got locked into this spectacle culture.”

The sculptural quality of most of Oursler’s work immediately sets it apart from mainstream cinema and most video art, as does his use of dialogue. Many of his pieces intermittently shriek, sing, shout or whisper, often making viewers jump when they shatter the silence in galleries. When Oursler had a show in Hong Kong in 2016 at

Lehmann Maupin gallery, which has represented him since the Nineties, his pieces sometimes seemed to be talking to visitors. “I don’t even know myself,” one portrait murmured. “I’m just another face in the crowd,” another said.

Sound is one of the ways Oursler tries to seize the attention of gallery-goers. “Art can activate the viewer,” says Oursler. “The real difference between popular culture and art is that with popular culture you pay the admission price and after that nobody really cares what the audience thinks or does—you’re passive, you’re going through a prescribed ritual. But with art, that’s not the case.” At an exhibition, you decide what you want to look at, how long you look at it for and what conclusions you draw.

The murmurings of Oursler’s works have led many critics to describe his art as frightening: his projections can seem like apparitions, especially when they whisper spine-chilling statements in dark, quiet galleries, float across walls or levitate in forests. Some of his videos also explicitly engage with the paranormal and feature ghosts, angels and devils.





Works from Oursler's
Caricatures series,
photographed at his 2013
exhibition at the Pinchuk Art
Centre in Kiev, Ukraine



Image Courtesy of Tony Oursler and Lehmann Maupin

“People ask, ‘Have you spoken to ghosts? Are you interested in the Ouija board?’” —TONY OURSLER

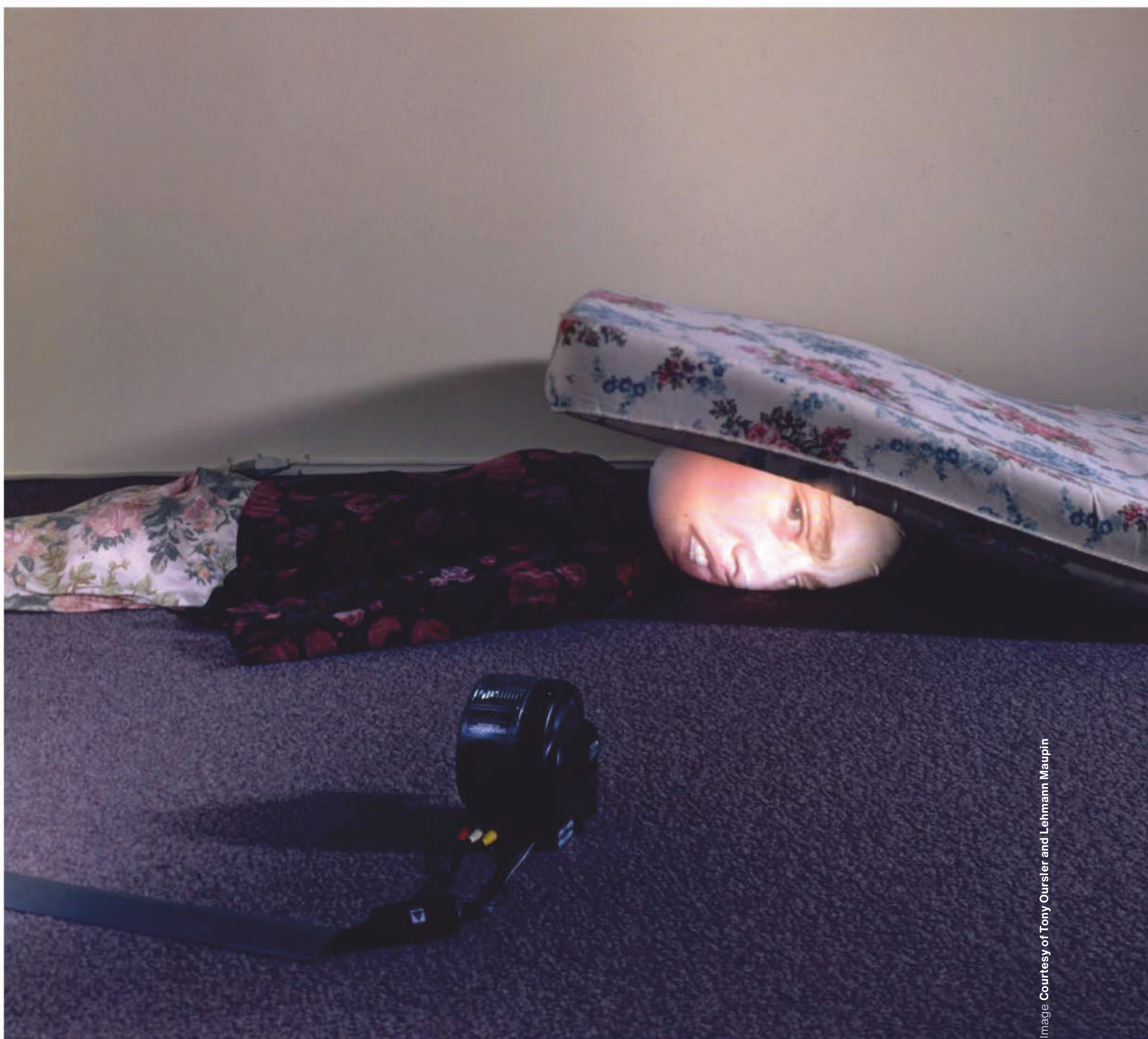


Image Courtesy of Tony Oursler and Lehmann Maupin

An interest in the supernatural has been passed down through Oursler's family: his grandfather, Charles Fulton Oursler, was an amateur magician, journalist, author and Hollywood screenwriter, who in his early life was an active campaigner against the craze for seances and spirit mediums that arose in the 1920s. Then, after recovering from alcoholism, he renounced his early agnosticism and became a fervent Roman Catholic until his death. His son, Tony Oursler's father, was editor in chief of the Christian magazine *Guideposts*, then founded a spin-off publication, *Angels on Earth*, which features stores of divine intervention. It is still in print.

Oursler was raised Catholic and has spent decades building an archive of more than 15,000 artefacts

relating to the history of stage magic, demonology, cryptozoology, hypnotism, fairies, cults, UFOs and dozens of other occult topics, but he renounces all of them. "I believe in art," he says. "I believe in the redemptive power and the positivity of art. I am tagged a little bit with this tie to the occult. People ask, 'Have you spoken to ghosts? Are you interested in the Ouija board?' I'm not that person. But I'm very interested in the fact that other people are interested in them."

Ultimately, Oursler says, he uses imagery from the occult as a way to explore the way people blur the boundaries between fact and fiction, and how individuals choose to view the world. "I'm very interested in parallel perspectives on reality," he says. "As an artist, it's important to look at people's beliefs and their leaps of faith. There's something really wonderful about leaps of faith, but there's also something really spooky about them—as you can see with certain cults, there can be disastrous results."

In a way, this leads back to Oursler's obsession with technology. The internet now has the power to shape people's beliefs at least as much as religion did in the past. Where people once turned to a holy book for instruction, they might now open YouTube or post on Reddit, soliciting advice from millions of strangers. But this global network has not led to the creation of universal truths: it has fragmented facts into millions of pieces, leading to ever more troubling beliefs. "It's fascinating, the kind of conspiratorial storytelling that occurs on the internet," says Oursler. "The fake news. The paranoid rants. This has all come extremely rapidly to the forefront of pop culture."

All of these topics are touched upon in Oursler's pieces that are going on show at KMFA this month, as is his interest in ecology, which is reflected in his recent works projecting images into trees. "The KMFA has beautiful grounds and we're going to try to populate them with a kind of phantasmagorical projection outside for a week or so," he says.

The show has been in the works for more than two years: Oursler first visited Taiwan in 2019 to brainstorm ideas with the team. He is travelling to Taiwan again to install and open the show. "We'll start the installation over Zoom while I'm in quarantine, then finish it when I'm out," he says.

Oursler's visit to Taiwan in 2019 deeply moved him: he spent days with the KMFA curators, whom he praises profusely, and also explored the National Palace Museum in Taipei, which has the largest collection of ancient Chinese art in the world. "It was just mind-blowing," he says. "Wandering around that museum was a real high point in my life, I'd say—and hosting this show in Taiwan will be, too. How often do you have the chance to do something like this: to bring your life's work together in a meaningful way?"

Tony Oursler: *Black Box* runs from January 23 to May 16 at the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan



Judy (1994), one of Oursler's first pieces made by projecting videos on to human-like forms to build eerie, large-scale installations



Clockwise, from top: *Dunia Baru* is built from teak and ulin ironwood in the style of traditional *phinisi* vessels; guests can create their own bespoke itineraries; *Dunia Baru* sails through Indonesian islands such as Raja Ampat (pictured) and can be chartered for longer trips to Thailand and Myanmar

| Travel |

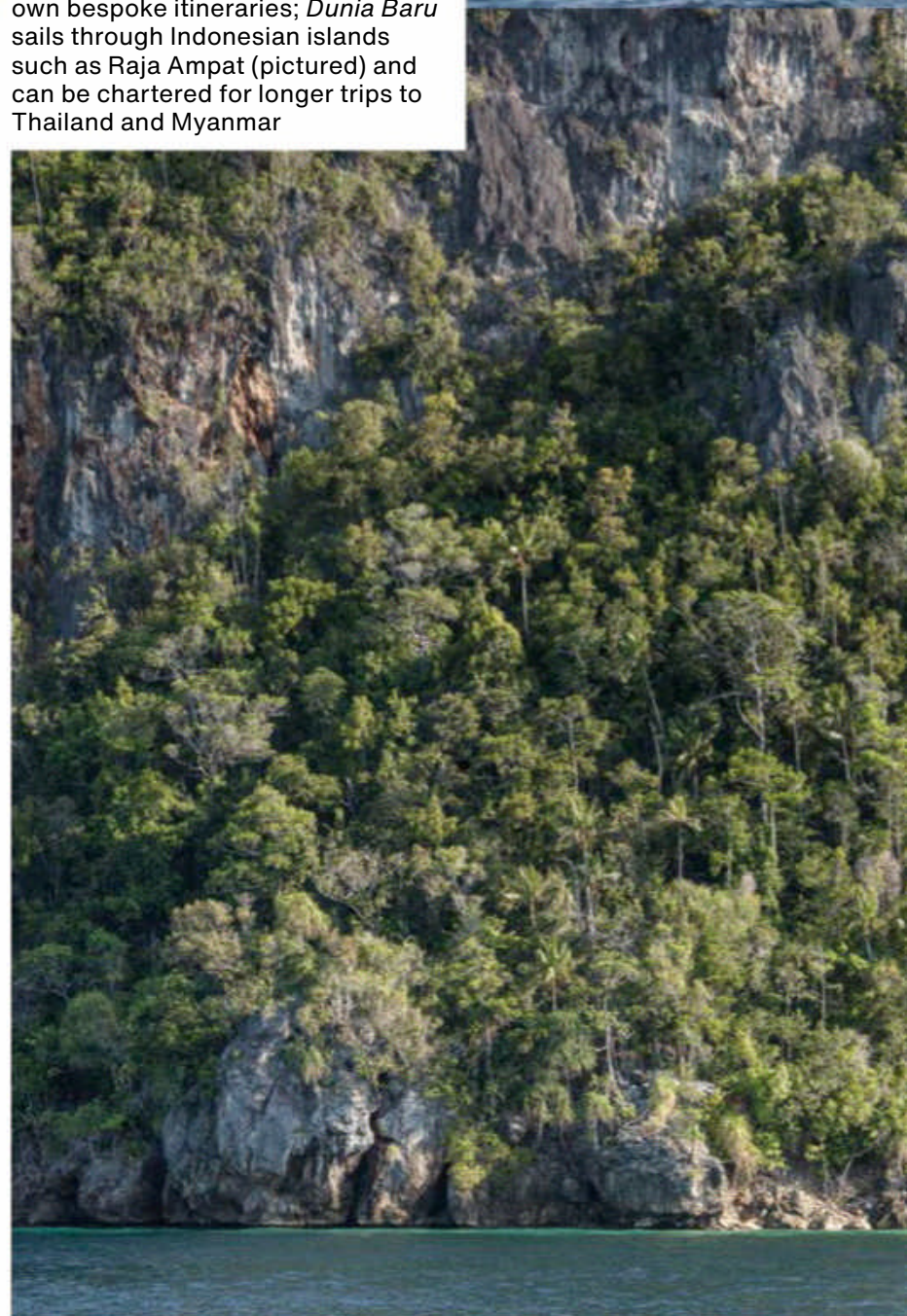
A Fresh Perspective

Embrace the art of slow travel, splurge on a hot-spring retreat in Japan and plan for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure *By Kissa Castañeda*

A year spent working from home with little or no travel has allowed us to adopt a slower pace in life, which is sure to mould the way we travel in the future. One of the best opportunities to have a snail-paced sojourn is to sail aboard the *Dunia Baru* (its name means “the new world” in Bahasa Indonesia),

a superyacht that weaves through Southeast Asia’s spellbinding islands.

The 51-metre, two-masted luxury *phinisi* yacht has been brought back to its former glory by its Singaporean owners, who commissioned Deirdre Renniers, interior designer of the Aman private yacht, Amandira, to





refurbish the traditional vessel. Built from teak and rare ulin ironwood over eight years, *Dunia Baru* was originally handcrafted in the classic architecture of *phinisi* wooden sailboats by an ancient tribe of boat builders in South Sulawesi called the Konjo. Every detail has been lovingly restored within 10 months, resulting in a vessel that embodies the old-world romance of sailing with amenities suited to today's discerning travellers.

Sleeping up to 14 people, guests on *Dunia Baru* sail on bespoke itineraries set mostly in Indonesia. There are myriad experiences to enjoy—snorkel in the Banda Archipelago, encounter dragon lizards at the Komodo National Park, and spot hammerhead sharks and manta rays around Kisar Island. Aside from trips through the rich waters of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, it can also be chartered for longer expeditions to Thailand and Myanmar.

duniabaru.com

Images *Dunia Baru*, Hotel The Mitsui Kyoto, Pelorus

| *Spotlight* |

Take a Dip

From meditation apps to singing bowls, a renewed self-care routine kept many of our minds and bodies in shape during the pandemic. Similarly, hotels are placing more emphasis on services and experiences that improve well-being, specifically practices rooted in ancient therapies. The newly opened Hotel The Mitsui Kyoto in

Japan is a prime example—out of its 161 rooms and 22 suites designed by André Fu, it has two onsen suites dedicated to the Japanese art of bathing. The only luxury property within the Kyoto city centre with its own natural spring water, the hotel has also devoted nearly 11,000 sq ft to its spa, which has a communal hot spring, two private baths and four treatment rooms. hotelthemitsui.com/en/kyoto/



From top: Hotel The Mitsui Kyoto is superbly located near the Nijō-jo Castle; design adviser Akira Kuryu created a harmonious blend of old and new in the interiors



| *The Shortlist* |

Off-Grid Adventures

A fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and a former captain in a British Army reconnaissance regiment, Jimmy Carroll, co-founder of travel company Pelorus, knows what it's like to live on the edge. He shares ideas for transformative trips to unexplored parts of the world



CULTURE AND MARINE LIFE IN EAST TIMOR

Our philosophy at Pelorus is to dream big and travel better—with a more conscious approach and enhanced guardianship of the locations, communities and environments we champion to our clients. One of my recommendations is to discover the culture and marine life in East Timor. Timor-Leste is one of the world's unsung tourist destinations, with low visitor numbers in spite of its impressive natural credentials, which provide the setting for a perfect secluded adventure. On land, there are forested slopes teeming with birdlife, jungle caves tattooed with ancient rock paintings and crumbling Portuguese colonial towns to discover. Adventurous guests can embark on a



submersible to hunt for lost Second World War wrecks in the depths of the straits. Travellers are also sure to encounter dolphins, manta rays, whale sharks and more than 30 different species of whale, ranging from migrating blue whales to the resident sperm whale population.

A NATURAL IMMERSION IN KAZAKHSTAN

Another destination worth exploring is Kazakhstan, a country of astounding natural beauty. Kazakhstan has mesmerising landscapes and an enchanting culture, best enjoyed when travelling deep into the Kazakh steppe in a 4x4, traversing luscious green mountains where streams and waterfalls bless the fertile valleys and grasslands. One of my favourite experiences is paragliding above the Tian Shan mountains, soaring above towering peaks, sunken forests and turquoise-blue lakes. Pelorus can also arrange a dining experience with local Kazakh families, who will treat guests to an intriguing and authentic



Clockwise, from above: Pelorus co-founder Jimmy Carroll recommends visiting Kazakhstan; witness a solar eclipse and visit penguin colonies in Antarctica in December 2021; head to Fiji for a manta ray cyclone-feeding experience this year. **Opposite page:** Discover untouched nature in Timor-Leste



feast, before sharing traditional Kazakh songs and dances around the campfire, underneath a blanket of stars.

MANTA RAY DIVING AND ACTIVE ADVENTURES IN FIJI

The opportunity to join the manta ray cyclone-feeding in Fiji in September 2021 is at the top of my bucket list, as I am an advanced diver. Known as the soft coral capital of the world, Fiji's waters have thousands of small colourful fish as well as beautiful sharks and

manta rays that surround the abundant corals. It's an incredible opportunity for guests to watch manta rays as they cyclone-feed off the coral, then explore fascinating dive sites first encountered by Captain Bligh after the mutiny on the *Bounty*. Divers can experience wall dives, swim-throughs, caverns, canyons, and incredible blue water encounters. On land, they can take part in a *meke* dance celebration and present Kava to village elders in a traditional ceremony plus hike and

dirt-bike through volcanic jungles before diving into refreshing waterfalls. You can also explore stunning lagoons and caves by kayak, and see nesting sea turtles and rare seabirds from a canoe. There's also the chance to go white-water rafting and surf world-class breaks ... the options in Fiji are endless.

SOLAR ECLIPSE AND SKIING IN ANTARCTICA

Finally, another amazing trip to look forward to is witnessing the solar eclipse in Antarctica. The

continent is well known for its breathtaking scenery, diverse wildlife and the opportunities it provides for scientific research, conservation and discovery, which make it the ultimate destination to experience this natural phenomenon. On December 4, 2021, travellers can view a once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse from aboard a superyacht, then partake in unique adventures in Antarctica. Pelorus guests can venture into the deep waters of Paradise Bay in a submersible or visit Trinity Island, home to various penguin colonies. They can also cruise to Enterprise Island to see humpback whales and orcas before skiing down heavily glaciated mountains above fjords dotted with icebergs. Finally, they can take a helicopter to Mount Shackleton to watch the sun set and explore the old whaling station and shipwrecks. pelorusx.com



Pandemic or not, it was still business as usual for non-profit Free Food for All (FFFA) as its volunteers continued to assemble (pictured above) and distribute food packs to the needy (top). **Opposite page, from top:** FFFA founder Nizar Mohamed Shariff; the ready-to-eat meals developed by FFFA

Hot Meals

Singapore charity **Free Food for All** is not only on a mission to eradicate hunger around the world, it also wants food for its beneficiaries to taste delicious

Images: Darren Gabriel Leow (Nizar); Free Food for All



One of the greatest pleasures of eating comes from savouring the varied flavours, textures and aromas of a meal. It is an experience Singapore charity Free Food for All (FFFA) believes should be accessible to everyone, including the needy and underprivileged.

This is why the organisation has pioneered halal ready-to-eat (RTE) meals that come in a retort packaging with flameless heat packs.

This allows food to be reheated without needing a microwave oven, stove or heat source.

Developed in partnership with a manufacturer in Brunei, the high-tech RTE meals include culturally-relevant dishes, such as boneless chicken cooked with Khabsaa spice-infused rice, which have a two-year shelf life and a high nutritional value. This makes the meals, which include vegetarian options, suitable for those who are facing the most critical humanitarian crises such as starvation and acute malnutrition.

“People in need should not have to settle for tasteless and bland food, instead they should be provided with tasty and nutritional meals to support their lack of quality of life,” says FFFA founder Nizar Mohamed Shariff.

A former entrepreneur and shipping professional, Nizar felt a calling to give back to society. In 2014, when he noticed that there was no existing charity that provided halal food regularly to the less fortunate, he founded FFFA with his own savings to meet this need.

Since then, FFFA has served over 500,000 meals and participated in initiatives to minimise food waste and programmes to manufacture healthier meals. In 2018, it set up soup kitchens in places such as the earthquake-affected areas in Lombok and Sulawesi in Indonesia to provide locals with hot food.

With a passion to help even more people beyond Singapore, Nizar also founded Food for Change Singapore (FFC Sg), a global humanitarian aid organisation that aims to extend support and aid to the less fortunate and often-overlooked groups of people around the world. The organisation has since successfully launched a food distribution project to help Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh as well as support humanitarian aid projects in Gaza, Syria and Yemen.

More than food assistance organisations, FFFA and FFC Sg also provide holistic psychosocial support to local and global communities as well. For instance, during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic when other charities faced a steep dip in contributions, FFFA continued to reach out to people who were in dire need of not just food but also social support. “Our goal is to feed the body, while nourishing the mind and soul,” says Nizar.

In the first half of 2020, FFFA worked with Temasek Foundation to distribute more than 200,000 RTE meals to households in need. It also participates in initiatives such as Migrant Workers Day, Kids Luv It and Gift a Meal to reach out to the less privileged and rough sleepers.

Overseas, FFC Sg has helped to build water desalination plants in Gaza to allow families access to clean drinking water, and contributes to providing basic necessities and shelter for refugees. Its aid projects have been successfully carried out in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Ghana.

A recipient of the People of Good award at the President’s Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards 2020, Nizar also places a strong emphasis on educating Singaporeans and the younger generation. He firmly believes that every individual has the power to play a role in helping others. “In Singapore, we are lucky to have access to necessities despite hard times. It is important to have awareness and empathy to people who are much less fortunate in other parts of the globe.”

To help make a difference to the lives of the underprivileged, contact Nizar Mohamed Shariff on 9656 7280 or nizar@freefood.org.sg.

Free Food for All
21 Chai Chee Rd, 01-430,
freefood.org.sg

Food for Change SG
ready2eat.sg



Image Jamie Chung/Trunk Archive

| Wine |

What Goes Well with Ox?

Searching for an appropriate gift for the Lunar New Year, our resident wine expert finds there's more to consider than white or red *By Sarah Helller MW*

Christmas and New Year's Eve are over, and you may be part way through Dry January by now, but the big season for wine gifting in Asia still lies ahead.

Every Lunar New Year, the cheesier element among the world's wine producers pumps out containerloads of bottles emblazoned with the coming year's zodiac animal (this year, beginning February 12 in China, at least it's an ox, a far easier sell than 2020's rat). But what if you don't want to be one of those gifters indifferently flinging bottles of ox-labelled red at everyone in their contact list?

Here's how to think up some fun or even slightly off-piste ideas for wine gifts without accidentally offending everyone you know.

First of all, be realistic about your own level of wine knowledge. If you're a novice, it's better to invest your time in making a single, imaginative (and reasonably priced) choice, rather than try to personalise gifts for each of your friends, especially if your gift list is longer than ten. Since no one expects the wine you send to be the

next sleeper cult hit, the pressure is off and you can actually have some fun with your choices, indulging in some Lunar New Year symbolism or punning. Rather than something safe and snooze-worthy, start with a wine style you know most of your crowd enjoys and then give it a little twist to earn you cred from the wine geeks (if you can't be bothered to do the work, I've done it for you below).

On the other hand, if you're a wine lover, you probably have more information about your friends' preferences and may feel that it's worth investing in semi-personalised choices (dictating, implicitly, how much you should spend). Your friends' expectations are also probably higher, meaning what is inside the bottle is more important than its appearance.

However, if you have to send gifts to more than ten friends, family members or colleagues, I highly recommended you stick to a single, reasonably priced and versatile option, as trying to categorise a long contact list may cause serious social awkwardness if the recipients ever compare notes

(trust me, I've seen it; the results are not pretty).

Also, avoid the trap of spending too much time or money picking a "statement" wine; you'll only find yourself grumbling about pearls to swine when it's under-appreciated or even unappreciated by those who are less enthusiastic than you are. Better to choose something with broader appeal, even if it isn't "safe" per se, and save your treasure hunting energies for your own table.

Critically, localise. Many countries in Asia celebrate Lunar New Year, but their attitudes towards auspicious symbols, gifts and alcohol vary. In Hong Kong, you'll want to avoid unlucky colours (black or white, or anything green that looks hat-like) or symbols (clocks, sharp objects, groups of four). Picking a vintage that ends in eight, or a label that's red, features a fish, mandarin duck or even just a round, happy-looking shape, certainly won't hurt. To get some insights into gift practices in other markets, I asked a few industry friends for their views.



Sunthorn Lapmul, marketing director for Wine Dee Dee in Thailand

Sunthorn Lapmul, former sommelier of the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok and currently marketing director for importer distributor Wine Dee Dee, advised that gifting is a key part of Thailand's Lunar New Year, which falls in April and is bustling with family activities. Gifts should relate to health, luck and long life and otherwise show respect towards the recipient. Delivering by hand is an important way to signal this.

An obvious first step is to check whether the recipient drinks alcohol at all, since many Thais are Buddhist and abstain. Next, avoid black labels (a negative symbol) and try to choose a wine that has some ageing potential, since Thais will not typically consume a gift right away.

Roderick Wong, founder of Malaysia's Wine Academy and honorary president of the Sommelier Association of Malaysia, said gifting wine is not that common there; hampers, oranges and other more traditional choices remain popular. Bringing wine along to a party would be a more normal gesture,

in which case a red wine from Bordeaux or Australia would be a standard choice.

Xing Wei, a wine educator, Master of Wine student and co-founder of retailer Fusheng Wines in Beijing, said that in China, most gifters remain focused on a "fancy wine box". He said that unlike the distilled liquor Maotai, the price of which is universally known, wine is a gift most recipients won't be able to easily evaluate, so luxurious packaging, with elements like a heavy bottle, metal label or wax capsule, is key. Names like "Lafite" and "Penfolds" still hold cachet and even less specific terms like "Left Bank" or "legendary" are helpful cues. Somewhat more encouragingly, he notes that wine with a story ("tasted by President Xi" or "owned by XYZ celebrity") can make a good Lunar New Year gift, although this presumably only works if the gift is delivered in person or perhaps with an explanatory note.

IF YOU'RE A NOVICE, TRY THESE

Torres Sangre de Toro 2018

Yes, it's a little corny, but at least this wine always has a red bull on its label. It's also just straightforwardly delicious and surprisingly on-trend given that wine producers around the world are waking up to the charms of Spanish-origin "Rhône" grapes like garnacha (grenache) and carineña (carignan), with their ability to produce pert-fruited, spicy reds on a lissom frame. Also, at this price point, you won't feel like you've taken a bull's horn to the wallet.

Ruinart Brut Rosé NV

Champagne is a standard gift, but white isn't a great look for Lunar New Year, so why not pick a rosé instead? Ruinart's label and bottle are delightfully plump and harmonious-looking, giving good seasonal vibes, and as champagne's oldest maison, you couldn't find a much

better symbol of longevity.

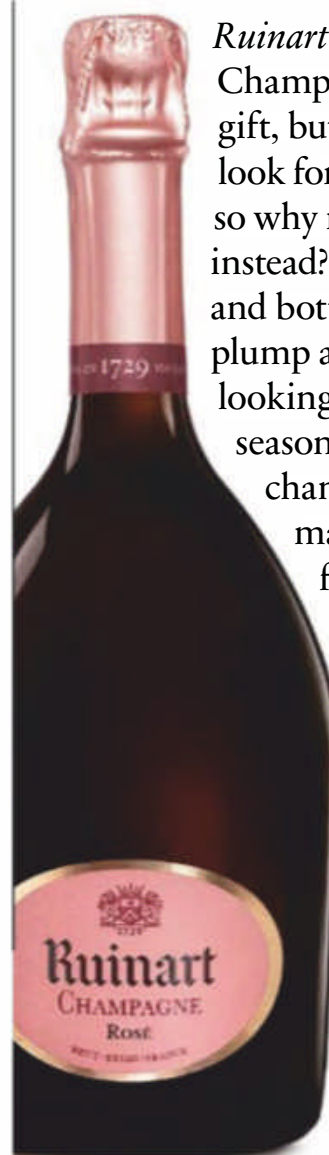
The wine itself is brilliantly structured and energetic, meaning it can be laid down and enjoyed many moons hence, which is fortunate, because you

may not have much budget left for gifting next Lunar New Year if you pick this option.

Vega Sicilia Oremus Tokaji Aszu 6

Puttonyos 2008

Mere mortals can send oranges while you send a wine that tastes of candied orange peel and looks like liquid gold. Usefully, this exquisitely sweet but precisely balanced elixir has the sugar to stand up to all those cheeky Lunar New Year snacks. Just make sure you get the "6 Puttonyos" and not the "5" or you'll erase all the positivity of choosing 2008.





The Kumeu River
Hunting Hill vineyard
in New Zealand

IF YOU'RE A WINE LOVER ...

... AND THEY'RE A WINE NOVICE

Alter Ego de Palmer 2008

It appears that the 2018 vintage of Alter Ego de Palmer, with its luxurious gold label and holiday-friendly red capsule package, is already sold out in many parts of Asia. However, the 2008 vintage of this merlot-dominant second wine is now beautifully mature, with meltingly suave tannins, mellowed dark berry fruit and a lifted, peppery quality.

... AND THEY'RE A WINE GEEK

Movia Lunar 2008

Apart from the fact that it actually says "Lunar" on the label, which is an obvious score, it's also an orange wine (get it?). Although this is obviously not the one to send your tea-drinking aunties or your Bordeaux-loving boss, anyone on your list regularly seen experimenting with their facial hair, bowler hats or braces will appreciate this savoury, golden-fruited treat from one of the orange wine OGs.



... AND THEY'RE A WINE SNOB

Paul Bara Special Club Rosé

Grand Cru 2008

Those in-the-know know that 2008 was probably a once-in-a-lifetime champagne vintage and hunting down this Special Club rosé (a real

rarity) shows a level of dedication far greater than just nipping round to the shops for 2008 Dom Pérignon (though we certainly wouldn't say no to the latter). Bara's wines are generous, expressive and rich, something we would all like our friends to be.

... AND YOU NEED ONE WINE TO PLEASE THEM ALL

Duckhorn Napa Valley Merlot 2018

With a gentle nod to good luck symbols (the duck, the year ending in "8") and the quietly luxurious tan/yellow label with gold hot-stamping, this gift is still predominantly about the wine inside the bottle. It's an old-school classic, appealingly rich in blackberry and red plum fruit, sweet spices and soft, woolly tannins. Plus, as a Napa Valley merlot, it boldly says, "I don't let Paul Giamatti movies from the mid-2000s dictate my wine choices."

*Kumeu River Hunting Hill
Chardonnay 2018*

Much as it would sadden me to see this wine sell out again, as happened when it was served to president Xi Jinping during his 2014 visit to New Zealand, if there's a white wine that feels appropriate to give at Lunar New Year, this is one that at least has the right story. More importantly, it's simply a divine chardonnay—lithe and sinuous but with curves in all the right places. Plus, if you're still looking for a hidden numerological reason to pick it, the Hunting Hill vineyard is almost exactly eight acres in size.

Alphabet City



E IS FOR: EAST COAST PARK

Illustration by Lee Xin Li

With a background in architecture, illustrator Lee Xin Li often draws artistic inspiration from the environment around him, as seen in his *Peta Singapura* and *Kueh* series of colourful illustrations anchored in heritage, architecture and food. East Coast Park is one of those places that brings back good memories, especially for the many “Singaporeans who go there for a family day out or some time out”. Furthermore, “for Singaporeans returning home or flying out of Changi Airport, the ships anchored off the east coast are also a memorable sight.”



The New Tatler, The New Asia



TatlerAsia
TATLERASIA.COM



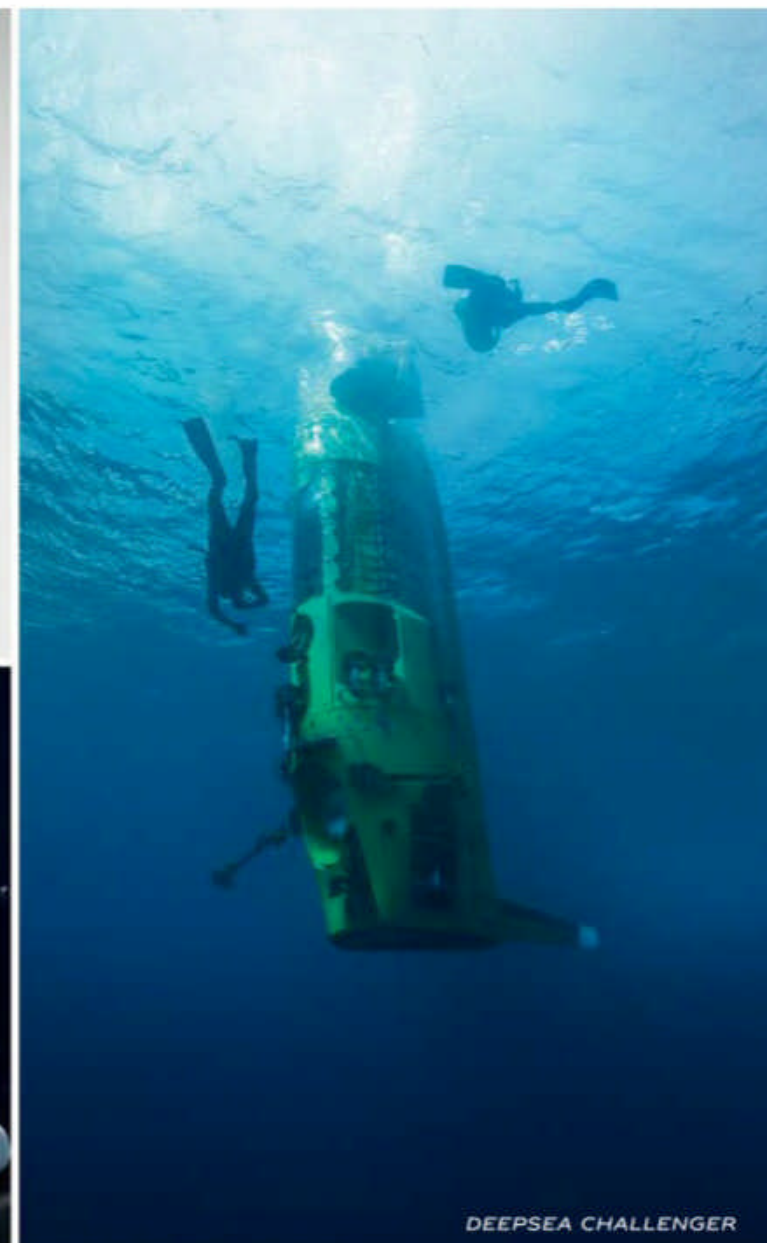
RINGLOCK SYSTEM



CHROMALIGHT DISPLAY



HELIUM ESCAPE VALVE

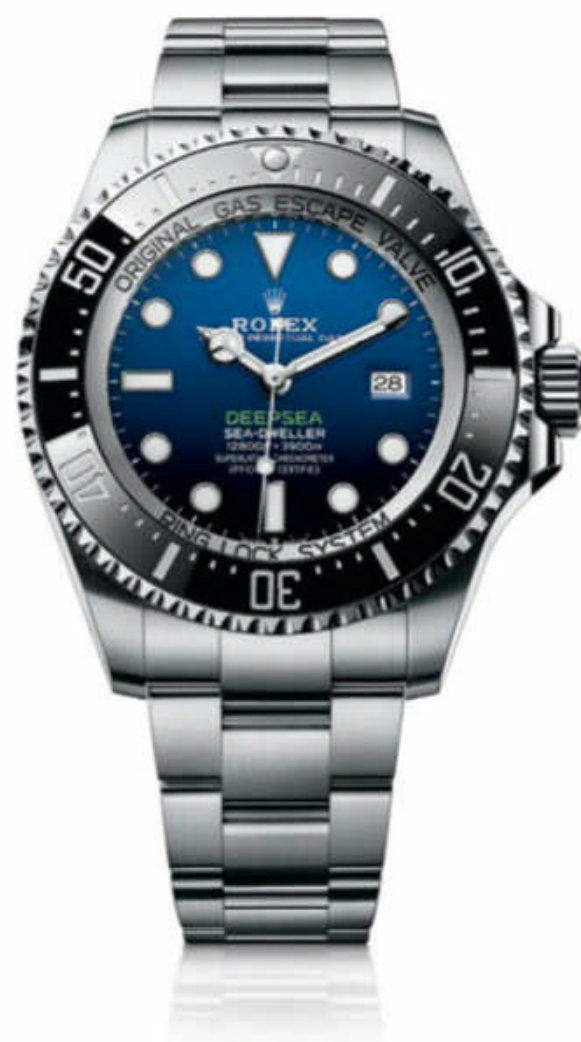


DEEPSEA CHALLENGER

THE ROLEX DEEPSEA

Engineered for the extreme depths of ocean exploration, the Rolex Deepsea is the watch of choice for professional divers when ultimate reliability is a must. Its helium escape valve, patented by Rolex in 1967, is indispensable for saturation diving, and its Ringlock System architecture enables it to withstand depths of up to 3,900 metres. Based on more than 60 years of collaboration with underwater explorers, it continues to go where no other divers' watch has gone before.

#Perpetual



OYSTER PERPETUAL ROLEX DEEPSEA

