

COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

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OLIVIA GRANT

The Brit actor is back
on the small screen

HOUSE PARTIES

*The best stately
piles to party in*

PANDA WATCH!

Spotting bears
in Chengdu,
China

HOME SUITE HOME

*How to steal the coolest
hotels' style secrets*

The INTERIORS ISSUE

Everything you need for a spring makeover



Arts Agenda

Time travelling dilemmas and the power of photography. By **Caiti Grove**

ALTERNATE REALITY

While a painting is a creation seen purely from an artist's perception, photographs are veracious and trustworthy – or so we believe. This spring, three exhibitions suggest the camera is not always a reliable witness.

1 PRESENT CONTINUOUS *Baltic, Gateshead*

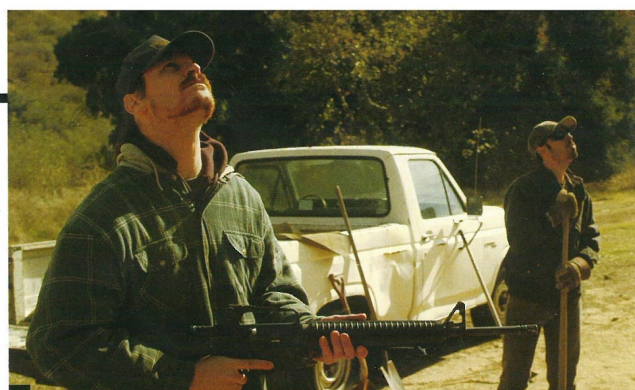
Celebrated Berlin artist Omer Fast continues to interrogate the line between documentary and invention, reality and fiction. What is an image and what does it mean to us? Where does real life begin and imagination end? *Present Continuous* offers no solutions, only intriguing questions within inquiries. 18 March to 26 June; balticmill.com

2 PERFORMING FOR THE CAMERA *Tate Modern, London*

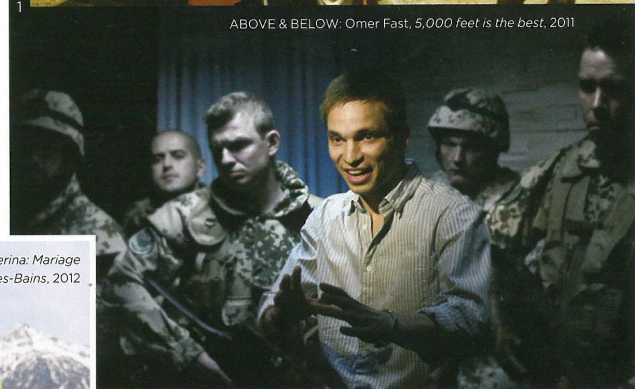
The selfie has changed photography forever. Or has it? *Performing for the Camera* takes a long-lens shot at the art of photography and our response to it. From the humour of Marcel Duchamp to the stage mindsets of Cindy Sherman, this astounding display features 50 photographers and 500 images from super modern to vintage. Until 12 June; tate.org.uk

3 KALEIDOSCOPE: THE INDIVISIBLE PRESENT

Modern Art Oxford, Oxford
Artists offer views of time and truth in *Kaleidoscope: The Indivisible Present*. View some of Yoko Ono's seminal work, see Douglas Gordon's '93 work *24 Hour Psycho* that stretches the Hitchcock classic and walks the blurry line of reality in film and video with Pierre Huyghe, John Latham and Viola Yeşiltac. Until 16 April; modernartoxford.org.uk



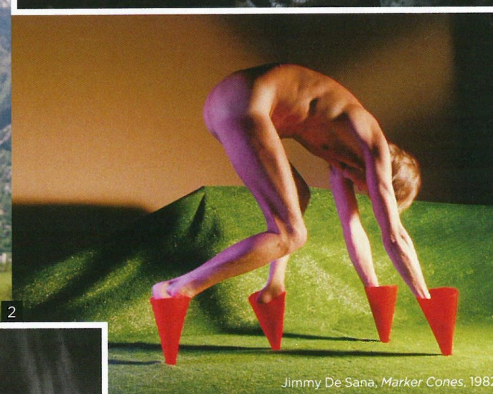
ABOVE & BELOW: Omer Fast, *5,000 feet is the best*, 2011



Romain Mader, *Ekaterina: Mariage à Loeche-les-Bains*, 2012



Yoko Ono, *Eyeblink*, 1966



Jimmy De Sana, *Marker Cones*, 1982



3



Viola Yeşiltac, *Untitled (I really must congratulate you on your attention to detail)*, 2012

Five minutes with... LAURENCE SILLARS

CURATOR OF OMER FAST'S EXHIBITION
PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Omer has been such an important figure in contemporary art for so long. It is remarkable to be able to show work from his last five years. Two new creations for the Baltic will update his current work for audiences.

Like a Russian doll, these films unfold to reveal more within. There are many hours of film here but I think of them in a literary way, like short stories but with a metanarrative carefully curled around.

'5,000 feet is the best' is a quote from a drone operator as he talks about his job. The film is constantly jumping back to the documentary-style interview but has subtle twists within it. The scene where a lone bicycle is filmed from the drone's perspective, a man cycling across an arid ochre plain, is so brilliantly beautiful and yet so sinister. It is the life lived today under the eye of drones.



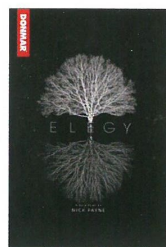
OMER FAST, *5,000 FEET IS THE BEST*, 2011. COURTESY OF GB AGENCY, PARIS, ARRATIA BEER, BERLIN AND DVR GALLERY, TEL AVIV. © OMER FAST. UNUSUAL AGENCY, LONDON. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD HARRIS. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD HARRIS. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD HARRIS.

SAND SCULPTOR

Barry Flanagan was one of the most irreverent artists of the '60s and '70s, at the centre of the heated conversation as to what art was about and who it was for, questions which have been lately revived. Opening on Cork Street, *Barry Flanagan: Animal, Vegetable, Mineral* refers to the title American writer and curator Gene Baro gave to his review of Flanagan's 1966 first solo show in London. Flanagan was a rebel spirit, an artist ready to take on all manner of media to express his unique outlook. A pupil of Anthony Caro, his 14-foot steel sculpture, *metal 2'64* is a mischievous reply to his teacher's weightier creations. A pioneer in the Land Art movement with his 1967 piece *line on holywell beach and film hole in the sea* (1967-70) he looked at landscape and art from a completely new perspective. *Until 14 May; waddingtoncustot.com*



Barry Flanagan, *4 rahsb 2'67, 1967*



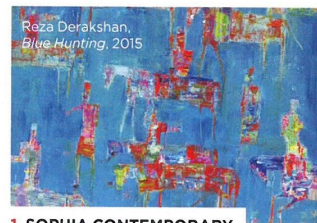
TIME TRAVELLING INNOVATION

Invention should be central to concern about the modern human condition. Two plays explore the benefits, and the banes, of scientific breakthrough. Long the launch pad for provocative new drama, the Donmar Warehouse does it again with *Elegy* from radical playwright Nick Payne. Set a few years into the future, three women face disturbing choices. The world of medicine offers solutions to problems of survival unknown in the past. But the human price of participation in this apparent good news emerges as higher than some are prepared to pay (*21 April to 18 June; donmarwarehouse.com*). The desperation of being lost in space comes chillingly to a scene billions of miles from earth where research survivors struggle in a terrifying void.



The Royal Court's new play *X* questions the Utopian dream of interstellar conquest as it also comes to the core of human loneliness. Only the RC would try anything so alarmingly ambitious (*30 March to 7 May; royalcourttheatre.com*).

FIVE NEW GALLERIES



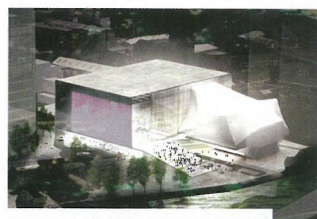
1. SOPHIA CONTEMPORARY GALLERY, LONDON W1

Reza Derakhshani, the celebrated Iranian artist, is the obvious choice to open this new Mayfair gallery dedicated to Middle Eastern art alongside expressionist Western work. *Until 23 April; sophiacontemporary.com*



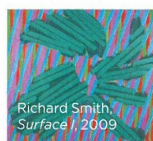
2. HEONG GALLERY, CAMBRIDGE

Downing College has transformed its Edwardian stables into Heong Gallery to open with 20th-century greats, Patrick Heron, Allen Jones, Peter Lanyon and William Scott. *Generation Painting 1955-65* runs until 22 May. *dow.cam.ac.uk*



3. THE FACTORY, MANCHESTER

Rem Koolhaas, winner of the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize, is to design The Factory, a culture and art centre in Manchester with an astounding budget of £112m. Opens in 2019.



4. BROADWAY, LETCHWORTH

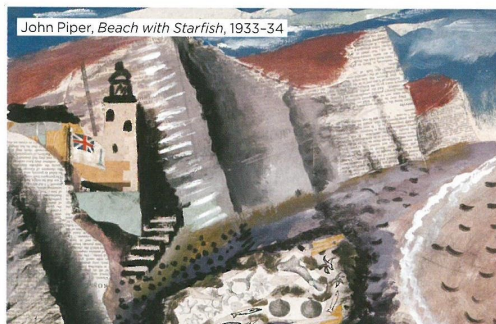
The city of Arts and Crafts opens its new Broadway Gallery with a stunning show from its famous son, Richard Smith, a key British Pop art figure. *Until 5 June; broadway-leitchworth.com*

5. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

The new extension of the National Museum of Scotland houses work by father of photography Henry Fox Talbot, Vivienne Westwood and Jean Muir. Opens this summer. *nms.ac.uk*



John Piper, *Cartoon for St Luke, Chichester Cathedral tapestry, 1965*



THE ART OF CRAFT: JOHN PIPER

How brilliantly versatile can one artist be? John Piper was a beacon of Modernist painting, window making and sculpture; his vibrant works spoke to a generation in the dark days following World War II. His command of fabric design and tapestry for altar pieces led to commissions for St Paul's Chichester and the new cathedral in Coventry, destroyed by bombs. So popular were his motifs and images that they emerged as an art form in their own right. Now *John Piper: The Fabric of Modernism* shows his creations, from the grandest tapestries to the cloths that found their way into ordinary homes (*12 March to 12 June; pallant.org.uk*). Meanwhile, The Jerwood's *In Focus: John Piper - An Eye for the Modern* explores his interest in abstract modernism using his painting *Beach with Starfish*, Seven Sister's Cliff, Eastbourne, 1933-34, as a starting point. His fascination with the Cubists emerges from this intriguing show (*until 8 May; jerwoodgallery.org*).