

A Short List of What We Like Right Now

A new Malick Sidibé retrospective, designer building blocks — and a dream house in Brazil.

By T MAGAZINE

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Malick Sidibé's photographs, from left, "Nana Touré" (1973), and "Untitled" (date unknown). Credit Left: Malick Sidibé, "Nana Toure," 10 Janvier 1973 Tirage Unique d'Epoque ©Malick Sidibé, courtesy Galerie Magnin-A, Paris. Right: Malick Sidibé, "Sans titre," Tirage Unique d'Epoque ©Malick Sidibé, courtesy Galerie Magnin-A, Paris

Now Showing: A Beautiful Life

Next month, Malick Sidibé, the photographer known for his black-and-white images of youth culture in Mali, will have his biggest retrospective since his death last year. Opening at the [Fondation Cartier](#) in Paris, "Malick Sidibé: Mali Twist" features more than 125 never-before-seen images, to be displayed alongside his iconic shots of sub-Saharan hipsters showing off their bell-bottoms, wristwatches, radios and James Brown records, and couples dancing barefoot, their heads nearly touching, to music we can no longer hear.

"Malick loved young people," says co-curator André Magnin, who sifted through thousands of Sidibé's negatives for the show. "For 30 years, he went to all their parties and took pictures." Born around 1935 in the village of Soloba, Sidibé herded sheep until he began attending school at age 10, where his drawings would earn him a spot at the École des

Artisans Soudanais. After graduation, he became an apprentice to the French expatriate society photographer Gérard Guillet. His subjects, whose embrace of rock 'n' roll signaled autonomy from both the country's colonial past and its then-new Socialist government, exude more than style. As Magnin says, "It was a time of great hope." — LESLIE CAMHI



From left: Carrara marble shapes from Bloc Studios x Apartamento magazine, \$233, luisaviaroma.com. Architect's Cubes designed by John Bennett and Gustavo Bonevardi, \$58, store.moma.org. Balancing Blocks from Fort Standard, \$48, fortstandard.com. Credit From left: Nacho Alegre; Courtesy of Moma Design Store; FS Objects

Design Report: Block Party

Not just for children, designer building blocks offer an artful dose of calm.



Hérons with sapphires and black spinels and a pair of fennec foxes sitting on a bed of pearls and garnets. *Prices upon request, vancleefarpels.com.* Credit © Van Cleef & Arpels

Jewelry: Wild Things

The artist and theater director Robert Wilson is best known for his inherently grand productions, from "Madama Butterfly" to "Einstein on the Beach," the five-hour avant-garde opera he collaborated on with the American composer Philip Glass. But for an N.Y.C.-based installation he designed for Van Cleef & Arpels, he had to think on a smaller scale. To showcase the French jeweler's new L'Arche de Noé (Noah's Ark) collection — an assortment of over 60 pairs of jeweled brooches including diamond-studded kangaroos and doves carrying leaves of pink sapphires — Wilson transformed a room inside the Cedar Lake performance space in Chelsea. Standing in for the ark is a 19-inch ship's hull, fabricated from wood and based on an Inuit model made of whalebone, which hangs from the ceiling.

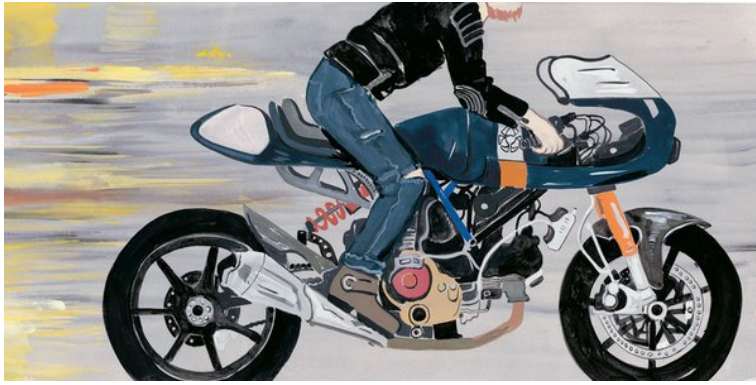
Embedded in the walls of the space are illuminated glass curiosity boxes, in which 41 of the sparkly creatures will be displayed. “They look like stars at twilight,” Wilson says of the pieces, which will be on view Nov. 3-19. “With the proper lighting, small objects become big.” — ALLY BETKER



CreditTuca Reines

Now Booking: A Dream House in Bahia

Eight years ago, Wilbert Das, the former creative director of the Italian clothing label Diesel, opened Uxua Casa Hotel in Trancoso, Brazil, a 16th-century beachside colonial village. The Bahian town had long attracted South Americans and in-the-know Europeans, but the hotel, with its tropical candy-colored palette and low-key atmosphere, put it on the map for stylish Americans. This month, Uxua debuts a new addition to the property — a sunlit three-bedroom cottage that sits independent from the rest of the 11-casa resort, and adjacent to the town square’s coral stone church (which dates back to 1586). “This is the best-located house in Trancoso, so I always had my eye on it,” says Das, who designed the interiors himself. Seafoam green and flamingo-pink walls frame a collection of both vintage and custom pieces, including chairs and benches from the São Paulo avant-garde artist Rodrigo Almeida, an old work table from a local boat-builder that Das reimagined as a dining table, raffia pendant lights and decorative silk saris from India and Africa that have been repurposed as curtains. Outside, there’s a garden filled with scarlet bougainvillea and banana and cacao trees that, Das says, “we use to make our own chocolate.” — JOHN WOGAN



CreditKonstantin Kakanias

Hot Wheels

In 2007, Walt Siegl left New York, his home of 20 years, and his career as a cultural representative with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to move to an old textile mill in New Hampshire. There, he turned his hobby of souping up Italian motorcycles into a full-time job. Now there's a two-year wait for one of his impeccable custom machines. (Brad Pitt is set to receive his third creation by Siegl, whose bikes are coveted by connoisseurs for their stripped-down elegance and structural perfection.) "I take the time to pay full attention to every detail, to show mechanical components as objects of beauty," Siegl says.

In addition to one-of-a-kind custom projects, he also offers ready-made models: the sleek Leggero, the chunkier Bol D'Or and the new off-road Adventure, out this month. For all three, Siegl takes apart brand-name bikes (Ducati and MV Agusta) and rebuilds them with specialty materials — Kevlar and carbon fiber in place of plastic, chromoly in place of regular steel. The result is a drastically lighter, more technologically advanced machine. On the bikes' fuel tanks, Siegl affixes his trademark, the outline of a wheel with a flower at its center that's inspired by childhood memories of picking wild blooms for his mother near their home outside of Graz in southeastern Austria. "When I came to the States, I couldn't believe how much attitude is involved in motorcycling," Siegl says. "To ride, you need to have a big heart. There's no need to act tough." — SAM DEAN



CreditBrooke Holm

The Thing: Baroque Shimmering Gems

The Swiss jewelry designer Suzanne Syz, who came of age in Manhattan's downtown art scene during the 1980s, prefers things a little mismatched. Instead of choosing classic cuts and combinations for her one-of-a-kind pieces, she pairs vibrant coarse gems that seem to have been scooped from an enchanted riverbed with stones that have been perfectly polished and refined. For these earrings, which are topped by clusters of raw spinels in shades from merlot to lavender, she created shimmering spines of intricately fabricated diamond discs — the vertebrae separated by tiny seed pearls to hide the titanium armatures. A huge, baroque Burmese sapphire dangles at each earring's end, like a lantern on a bejeweled cord, illuminating a path through the rocky darkness. *Price upon request.* —NANCY HASS



CreditMari Maeda and Yuji Oboshi

Another Thing: Dramatic Lava Lamp

In an age of recessive, even polite, design, Anna Karlin's Lava Light lamp unapologetically commands both your attention and a vast swath of a room's real estate. Mysterious and even a little forbidding, it stands erect, like a chunk of fuselage that's broken off from an interstellar vessel and lodged itself in a volcanic boulder on the moon. That is not, in fact, far from the truth: The British-born, New York-based Karlin handpicks each lava rock from a quarry near Los Angeles and, using 3D imaging, cuts a precise slot for the towering 6½-foot curved brass structure, which in turn flashes a slash of LED light. The back is a dramatic matte black — perhaps it was charred in the wreck. *Price on request.*— NANCY HASS

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/18/t-magazine/gucci-helen-downie-uxua-casa-hotel.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>