

# This and That

A Cultural Compendium



## Kickstarters

The architect Rafael de Cárdenas has electrified Rivas, the classic French slip-on, with a sharp new pattern available in four color combos. De Cárdenas says the shoe brand was a natural fit for him. "I like their form and shape as well as their nod to the '60s and '70s French Riviera summer culture," he says. "I also like that they are called a 'leisure shoe,' almost as though wearing them might relax you regardless of whether you're leisurely or not." \$100; *Opening Ceremony*, (212) 219-2688

ILLUSTRATION BY  
KONSTANTIN KAKANIAS

## Not His Father's Conran Shop

Jasper Conran reinvents the family business.

Since taking over his father's venerable stores last year, the designer Jasper Conran has been quietly revolutionizing the brand. At the flagship Chelsea location in London, shelves brim with Marie Daâge Limoges porcelain, vintage Blodwen Welsh blankets and linens as crisp as Granny Smith apples. There are edgier home pieces by Maison Martin Margiela, chic-beyond-chic stainless steel kitchens by Alpes Inox and divine cloud sculptures that the artist Benedetta Mori Ubaldini makes out of chicken wire. Conran has also added an entire section dedicated to the sort of children's goodies — pink roller skates, giant buttons, paper pompoms — that you want to buy regardless of age. In May, he will reopen the Conran Shop's location in Marylebone, complete with a Penthouse apartment, fully decorated and shoppable, and a roof terrace. "I love the idea of the store as a magazine," Conran says. "It's about highlighting different things, and discovering and showcasing new talent."

81 Fulham Road, London; 011-44-20-7589-7401 RITA KONIG



**BRIGHT VISION** Jasper Conran (right) has added new wares like the Vitra Heart Cone chair, chicken wire sculptures by Benedetta Mori Ubaldini and Marie Daâge teacups.



CONRAN PORTRAIT: JULIAN BROAD.





Lookout

This and That



## The Royal Treatment

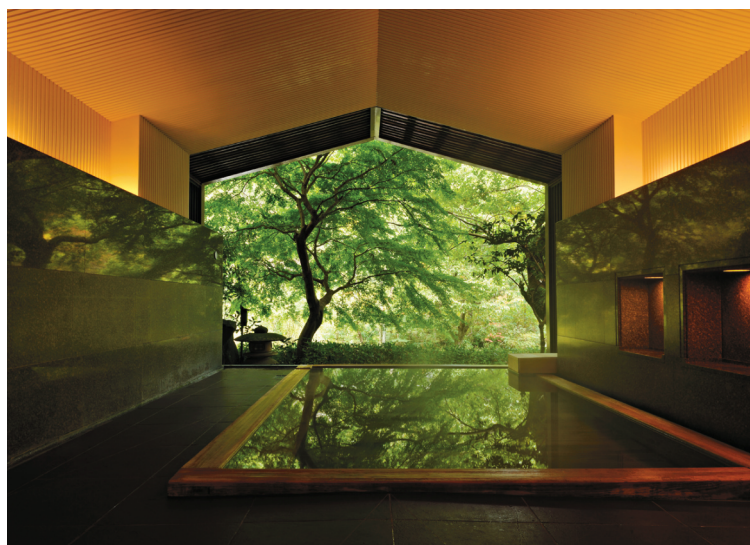
A grand old pile in Vienna finally opens its doors.

Vienna's Palais Liechtenstein, one of Europe's most impressive privately owned palaces, will open for public tours for the first time in May after an extensive restoration. Once the residence of the royal family of Liechtenstein, the Baroque building was bombed during World War II and damaged further when an Allied aircraft crashed into its roof. Its four-year, \$135 million face-lift restores the structure to its prewar glory, with a dramatic interior staircase, silk wall hangings and intricate parquet floors. The project was overseen by Hans-Adam II, the reigning prince of the tiny principality — who also owns another commodious palace just outside the city center, where he keeps his noted collection of Old Masters. While some of the revamped building will be marked off for the family's private apartments, visitors will finally get a peek at many of its gilded Rococo interiors, not to mention the prince's collection of Biedermeier and neo-Classical art and furnishings. *Tours from \$32; palaisliechtenstein.com* MICHAEL Z. WISE

Now Booking

## Soak In Japan

For centuries, travelers have streamed into Hakone, Japan, to bathe in the bubbling hot springs at traditional *ryokans*. Kai Hakone, a new high-design hotel and thermal spa on the banks of the Sugumo river, offers a luxuriously modern take on this relaxing tradition. Guests wear chic, black-padded kimonos with their wooden clogs and bob in a series of hot pools that all have views onto pristine woods. Deluxe rooms come with their own little tatami-floored teahouses, and the food — ridiculously fresh sashimi or spring flowers with sesame — is delicate yet nourishing. Bustling Tokyo, reachable in 45 minutes by bullet train, seems a world away. *Rooms from about \$320 per night; hoshinoresort.com.* JULIE EARLE-LEVINE



Pierre Hardy

Chanel

Block Party

Come spring, not everyone wants to wear flowery prints and Breton stripes. The solution? Cubism!

Renaud Pellegrino

Fendi

HIP TO BE SQUARE Pierre Hardy cuff, \$1,230; (646) 449-0070. Chanel boot, \$1,275; (800) 550-0005. Renaud Pellegrino bag, \$930; Peter Hermann, (212) 966-9050. Fendi bag, \$1,190; (212) 759-4646.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KONSTANTIN KAKANIAS; VIENNA: © LIECHTENSTEIN, THE PRINCELY COLLECTIONS, VADUZ-VIENNA.





## Costume Drama

It's no surprise that Camille Miceli makes jewelry that is covetable and well designed. The daughter of a French stylist, Miceli began creating jewelry for Louis Vuitton back in 2004 and, since 2009, has been doing the same for Dior. Her superchic personal style has been touted by fashion heavyweights like her current boss, Raf Simons, as well as her former employer Marc Jacobs, who has called her his muse. Each piece in Miceli's prefall collection for Dior has the ability to single-handedly pull an outfit together. These are objects that are both substantial and restrained — like the Diorama necklace, a breastplate-like collar of gold-finished metal adorned with a single, gleaming red glass stone. **JULIA FELSENTAL**

**GOOD AS GOLD** From left: Dior Mise en Dior Podium necklace, \$4,300, Diorama cuff, \$1,350, and necklace, \$1,950, and Mise en Dior Tribal earrings, \$350; (800) 929-3467.



Now Showing



## A Fine Feather

In "From Europe With Love," opening May 2 at the Cristina Grajales gallery in SoHo, the Paris-based designer Sam Baron reinterprets traditional European design with what he calls "a kind of French sense of humor." He applies a champagne-colored lacquer to Louis XVI-style cabinets, and deconstructs the traditional process of painting these bisque porcelain birds made by the venerable Portuguese house Vista Alegre. *Through July 12; 10 Greene Street.* **ALAINNA LEXIE BEDDIE**



## The Benz Whisperers

It's not unusual to see a hipster tooling around Silver Lake or Williamsburg in a beat-up old Mercedes. What's rarer is to find those 35-year-old sedans, coupes and wagons restored to mint condition. That's the particular obsession of J.G. Francis (above right), who with the help of Sean Johnstun, founded Mercedes Motoring, a boutique restoration company based in Glendale, Calif. Francis says he had an epiphany after buying a 1979 300SD for \$700. "I've heard people say somebody should make a car that will last forever," he says. "Mercedes did that 40 years ago." The engineering may be superior — and that diesel engine still gets competitive gas mileage — but it's the design that attracts many of the company's clients. The classic colors, like mint green and China blue, and a boxy profile make these cars distinct from the S.U.V.'s and egg-shaped hybrids now crowding the roads. "I have never been drawn to things that are over the top," Francis says. "I like things that are subtly amazing." *mercedesmotoring.com* **TOM DELAVAN**

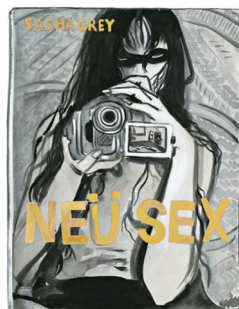
MICELI: NICOLAS HIDROGLOU; FAR LEFT NECKLACE: SARAH ANNE WARD; MERCEDES: SEAN JOHNSTUN; BIRDS: ARI ESPAY.



## The Bibliophile's 401(k)

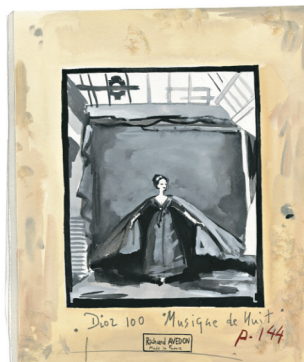
Some art books skyrocket in value just a few years after they're published. How much cash is sitting on your coffee table?

After witnessing the staggering after-market success of "Helmut Newton: Sumo" — which cost \$1,500 when it came out in 1999 and is now worth 10 times that much — the art publisher Taschen has invested in making more of its books good investments. The company's gigantic limited-run "art editions," many of which come with signed gelatin prints, are specifically designed to appreciate in value. Some, like Mario Testino's 2010 book on Kate Moss — which had a \$500 list price and currently resells for \$2,000 — do this very quickly. But more modest art and fashion books can grow exponentially in a short time, too. A 2002 retrospective on the Vogue creative director Grace Coddington, originally priced at \$125, rocketed to \$2,000 after the release of the 2009 documentary "The September Issue." Charles Miers, the publisher of Rizzoli, attributes this new market dynamic to a "subliminal enthusiasm for bespoke books," which he said is increasing just as Kindles and iPads threaten to make other printed books obsolete. "We just wish that enthusiasm reached a wider reader," he said. "The funny thing with some of these books that double or triple in price is that they often didn't retail well and only find a new value on AbeBooks or Amazon after they've been remaindered. It's a kind of ironic devaluation and then hyperinflation." **STEPHEN HEYMAN**



Now: **\$180**  
Original Price: \$30

"Neü Sex" by  
Sasha Grey,  
Vice Books, 2011.



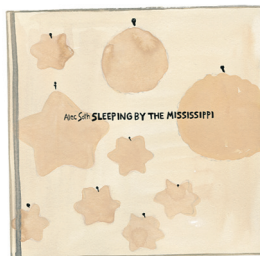
Now: **\$750**  
Original Price: \$75

"Richard Avedon:  
Made in France,"  
Fraenkel Gallery, 2001.



Now: **\$900**  
Original Price: \$70

"David Wojnarowicz:  
Rimbaud in New York  
1978-79" by  
Roth Horowitz, 2004.



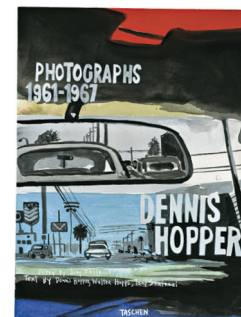
Now: **\$1,500**  
Original Price: \$40

"Sleeping by the  
Mississippi" by  
Alec Soth, Steidl, 2004.



Now: **\$2,000**  
Original Price: \$125

"Grace: Thirty Years  
of Fashion at Vogue,"  
Edition 7L, 2002.



Now: **\$14,000**  
Original Price: \$1,800

The art edition  
of "Dennis Hopper:  
Photographs 1961-  
1967," Taschen, 2009.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KONSTANTIN KAKANIAS; LAMPS: CLARE SHILLAND.

### Feeling For



## Bright Lights

I'm just mad for these candylicious resin lamps by the London-based designer Marianna Kennedy. They come in eye-popping colors like deep sea green or chrome yellow, and at about \$600 each (with shade) are relatively affordable, unlike the lacquered gueridon tables and gilded mercury mirrors in Kennedy's gallery-quality collection. The conical shades are made from antique book cloth, most of which Kennedy sources from Paris. "Isn't it funny," she says, "you just have to say it comes from Paris and it sounds irresistible." [mariannakennedy.com](http://mariannakennedy.com) **RITA KONIG**