

EDITED BY CHARLOTTE SINCLAIR

in vogue

ARTS, DESIGN & LIVING



Art times

Spring's cultural scene is bursting into life with exciting things to see, do and read...

Clockwise from above, take a peek inside model-turned-designer Erin Wasson's stylish warehouse; Peaches Geldof shares her Brooklyn pad with friends Bunny (pictured) and Lily; show your loyalty to TheSelby.com with a tote; designers Chase Cohl and Alexander Wang let Selby take snapshots of their creative spaces

Photography

Photographer Todd Selby takes shots of his eccentric group of friends at home, and their quirky possessions, for his addictive website, TheSelby.com. Poke around Erin Wasson's Manhattan warehouse, Alexander Wang's minimalist office and Peaches Geldof's new NY digs, or tour Tom Wolfe's dandy-ish abode (complete with dapper table lamp with white fedora shade). Catch Selby's exhibition, *The Selby is in Your Place*, at Colette, Paris, until May 2. CS



Todd Selby



Short stories

There are few simpler pleasures than whiling away a day in a London park with a good book. So goes the thinking behind *Park Stories*, a series of eight short stories, inspired and published by the Royal Parks. "Parks are enclosed spaces," says Rowan Routh, who devised the project (and also happens to be the wife of Rupert Sanderson). "But, like stories, they hold so much possibility – they're a microcosm of the whole sprawling city." So, Nicola Barker celebrates Greenwich Park, Ali Smith writes on the horticultural splendour of Regent's Park, and Will Self on the psycho-geography of historic Bushy Park. Booklet, £2; boxed set of eight, £16. Visit Royalparks.org.uk for details. AF

Escape from the stresses and strains of city life with *Park Stories*



Henry Moore's textiles combined bright colours and unusual motifs

Textile show

"In our house, our curtains and bedspreads were made from the wonderful textile designs my father made," wrote Mary Moore in *Vogue* last year. "The colours and designs were remarkable – moody greys and browns combined with shocking pinks, acid yellows and savage greens. The motifs he used were surprising, too: barbed wire and boomerangs, piano keys, safety pins, clock hands, butterflies and watering cans." See them for yourself in *Henry Moore Textiles* at the Henry Moore Foundation at Perry Green, Hertfordshire, until October 18. Visit Henry-moore-fdn.co.uk for details. CS



Theatre

Gillian Anderson is at her best playing characters battling unspoken desires. This month, she stars as Nora in Zinnie Harris's new version of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. The action has moved to Britain at the turn of the last century, but Ibsen's claustrophobic plot remains. At the Donmar Warehouse, WC2, from May 14. Visit Donmarwarehouse.com. CS

Venetia Scott; PSC; Sudhir Pillawa; Nick Knight. Courtesy of The Estate of Ray Johnson at Richard Feigen & Co



Ray Johnson's *Elvis #2*, one of the works to be shown at Raven Row



Gallery

For Alex Sainsbury (*below*), the youngest son of Timothy Sainsbury, one of the wealthiest art patrons in the country, a career in art was a natural decision. After working at two grass-roots arts organisations, Rear Window and 38 Langham Street, and building up his own significant art collection (mostly of works by German artists, such as Pop artist Sigmar Polke), he founded new non-profit gallery Raven Row late last year. When his surveyors found the buildings in Spitalfields, he says, "I immediately knew what I wanted," and converted them into an exhibition and event space.

Non-profit arts organisations in London are few and far between, and Sainsbury felt that this niche in the art world needed attention: "I think there's a great panoply of stuff to see in this town... but there's definitely room for more." So what will Raven Row offer that

some of the other edgy, non-profit institutions – such as Parasol Unit – don't? "I want to show work of very high quality that will tread a ground that has not yet been trodden." The inaugural exhibition, *Ray Johnson: Please Add to & Return*, certainly fits the bill. Visit Ravenrow.org for details. Marina Cashdan

Art exhibition

"To create a little flower is the labour of ages," remarked poet, printmaker and artist William Blake. This month, Tate Britain re-stages his 1809 show, which comprised 16 "fresco paintings" (*left*). It met with little success; the only critic in attendance wrote him off as "an unfortunate lunatic". Two centuries later, the world is more receptive. "The things that made Blake an outsider in 1809 are the things that elevate him now," explains Tate curator Martin Myrone. This free display is on from April 20 to October 4. Visit Tate.org.uk. AF



Film

When Brad Pitt dropped out just before filming began on *State of Play*, many doubted whether the remake of the 2003 BBC TV series would ever reach the big screen. Luckily for director Kevin Macdonald, Russell Crowe stepped in. The action has relocated to DC, with Crowe starring as a reporter drawn into a murder inquiry with political implications. On release from April 24. AF



Quilty pleasures: designers have created quilt swatches in aid of Shelter. Boudicca's comes with an aerosol can, which, when sprayed on to the fabric, makes an image appear

Project

A Little Piece of Mind injects some designer dazzle into the dusty craft of quilt making. Marc Jacobs, Luella Bartley and PPQ, among others, have all donated swatches to be sewn into an enormous coverlet. "The patchwork quilt is the most collaborative form of craft," says Mark Noe of design consultants Marque Creative, which masterminded the venture in aid of Shelter. The bedspread is on display at Huntingdon Project Space, E2, from April 10 to 15, and will be auctioned later this year. Visit Alittlepieceofmind.org. AF



Music

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs blast back with electro-inspired album *It's Blitz!*... Look out for The Virgins – pin-up looks and a Strokes-style sound... VV Brown, British music's de facto head girl (four As at A Level plus a Select model), releases her debut album, *Travelling Like the Light*... Depeche Mode returns with *Sounds of the Universe*... Daniel Merriweather's debut *Love and War*, produced by Mark Ronson, is an uplifting offering... AF



Books

Music animates and propels a lyrical collection of new short stories by Kazuo Ishiguro, *Nocturnes: Five Stories of Music and Nightfall* (Faber & Faber, £15)... A child genius prefers devising diagrams to explain the strange world of his family in Reif Larsen's debut, *The Selected Works of TS Spivet* (Harvill Secker, £18)... Plenty of *Deadly Sins* are committed as an old-money PR boss takes on a new-money arriviste in Nicholas Coleridge's tale (Orion, £13)... A Nile dam brings devastation to an ancient landscape and its people in Egypt in *The Winter Vault* (Bloomsbury, £15) by Anne Michaels... The life of writer Jean Rhys, from a childhood in the Caribbean to the grey streets of London, is recalled by writer Lilian Pizzichini in *The Blue Hour* (Bloomsbury, £17)... Life under Mugabe is described by Zimbabwean Petina Gappah in her debut short-story collection, *An Elegy for Easterly* (Faber & Faber, £13). CS