

This and That

A Cultural Compendium

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Clockwise from top: One of Natee Utarit's surrealist "altarpieces", titled "Theatre of the Absurd", 2015; A collection of design objects presented by The Artling, including Spring Stool by Gabby Lichauco, System #3 by local design duo Dazingfeelsgood and Rakk by Apiwat Chitapanya; Key artworks presented at Art Stage Singapore 2018 includes Suzann Victor's "The Seafaring Cloud", 2017.

A Fair at a Glance

THIS YEAR'S EDITION of Art Stage, the region's flagship art show, is set to be more ambitious than ever. With a goal to create a unified Southeast Asian art scene to rival more developed global art markets in the west and China, Art Stage 2018 is planning a three-pronged approach. The first is a special country focus on Thailand, with Thai-focused exhibitions and projects from Thai artists and Thai-based galleries. One can expect to see works by mixed media artist Kamin Lertchaiprasert presented by Numthong Gallery, painter Natee Utarit presented by Richard Koh Fine Art, as well as installation artist Arin Rungjang, who will be presenting his work "Mongkut 2015".

The second is a Southeast Asian forum about the crossovers between art and design in collaboration with local digital art platform and consultancy firm The Artling. Titled "Art Meets Design: Cultural Trend or Fashionable Lifestyle?", the forum's series of talks will seek to address the question and examine the blurred lines between the two.

Finally, the third is a showcase of collections owned by private Singaporean collectors, dubbed the Signature Collectors' Visits, with the intent to foster dialogue and exchange of insights between local collectors and visitors. The concept was first presented at Art Stage Jakarta to resounding success, and will be the first of such to be shown here.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: RICHARD KOH FINE ART; THE ARTLING; ART STAGE SINGAPORE 2018.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LA PRAIRIE; MONCLER (3); K+



Super Serum

THERE ARE ULTRA-LUXURIOUS skincare that check every box: beautiful packaging, gorgeous textures and scents, and powerful formulations. Then there's La Prairie Platinum Rare Cellular Night Elixir (\$1,890, 20ml), which takes luxury skincare to the next level. The sleek, crystal-within-a-crystal bottle boasts a magnetic top, reducing the need to unscrew or pop it off. Under the top is a full-chrome dropper, where even the rubber bulb is made to look metallic - no unsightly white bulbs here. However, the magic is entirely in its formula. Addressing the four functions of skin regeneration, namely nutrition, respiration, detoxification and immunity, the pearly pink fluid contains the highest concentration of La Prairie's signature Exclusive Cellular Complex in any of the brand's products. Paired with a blend of rare active ingredients, one drop applied to the face at night promises to aid the skin cells in synthesising biomolecules, including proteins and DNA, essential to cellular structure, in order to promote skin rejuvenation for healthier, younger-looking skin.

Good Things Come in Threes

IN THE STREETWEAR SCENE, sneaker collaborations saturate the marketplace with new releases being seemingly announced every other week. Falling in line with the burgeoning sneaker scene, Moncler and New York-based retail store Kith, bring a touch of luxury to Asics sneakers. These sheepskin-lined suede trainers lend a sense of preciousness to the everyday staple. The classic Asics sneakers are doused in Moncler's signature French flag colours — blue, white and red. Brought together by Kith's knack for gathering well-matched names, the trainer bears the trademark of each of its individual collaborators.



Taking to the Stage

THE HARDEST THING to come by for any young, budding artist is the opportunity to exhibit their works of art. Singapore-based creative agency Kinetic Singapore, and advents of aspiring artists, has for the second year running pulled together resources to offer students a platform to showcase their creations. The second installment of K+ School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA), Invisible Ties, curates a wide repertoire of student works - paintings, prints, mixed-media works, sculptures and photographs alike - that contemplate the relationship between art and culture, art and its audience and the artist and the community.

Taking student art from the classroom to a commercial exhibition space gives the budding artists a rare opportunity to exhibit on a professional stage. "For most of Year 5 and Year 6 student artists, this will be their first time showing their work in a non-academic setting," says Carolyn Teo, co-founder of Kinetic Singapore and K+. "This exhibition will give them a chance to place their work in the larger context of Singapore art, and experience the reactions of people who aren't their teachers and classmates. We strongly believe that their work has so much potential to go beyond the wall of their classrooms."



From top to bottom: Stabile by Ashley Hi Zhi Qi (3); Chip Off The Old Block by Merriley Sim Enci.



The Pandaw River Expedition cruise.

The Great Escape

PANDAW RIVER EXPEDITIONS have earned themselves a name as a pioneer in the Southeast Asian river cruise realm. In the new year, the river-cruise pioneer cements its status as a leader in the industry with the launch of a new expedition, The Great Irrawaddy Delta. Sailing into territory mostly untouched by tourism, the cruise weaves through the tributaries and vast expanse of waterway along the The Great Irrawaddy Delta in Myanmar. Setting sail from and returning to Yangon, the seven-night

expedition is an immersive experience into nature and its surrounding history as the ship traverses across the delta, in the midst of markets, ancient trading ports, and religious grounds like churches, mosques and temples. A refresher from the hustle and bustle of the cityscape, the river cruise presents the opportunity for one to completely unwind, without the worry of even having to plan an itinerary.



Meandering through The Great Irrawaddy Delta, the Pandaw cruise brings the passengers onboard a journey through nature and the lives of the people who live amongst it.

Legs For Days

A JOYFUL NOD back to the days when scandals were as tame as Madonna's conical bra and male models wearing skirts, and when the word "scandal" did not carry the same political weight as it does today, the latest fragrance from Jean Paul Gaultier is anything but truly scandalous. Despite the heady, decadently sweet cocktail of honey, patchouli, gardenia, caramel and juicy citrus, Scandal Eau de Parfum (\$143-\$186, 50ml and 80 ml respectively) manages to balance intensity with elegance – a quality that should be embraced, not be shocked by.



Subtle Energies

Finding the Ayurvedic principles of healing dating back more than 5,000 years.

SPAS EVOKE THE SENSE of utter relaxation. An oil massage, a dip in the pool, which, to most, represent nothing more than an escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. But Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong has changed that by partnering with Subtle Energies, a results-based aromatherapy, natural skincare and wellness solutions founded on authentic Ayurvedic principles, to develop two treatments with the intention of correcting imbalances in the body system and strengthening the immune system.

The notion of Ayurvedic healing is easy to grasp. It was created with a specific intent to address concerns or energetic types known as doshas, a principle that functions on the belief that each person's body type corresponds to the five elements



FEELING FOR

Straw Hats

Taking shade under oversized proportions.

From left: Gucci, Jacquemus, Loewe, Giorgio Armani.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PANDAW, JEAN PAUL GAULTIER, GIORGIO ARMANI, LOEWE, JACQUEMUS & GUCCI.

Founded upon Ayurvedic principles, the Mindful Release Facial and Shirodhara are developed with the intention of correcting imbalances in the body system and strengthening the immune system.



of ether, air, fire, water and earth. A natural deficiency in a certain element such as 'fire' or 'water' in the body will require a person to take on more warmth or moisture, respectively, for balance.

"Subtle Energies aligns with The Spa's goal to create mindfulness. We have developed two treatments using Subtle Energies products. One that focuses on applying pressure on Indian acupuncture points and an oil dripping body therapy known to be one of the most amazing treatments for sleep-related issues," said Shoshana Weinberg, Senior Director of Spa for Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong.

MINDFUL RELEASE FACIAL

Immersive aromas provide an effective sensory experience using pure and active essential oil formulations. It is a treatment that begins with an intensive skin cleanse followed by a double mask designed to deliver hydration to the deep layers of the dermis, before ending off with a facial marma massage, a type of pressure point therapy, on vital energy channels. This last step helps to rejuvenate skin cells to increase the production of collagen and elastin.

SHIRODHARA

This ancient therapy uses Ayurveda-based aromatherapy essential oils and rich carrier oils to assist in creating total body and mind calm. The experience begins with a full body marma massage, including face and head, to target vital energy points. Warm, essential oil-infused oil is slowly poured in a thin stream over the forehead and temples. This stress-reducing therapy not only soothes the nervous system but has also been shown to aid skin conditions and insomnia while helping one achieve emotional balance.

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