
THE

PENINSULIST

SUMMER EDITION 2017

Entertainment

Experience 'Abode', a tranquil riverside penthouse designed by Cereal magazine with film-screenings by Backyard Cinema.

Architecture & Design

Ravensbourne's pioneers are about to change your world. What does the future hold for 2017's soon-to-be graduates?

Art & Culture

The art of play: Two fantastical exhibitions implore you to take a flight of fancy at the NOW Gallery this summer.

Peninsulist Living

We take a glimpse into Alex and Katherine's eclectic, characterful and collectable-filled Peninsula apartment.



Cover image of Matt Blease

Liverpudlian illustrator and designer Matt Blease is well-known for his playful tongue-in-cheek illustrations, and has created work for high-profile brands including Nike, Coca-Cola, Waitrose, and also has a weekly spot on The Guardian. Now he's bringing his art form to his own neighbourhood, where he's added an element of surprise to the Peninsula Way with the Big Dreamer: a striking, supersized mural of a recumbent man gazing up at the sky. The Peninsulist popped by to his apartment to chat about drawing, making plans and his genius solution for solving the world's problems.

What's the bravest thing you've ever done?

Leaving my full-time job as the Senior Designer at Liberty [the London Department store] to launch my career as a freelance illustrator. The moment I handed my notice in felt very brave — and terrifying. I suppose if being an illustrator hadn't worked out it would have been the stupidest moment of my life, but I've been busy ever since so, yes, it's definitely my bravest moment.

What was the last thing you found that truly delighted you?

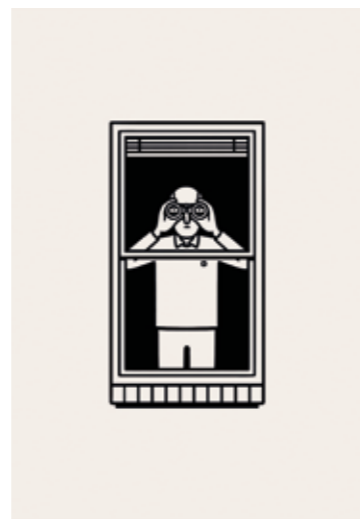
Not a lot of people know this but my girlfriend and I have an Instagram account called 'It's a keeper'. Basically, we're coin nerds. So whenever we get our hands on an interesting coin — and it has to be current currency — we're like "Oh that's a keeper; we can't spend that one". Then one day we started researching and photographing all these coins we'd accumulated and we've now created this separate Instagram account celebrating all this spare change we've ended up with.

What was the last thing you were given that delighted you?

When I was about 14 I was given a skateboard by a kid on the street. And that was a very pivotal moment in my life, because it made me aware of new aesthetic and things like design, which ultimately steered me into the life I lead and the work I do.



Illustrations by Matt Blease



"I always knew that I could draw. I never really excelled at anything else at school, but drawing always came quite naturally and I always felt confident about it."

What makes you laugh?

My dad. Even though I wouldn't want him to know that he makes me laugh. He was all about the dad jokes when I was growing up and it used to make me cringe, but his humour has also shaped how I work. It's all based on word play. The Two Ronnies, Spike Milligan, that sort of thing.

At what moment in your life did the idea of being an artist really take hold?

I always knew that I could draw. I never really excelled at anything else at school, but drawing always came quite naturally and I always felt confident about it. So from a very young age I knew what I wanted to do — I just wasn't sure how to do

it. I studied 3D multidisciplinary design at University then found my way into graphic design but I ended up doing illustration on the side while working as a graphic designer. And one day I realised that the stuff I was doing 'on the side' was things like illustrating posters for brands like Coca-Cola; I'd built up this really significant body of work without really realising it and that's when I knew I had to take the step and formally become an illustrator.

Tell us your cure for the blues.

Drum and Bass? No, seriously though. Cycling or going for a walk. Or just getting outdoors. I'm a very keen cyclist and I love it because it forces me to focus on just doing that, which helps to clear my head.

What's the one thing about you that takes others by surprise?

I'm colourblind. I kept it hidden for years and years, especially when I was working as a graphic designer. I definitely made mistakes but mostly I was able to style it out and I never got found out. I think that's why a lot of my work is in black and white, but I have developed my own colour palette. As a teenager, I used to scan in album covers that I really liked: Beatles' *Yellow Submarine*, Frank Zappa *Hot Rats* and I'd use the colours from those covers that I already knew worked well together.

So a lot of the colours that I use now are from those records — it's a very tight palette.

In 50 years' time, art will predominantly consist of...

For me, art has to be something that's really fragile and exists in real life. As soon as you can save something digitally then it's not real — and therefore it's not art. So I don't think that all this digital art, people drawing on iPads and so on, will take off.

Is life better with a plan, or left to chance?

I think you need a plan. I'd love to say leave it to chance, but I need a plan. Even today I have a plan. Without one I'd mess up. But I think you can have a broad plan and sort of see where you get to. But I work better with a plan — a list. I like lists.

If you could collaborate with any living person right now, doesn't have to be an artist, who would it be?

Can I have the Royal Mint? I would love to do a real coin. Collaborating with the Royal Mint to create a little piece of art that goes into people's pockets would be amazing.

Tell us about your latest good deed?

I've been receiving LOTS of emails from students recently (I think it's dissertation time). I've been trying to get back to everyone and help

out where I can. It can be stressful enough at college, the last thing they need is some idiot that doesn't email them back.

Favourite meal to cook?

My Fish Finger Wrap is a work of culinary genius.

Favourite song to sing?

Anything from Stevie Wonder's *Songs In The Key of Life*.

Guilty pleasure?

Singing songs from Stevie Wonder's *Songs In The Key of Life*.

Currently working on?

My singing voice.

A movement you'd like to start:

99.9% of the world's problems can be solved with a simple game of Rock, Paper, Scissors. I'd like to see this find its way into Parliament.

Too much of:

Saying No.

Too little of:

Saying Yes.

Late nights or lie-ins?

I'm terrible at lie-ins, but I'm always the first to nod off... so can't really give an answer to this one!

If you could wake up anywhere where would you be?

In a bivvy bag in The Redwoods.

The Peninsulist meets Matt Blease

Illustrator, list-maker, coin nerd.



Dream Big boarding, Greenwich Peninsula



Matt Blease by Carlos Jimenez



Rural Roots in the City

A modern update of a traditional rural concept made urban.

Fête: the French word for feast. Though nowadays most dictionaries give the definition as a celebration or party. Everyone comes together. Young and old, rich and poor, celebrating the arrival of summer, the beginning or end of harvest...the reason doesn't matter as much as the willingness of people to be part of the event.

With its roots firmly anchored in rural life, is it possible to transfer the idea of a village fête or even a traditional market day to the mean streets of London? Would urban-dwellers be willing to down tools, hang out with their neighbours and even contribute to such an event?

"Everyone comes together. Young and old, rich and poor, celebrating the arrival of summer, the beginning or end of harvest..."



Image by Laura Dale

The thing is London is no ordinary city. The unique nature of its sprawl has given birth to a very particular landscape: the London boroughs. Fiercely independent, each one cultivates and guards its own distinct ambience and personality.

They are almost like mini-cities, and within that, there is further fragmentation, cities within cities within a city. Greenwich alone is home to a more than a dozen mini iterations of itself, including, of course, the newly fledged Greenwich Peninsula. So although the idea of a fête may sound far removed from a 'London thing', when put into this context it's not actually that hard to imagine.

It's no wonder then that Greenwich Peninsula's Urban Village Fête has become such a success. So much so in fact, that it's spawned a sister event: Sample. Because when a community is emerging from scratch, there's nothing like some tried and tested methods to get things off to a good start.

Though Sample is the seasonal micro-version of the Fête, don't be fooled by its compactness; it manages to punch a very mighty punch, by focusing on a showcase of creatives from across the worlds of fashion, beauty, art, design and homewares, alongside a fresh, seasonal food market.

It's market day reimagined and curated by creative supremos Hemingway Design, and the cultural team at Greenwich Peninsula.

Just like the Urban Village Fête, the makers and brands at Sample are not your ordinary garden variety. The organisers picked their ingredients carefully to get the sort of

mix that would bring a new urban community together.

They looked for twists and surprises; they looked for different perspectives and approaches; they sought out artists and makers who were new themselves and who put a different spin on their work and wares. It's market day reimagined and curated by creative supremos Hemingway Design, and the cultural team at Greenwich Peninsula.

Urban Village Fête and Sample celebrate people, experiences and products that are unique, innovative, thought-provoking and fun. Both events focus on nurturing up-and-coming talent and giving a platform to people who like to do things a little bit differently.

Because, here's the thing: compact and green though it is, Greenwich Peninsula was never going to be anything like a rural village, it's far more than that. But there's nothing to say that its people can't get together and be just as tight-knit. It doesn't mean they can't support each other and shape

the character of their neighbourhood. And it doesn't mean that they can't bond over an exquisitely hand made scarf, or a striking one-of-a-kind piece of lighting design, or even, yes, some really tasty, locally grown, organic heritage tomatoes.

"Urban Village Fête and Sample celebrate people, experiences and products that are unique, innovative, thought-provoking and fun."

Above all, these events are proof that this newly-minted bit of London is starting to burst with contemporary community spirit, a tough call in a city that can often feel fragmented, digitally-obsessed and lonely. And if that's not worth celebrating we don't know what is.



Image by Jenna Foxton



Image by Laura Dale



Image by Laura Dale



Image by Laura Dale



Image by Laura Dale



Image by Jenna Foxton

Your Festival Fix

London festivals as eclectic as London itself.

Your wellies can stay at the back of your wardrobe and there's no need for panicked phone calls asking for a tent or sleeping bag. Diversity is London's strong point, and with that comes a heap of festivals for everyone (where you can stay safely indoors as the temperature falls). Here's our pick of the best cultural happenings coming up this Autumn. Whether you fancy listening to an African jazz legend, exploring a medieval palace, or finding out how a giant succulent turns into tequila, London has a festival for you.

But since it is London, you still may want to pack an umbrella, just in case.

London Literature Festival

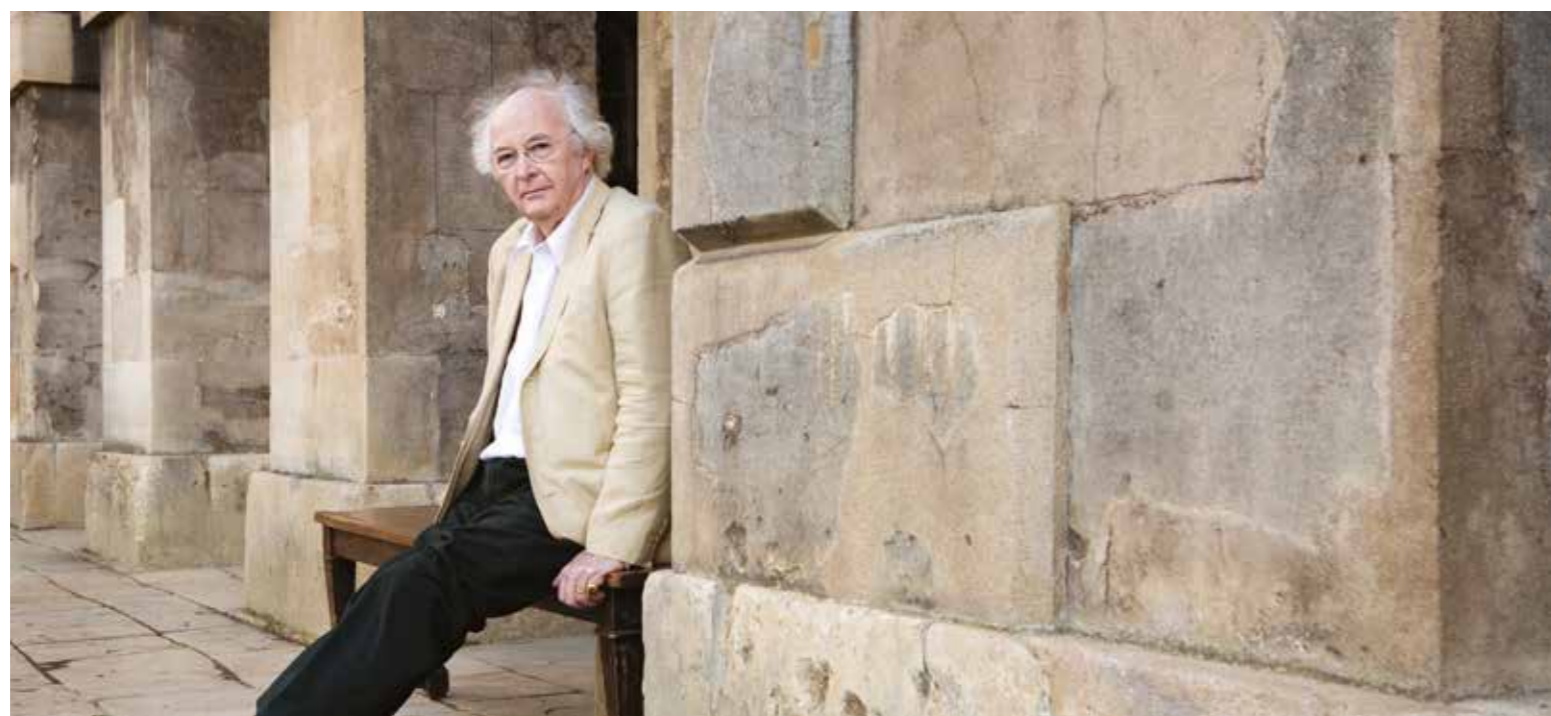
13 October – 1 November, Southbank Centre

Written or spoken, rhyming or narrative, no one can deny the power of words. The London Literature Festival is bringing together luminaries such as Philip Pullman, Karl Ove Knausgård, Dorthe Nors and Tom Hanks to discuss, debate and debunk the world we live in today. At times it feels like 2017 is the year the world finally broke.

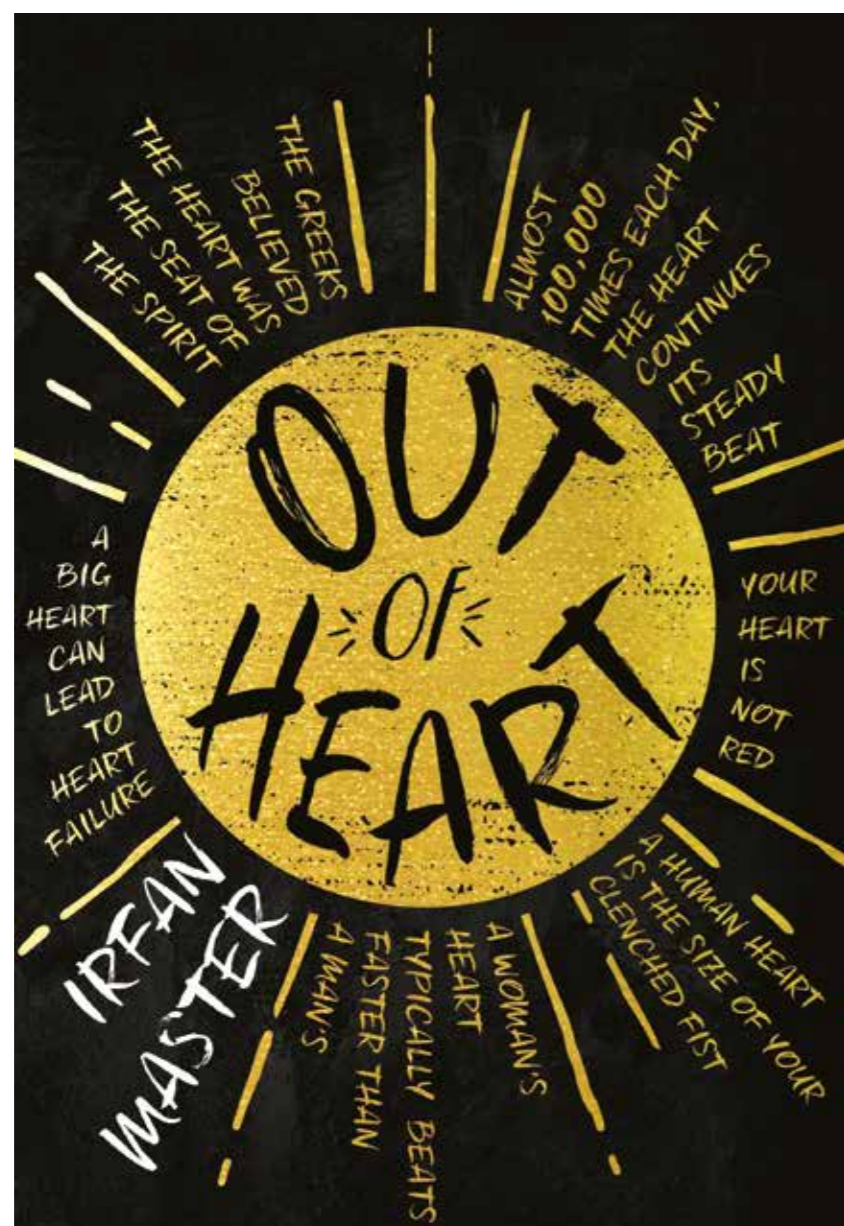
"The London Literature Festival is bringing together luminaries such as Philip Pullman, Karl Ove Knausgård, Dorthe Nors and Tom Hanks"

The London Literature festival finds a way to revive confidence in humanity and explore the possibility of brighter things. Aptly themed 'world on the brink', the festival offers poetry and prose, fierce discourse, family-friendly events, and a host of free programming. We can't promise they'll fix the planet but it's a pretty good place to start.

www.southbankcentre.co.uk



Philip Pullman by Michael Leckie



What Is Truth? by Irfan Master



Tom Hanks by Austin Hargrave



Dorthe Nors by Kirsten Klein



BFI London Film Festival

4 October – 15 October, various locations

Now in its 61st year, the BFI London Film Festival is still at the top of its game, drawing in the most innovative filmmakers from the British and international film industry. It promises glamorous red carpet premieres, informative talks, engaging workshops, as well as shorts and documentaries across venues all over the city. This year's festival features two exclusive European premieres: Andy Serkis' directorial debut, *Breathe*, a moving love story between a young man paralysed by polio and his courageous wife – starring Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy – and *Battle of the Sexes*, which recounts the epic 1973 tennis match between tennis aces Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs. Tickets are hotly contested, so for the best opportunity it's worth considering BFI membership (from £35), which gives priority booking.

www.bfi.org.uk/lff



Open House London

16 September – 17 September, various locations

Every year hundreds of wonderful buildings and spaces around London throw their doors open and welcome architecture and interiors aficionados for Open House London. There is a broad variety of things to discover, as you enjoy free access to private homes as well as theatres, schools, offices, churches, museums and iconic buildings that aren't usually open to the public. Open House is also a great opportunity to find inspiration for your own projects and pick the brains of the people who designed the spaces. 2017 has more than 150 never-before featured buildings including New Scotland Yard, One Blackfriars and the Shaftesbury Theatre, plus 65 guided walks and tours led by historians and architecture experts. Many of the tours and buildings have limited capacity and require booking so make sure you get your name down for a chance to get an insider's view of some of London's most extraordinary spaces.

www.openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk



London Jazz Festival

10 November – 19 November, various locations

Jazz is often seen as a marmite genre, but what most don't realise is how diverse it can be. It's a musical family that has given rise to a multitude of subgenres – Acid Jazz, Bebop, Bossa Nova and Swing to name a few. Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the EFG London Jazz Festival is gearing up for a bumper year with a stellar British and global lineup. But it's the breadth of styles that will really wow audiences, with artists including Harlem Gospel Choir, Average White Band, Andy Sheppard Quartet, Abdullah Ibrahim, Herbie Hancock and Gipsy Kings & Chico. There is also a programme of learning and participation events, including Jazz for Toddlers, Jazz Voice Festival and The Impact of Jazz: Britain in the 20s and 30s. If you're willing to give it a try, we're sure the EFG London Jazz Festival will surprise and delight music-lovers of all ages.

www.efglondonjazzfestival.org.uk



Image by Roger Alarcon

Tequila & Mezcal Fest UK

7 October – 8 October, The Old Truman Brewery

Western movies have projected the image of Tequila as a liquor to be downed in one, occasionally complemented by a pinch of salt and a dash of lime. Not so, say those in the know, who prefer to sip the spirit in a leisurely fashion, taking in its unique flavours and aromas, as befits its Mexican heritage. Tequila & Mezcal Fest is a fantastic opportunity to discover more about the drinks associated with dusty cowboys and frontier town saloons. The festival aims to show the best way to consume both Tequila and Mezcal, explore food pairings, discover cocktail possibilities and generally get everyone into the Mexican spirit of things. Classes will be led by industry experts, while authentic entertainment will be provided in the form of live mariachi bands, Mexican art and photography. Salud!

www.tequilafest.co.uk

Penthouse Pictures

Cereal magazine and Backyard Cinema bring a tranquil world of pared back design and film right on the water's edge.



Image by Paul Calver



Image by Ingrid Rasmussen



Image by Ingrid Rasmussen

Backyard Cinema fans will already know that the pop-up theatre organiser creates film experiences in only the most unique of London dwellings. Past screenings have taken place under a blanket of twinkling fairy lights suspended over the cobbles of Camden Market, and Baz Luhrmann's exquisite *Romeo & Juliet* was screened — complete with live choir — before the candle-lit pews of Marylebone's magnificent St Mary's Church.

Our own intimate screenings take place within the film-set-worthy surroundings of the Abode

apartments designed by Rosa Park and Richard Stapleton, the pair behind the achingly gorgeous magazine *Cereal*.

It's a considered collaboration, where the impeccable design on-screen will seep into reality. Film viewers will arrive at the water's edge and enter the apartments to find interiors by Conran + Partners designed in a minimal modernist style. Think polished concrete floors, blackened ash, chevron tiles and lots of glass.

And the show-stopper...the terrace. Enough to sit 30, cinema-goers will

walk through to the open air to find espaliers and greenery — the kind of space most Londoners can only dream of. This is urban living at its most tranquil; a place you wouldn't mind settling in during a balmy evening spent with friends — and the ideal backdrop to the silver screen's most striking productions.

Some films are known for their aesthetic as much as anything else; arresting set design, gorgeous location or quirky interiors. Tom Ford's *A Single Man*, was described by *The Times* "a thing of heart-stopping beauty", while *It's Nice That*

magazine described Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* as "very pink and very, very stunning". Then every once in a long while, along comes a Hollywood musical that makes even the most diehard enemies of the genre consider a crash course in tap dancing. Such was the power of 2017's *La La Land*, as emotionally wringing as it is visually arresting. The Emma Stone/Ryan Gosling collaboration is more than just a big love story with an audaciously twisty ending — and not just because of that Oscar mishap. It's a masterclass in style in which

Oscar-winning Director Damien Chazelle draws inspiration from classics gone by — *Singin' in the Rain* and *Moulin Rouge* have drawn comparisons — but the result owes as much to his inimitable eye. From the hear-a-pin-drop music sequences (picture a glum Gosling silhouetted alongside the piano beneath a beam of spotlight) to the lovers' waltz against a poetically-beautiful Los Angeles night sky, it's this aesthetic that makes *La La Land* a must-see on the Peninsula's roster of film showings in collaboration with Backyard Cinema.



Image by Ingrid Rasmussen



Image by Ingrid Rasmussen

"Film viewers will arrive at the water's edge and enter the apartments to find interiors by Conran + Partners designed in a minimal modernist style."



La La Land

The season will include a screening of Wes Anderson's 2014 too-many-award-wins-to-mention madcap comedy, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. This modern day classic is a true work of visual art, part nostalgic love story, part murder mystery, it explores friendship, loyalty and attachment to a romanticised, bygone era, against the backdrop of a popular 1930s ski resort fallen on hard times.

Then there's 2009's *A Single Man*, the first screenplay by fashion designer Tom Ford. On the face of it, a movie about a man contemplating suicide isn't one

that would seem to ooze beauty. But Colin Firth's portrayal of the lead character, combined with a set you'd expect from the television series *Mad Men*, makes this meditation on grief often cited as one of the most beautiful films made in recent times. "To feel, rather than think" is what the middle-aged academic eventually learns, and that is what, ultimately, this poignant picture ultimately invites the audience to do.

Tickets for Backyard Cinema at Abode are £25 and available from www.backyardcinema.co.uk.



A Single Man

Special Agent

A photographer, an estate agent and a creative collaborator...all in one.



John McDavid



Stepping Stones, Withdean Road, Brighton

Photography graduate and hip-hop music producer aren't lines you'd expect to find on the resume of an estate agent. But then John McDavid isn't your typical property seller.

For starters, the homes on his books are among the most Instagramable, inspirational and design-led in the UK. This is the ultimate in "property porn". And it's this creative core that's lead him down the path to creating his agency Aucoot – named after a favourite cove in Cape Cod – where his day job means indulging his love of telling stories and exploring inspiring spaces through beautiful pictures.

As he takes a short break from photographing the Abode apartment by Cereal on the Peninsula, we caught up with him for a chat about his journey from estate agent to creative and how he's found artistry in the destination.

How did an art school graduate end up selling houses for a living?

At first it was a temporary job while I figured out what I wanted to be when I grew up. Coming from a creative background and becoming an estate agent...it does jar, and everyone who knew me was surprised. But I realised I can combine my love of photography with selling properties. Having in-depth knowledge of how to create an image, as well as the emotional side of house buying,

allows me to capture what makes a home special. You can be artistic in many ways; you don't have to draw or paint – the marketing and branding side of the business uses my creative mind as well.

What one photograph would you want with you on a desert island?

I'm looking at a photograph in my kitchen by the photographer, Max Wagner. It's of some guys in the sea with the sun shining down on them in Mexico. These beautiful colours fade up from a sandy colour through to turquoise and the blue sky in the background. You can sit here on a grey day and be transported by that image. But I realise that if I'm stranded on a desert island, that's my view anyway. So, I'd rather take something that reminds me of home. There's a photograph of my son running towards the camera along a jetty at Newtown Creek. It's right by the sea, the beautiful open country on either side. If I was castaway somewhere, I'd like that with me.

You're a Dad to a toddler so presumably, your home is piled high with coloured plastic. How has parenthood changed your outlook on interior design?

When you have children you become less precious, that's for sure – I've now got some wonderful drawings on my walls! But the type of space I want

around me hasn't really changed. In this post-Fordist, hyper-connected world we live in, I feel it's so incredibly important to be able to divide your time between different activities. So I've shied away from the idea of open-plan; I'd rather create a segregated space that allows me to focus on family rather than sitting with them on a phone or laptop. I've always felt that. It's just more relevant now with a two and a half-year-old.

You ran a record label in a former life. What's on your 'at home' playlist?

I don't have specific music for different things; it's about how I feel in that moment whether I'm cooking or having a dinner party or just relaxing. Nineties hip-hop is my love, so anything by A Tribe Called Quest. There's also a contemporary jazz group, BadBad-NotGood, particularly their new track Time Moves Slow featuring Sam Herring from Future Islands. And I enjoy Giles Peterson on Radio 6. For family time any of that would stand – you've got to start the musical education early!

You've said that design enables you to understand people. What does your home reveal about you?

Anyone who knows me would probably agree that I'm a calm person. I want my home to help me feel that way, so that's what I aspire to. I've worked with Marc Péridis, the founder of Soho gallery, 19 Greek Street. He runs

a talk called Sacred Transformative Spaces, which looks at how to create the home you want. I've taken his lead on thinking about how I can feel calm, and for me, that is being at my happy place – Newtown Creek on the Isle of Wight. So I've taken my design cues from that lovely calming connection with nature and the colours, textures and materials that resonate with my memories there.

It's said a buyer knows instantly when a house is 'the one'. Is it the same when deciding if a property is right for Aucoot?

Our clients have created something special – they've worked with an architect or an interior designer, or they're design literate themselves, and the high street agent can't do that justice in their communication to buyers. But Aucoot isn't limited by a style of architecture or when something was built; a lot of it comes down to gut feeling; does this property resonate with me or inspire me in some way?

If you could pick one Aucoot property to move into rather than sell...

We're currently selling a property on Withdean Road, Brighton, which, as soon as I first walked in, I could just see myself living there. Everything about it for me creates a lovely feeling... high ceilings, a great amount of light and amazing hillside views. The materials used by the architect

John Pardey play a big part in it too. You get a lot of external brickwork exposed internally, and all this solid oak, giving everything a very natural feel. It's extremely considered, but at the same time very understated.

What would you say to a friend wanting the inside scoop on 'Abode by Cereal'?

Good design is what connects all the properties we sell at Aucoot. So when we were approached to sell the penthouses, we recognised the importance of styling them in a way that's both authentic to the space and aligns with our ethos. That's why we've chosen to partner with Cereal magazine to get the aesthetic just right. Interior design aside, Greenwich Peninsula isn't your average development; it's part of an ambitious long-term transformation and because of that the properties are far more considered than your typical urban development. For example, the homes in the Lower Riverside district, and especially the Abode apartment, offer a great opportunity to live right on the river. You get to look out at an ever-changing scene of boats sailing by and see beautiful light reflecting off the water. It's such a tranquil, minimal space. The owner will walk in and feel instantly relaxed.

Discover more about Abode by Cereal.
www.greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/Abode



Images of Withdean Road, Brighton



Next. Big. Things.

Ravensbourne's young innovators and pioneers are about to change your world.

The thing with ideas is they're not much good left rattling about in one's head. Their worth lies in teasing them out, nurturing them and making them real, tangible, relevant and meaningful. That's how your iPods and Teslas and Alexas are made. That's how Google and Facebook and Uber come to be. But it takes guts and a lot of work and an army of very determined people to make it happen. And this is where Ravensbourne comes in. The Peninsula's very own arts and design college see themselves as "champions of creativity and collaboration" as well as "innovative and industry-focused". The Peninsulist met some of 2017's soon-to-be graduates to discuss their work and the future.



Images by Frankie Pike, The Degree Show 2016



Joe Kidd: The future film producer

Not content with co-writing, directing and crowd-funding his third-year project, Joe Kidd also managed to secure the talents of established film and television actors, Clive Russell (Game of Thrones, Ripper Street) and Daniel Garcia (Forever Tomorrow). His film Displaced was shot predominantly on the Peninsula, and centres on John, a rough sleeper who, following an assault, decides to rebuild his relationship with his son.

"Joe Kidd also managed to secure the talents of established film and television actors"

With his film wrapped up, Joe will be exhibiting at Ravensbourne's Degree Show this summer and submitting his film to both national and international film festivals.

"With his film wrapped up, Joe will be exhibiting at Ravensbourne's Degree Show this summer and submitting his film to both national and international film festivals."

"Over the last ten years there's been an influx of innovation, from YouTube to everyone having a great quality video camera in their pocket. I think the next big innovation will be home streaming or same day release, where you'd have the option to pay a little more and watch the latest blockbuster release in the comfort of your own home. As well as increasing profits it would also cut down on piracy."



Image by Nina Manandbar



Jed Maiden: The place-maker

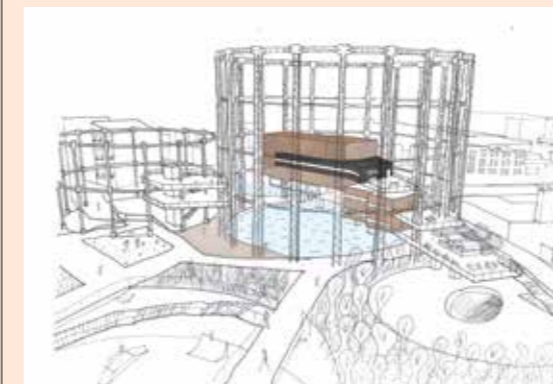
Fiercely passionate about community-focused projects, Jed is about to graduate with a BA (Hons) in Architecture. His project, The Ark, is about giving a new lease of life to Bethnal Green's industrial gas towers. Currently at risk of demolition, Jed's proposal is to repurpose the iconic towers into an adaptable community site, which would include facilities for staging concerts, as well as parkland and other areas that encourage communities to get together.

He was intrigued by the gas towers' history, their abandonment and the way they polarise opinions of taste. His idealism is balanced by an understanding that as well as preserving London's industrial heritage and bolstering the live music scene, the project would also need to be commercially viable in order to survive. It's a pioneering yet realistic approach to large-scale architecture.

"Physical community spaces are more relevant than ever before. People need something of cultural relevance historically or symbolically they can relate to. It's easy to blame our reliance on technology for the downfall of public interaction, but by trying to understand changing behaviours,



Image by Nina Manandbar



like young people's use of social media sites such as Snapchat, designers would be able to create meaningful public spaces. And because these trends change so rapidly, adaptability of the space should also be at the forefront of design."

Lewis Calderwood, Stefan Benson and Oscar Labiff: The re-use revolutionaries

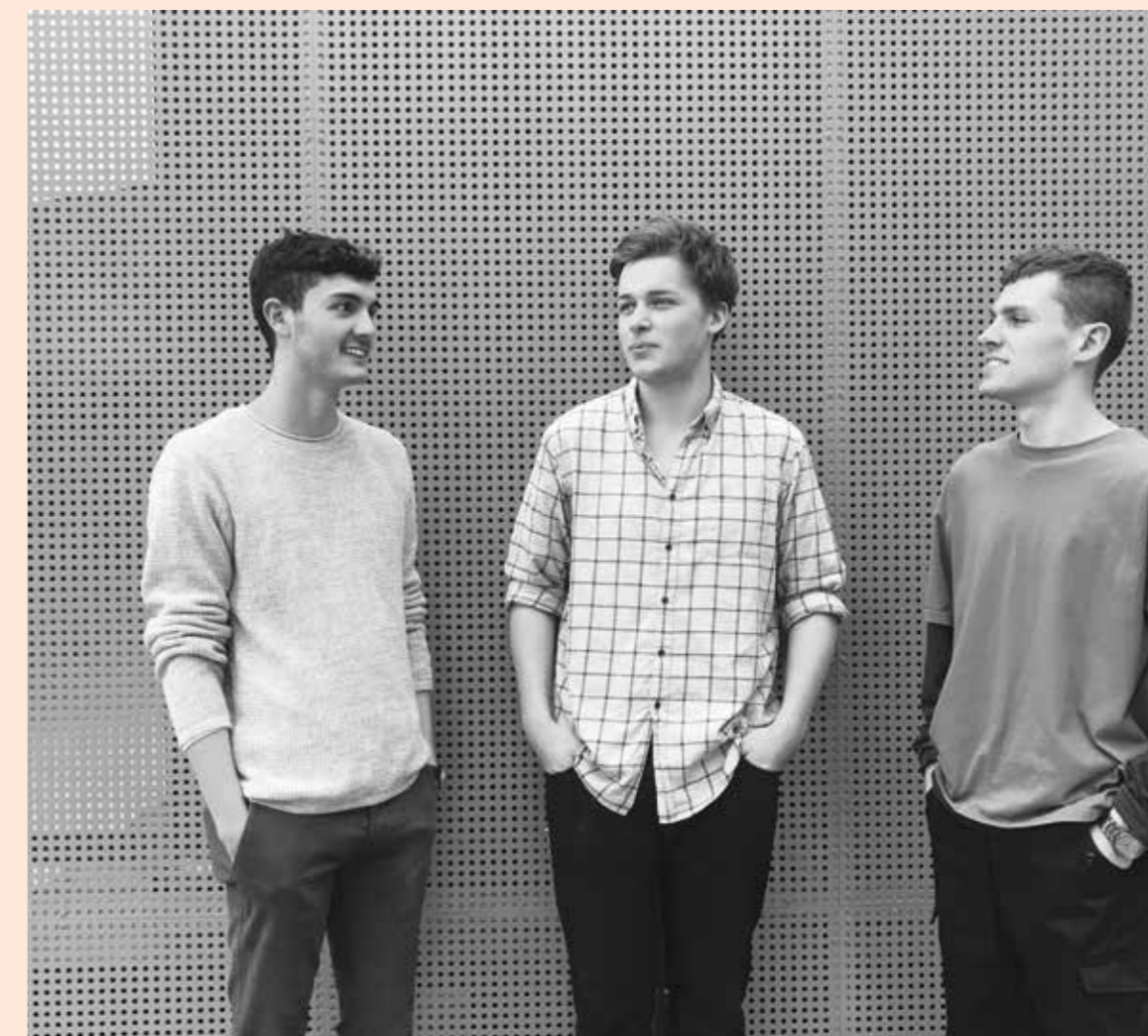
While researching, in response to a Royal Society of Arts brief regarding "circular futures" – projects encouraging circular economy, or designing with an end life in mind – Lewis, Stefan and Oscar discovered this: we splurge on shaving gel and scrimp on razors. But with up to 2,000,000,000 disposable razors ending up in landfill sites each year in the US, they came up with an ingenious idea to facilitate change.

"2,000,000,000 disposable razors ending up in landfill sites each year in the US"

Their project 'Loop' is a sustainable shaving subscription service that converts disposable razors into material which is used to then 3D print a premium razor. The trio will soon be graduating with their BA (Hons) in Product Design and if this pioneering project is anything to go by, it's safe to say employers won't be wasting any time to snap them up.

"Their project 'Loop' is a sustainable shaving subscription service that converts disposable razors into material which is used to then 3D print a premium razor."

"Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) play a huge part in waste and recycling. We were intrigued that the waste of these FMCGs had so much reusable material, and wanted to use this to show consumers the potential of their waste. 3D printing seemed a great fit. And it will only get faster and more affordable. On a domestic level it will allow people to create their own products and quickly build things specific to their own needs. In this sense, 3D printing has the potential to revolutionise DIY tasks."



Leah Ward: The eco-fashion entrepreneur

Leah's project, a store based on the idea of 'slow fashion' in central London, is an intriguing proposition. Graduating this year with a BA (Hons) in Interior Design and Environment Architecture, Leah is exploring the idea that consumers are becoming more eco-conscious in the way that they buy, rejecting 'fast fashion' brands and choosing more eco brands instead. Leah's ethical and sustainable approach to fashion will include hand-cut pieces made from sustainable high-quality fabrics in England. The slow approach would also allow a degree of personalisation. The third-year student has also designed a store with an innovative solution for targeting different clientele: one store, two entrances, each on a different street, attracting high-street shoppers from one end and high-end shoppers from the other.

"Apparel-making is the third biggest polluter after oil. I believe that it's important for people to be aware of the effects of the fashion industry and how we as consumers can do our part. And consumers are becoming more conscious about the way they buy, especially millennials. Researching the effects that fast



Image by Nina Manandbar

fashion retail has on our environment shocked me and made me change the way I buy clothing. I think this is a problem that isn't publicised enough so I hope that my work will bring awareness of the issue."

Back in 2008, the *New York Times Magazine* published a seminal front cover picturing a dozen or so kids engaged in couldn't-care-less-who's-watching kind of fun, above the headline: "Why do we play?" Play, argued the editorial, is a serious business, much less an extravagance, and something wise parents will go to the ends of the earth and back to ensure is a staple part of their children's education.

"The data for adult play is compelling"

But what about adults? Almost a decade later, we've finally caught on. Grown-up playtime has become a thing. We're not talking *that* kind of playtime (fans of 50 Shades can find that sort of stuff on websites of an altogether different variety). We're talking about the kind of grownup playtime that saw 12 million adult colouring books sold in a year. That enabled David Beckham to casually let the *Sunday Times Magazine* in on his LEGO-to-combat-stress hobby. And that created an entirely new industry based on a whole heap of experts whose start-up consultancies can be hired to inject more fun into your life, home or business.

The data for adult play is compelling. In Denmark — officially the happy-go-luckiest country in the world according to every survey going — employees regularly break off from their to-do lists to join colleagues in a game of hand ball, before clocking off at 4.30pm to dash to chess club or even a choir evening. And if insider descriptions are anything to go by, Googleplex — the California campus of the world's leading search engine, number one on *Forbes'* list of best places to work in 2017 — is less an office, more

a giant Rubik's cube of fun and games in which engineers are paid to play with toys for inspiration. As psychiatrist Dr Stuart Brown puts it: "The opposite of play is not work, it's depression." All this is evidence enough for the NOW Gallery, where this summer they are presenting two exhibitions that invite you to delve into a mind and body-altering state of uninhibited, unadulterated playtime.

"To step into this visual extravaganza is to immerse yourself in the pages of a real life 'Choose Your Own Adventure' comic book."

First up is *The Island* opening 19 May - 25 June 2017. To step into this visual extravaganza is to immerse yourself in the pages of a real life 'Choose Your Own Adventure' comic book. Leave your hang-ups at the door as you explore a story told through three-dimensional landscapes, characters and words, and allow your imagination to run amok as you pick up clues to the secret at the very heart of *The Island*.

The work of French illustrators Mayumi Otero and Raphael Urwiller (jointly known as *Icineri*) is presented by the NOW Gallery in conjunction with the East London Comic & Arts Festival (ELCAF), the UK's foremost celebration of the comic and illustration genre.

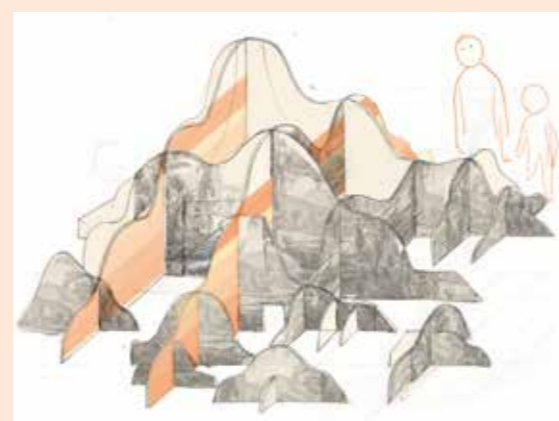
To tie in with the Urban Village Fete in Greenwich on 21st May, ELCAF and the NOW Gallery will present a drop-in workshop where you'll use visuals created by *Icineri* to create your very own version of *The Island*.

The Art of Playfulness

Two fantastical exhibitions implore you to take a flight of fancy at the NOW Gallery this summer.



Icineri's illustrations



Camille Walala Clerkenwell London Vinyl Lounge. Image by Dan Weill

Next up is *WALALA X PLAY* from 14 July to 24 September 2017. Designer Camille Walala's immersive maze is about as close as you're ever likely to get to a whistle-stop tour of *Alice in Wonderland*, its labyrinth network of dazzlingly colourful corridors and enclosed spaces inviting you to 'spot the difference' within a playground of brain-teasing patterns. Seek out secret spots affording new views of the installation, and put your body and mind through its paces as you navigate a network of surprising spaces (if only there were a "drink me" potion on hand to help you squeeze through that tiny archway).

Mindful of the NOW Gallery's Greenwich Peninsula setting, the eagle-eyed explorer will recognise in the shapes and curves of Walala's work, both in the waves of the Thames and the angles of nearby buildings. But the piece offers as much to its location as it borrows: "We love having

colour in our gallery space, it glows through the glass and resonates on Peninsula Square," says curator Jemima Burrill. "Camille Walala is the queen of colour and her patterns will create another world for all in NOW Gallery. We are creating a playful place where — as is in our past exhibitions — we give people time to linger, digest and unpick puzzles giving space to let the installation resonate."

Can grownup playtime, as that NY Times piece once theorised, really bolster your creativity, your social agility and your overall mental wellbeing? There's only one way to find out.

The Island is on 19 May - 25 June 2017 and WALALA X PLAY is on 14 July to 24 September 2017.

Both exhibitions are free and suitable for all ages.

Discover more about the NOW Gallery at nowgallery.co.uk



Camille Walala



Optical trickery with Jesa Bonham

Peninsulist Living

At Home on the Peninsula

There's no place like home: a glimpse into Alex and Katherine's eclectic, characterful and collectable-filled Peninsula apartment.

An empty property can often feel like a random collection of identikit rooms, no matter how well laid out they are or apparent their function. But little by little people manage to make the space theirs, and inspiration can come from anywhere: a nice view outside a particular window, a short get-a-way in an unfamiliar city, an old friend's bedroom, and even the ambience of the neighbourhood. Eventually, lived-in spaces share a story.

The Peninsulist was lucky enough to be invited into the home of Alex Chen and Katherine Blaisdell, a couple who were so taken by the Peninsula, they bought a three-bed apartment within a couple of hours of first arriving here. They certainly know what they like.

Alex: "It's a very diverse area. With dozens of different nationalities and cultures living side by side. It feels like you're in New York or San Francisco."

Alex is an Independent Food and Beverage Consultant in design and development (and top chef), while Katherine is Senior Vice President of Design and Project Development for Belmond Ltd, which owns and operates luxury hotels, river cruise boats and trains world-wide. So, they know a thing or two about design and entertaining then. Prior to London, they divided their home time between Dallas and Atlanta but the nature of their work means they both travel constantly to all four corners of the world.

"Their design-savvy approach is bolstered by the confidence to try new things and to do it themselves."



Images by Ingrid Rasmussen

The Living Room and Balcony

The extent of the couple's travels is evident in their collection of art and artefacts, as well as their furniture and accessories. A carved stone dog from Cambodia sits beside a giraffe from South Africa and a Zebra from Botswana. There's an intricately framed canvas that hails from Peru, nestled behind a twisted bit of driftwood picked up in Texas, while antique rugs inherited from Katherine's grandmother add colour and warmth.

The whole apartment is a beautiful, eclectic blend. Not quite modern, but not traditional either, it manages to feel homey and well lived in—a space that holds a lot of shared experiences and memories. And yet the property is just a year old and Alex and Katherine have scarcely lived in it that long. What's their secret?

Alex: "We've lived in many parts of the world and it's very important to make home feel like home. You need to make it feel like it belongs to you."

Katherine: "The key is I like a little bit of colour. And I don't like to look at nothingness. So even in the bathroom there are prints and objects on display to lift the spirits. And every single piece - every little thing - has a story."

Katherine is definitely the ideas person when it comes to their home: she plans and researches everything from layouts to furniture meticulously, leaving nothing to chance. And then Alex steps in and executes her vision with wit, flair and some brilliant lateral thinking, like using a wood-print wallpaper instead of real wood cladding to add texture and warmth in the dining area.

Alex: "We talk about what needs doing then Katherine goes off travelling for work and by the time she gets back the room is done."

Katherine: "When I see our neighbours' houses it always amazes me how all the homes look so unique."

"A carved stone dog from Cambodia sits beside a giraffe from South Africa"



The Study and Stairwell

There's no part of the apartment that hasn't been carefully considered. Though compact, the study area has a strong presence, almost like a room within a room. The magnetic chalkboard paint delineates the space, giving a surface to write on while the chandelier illustration (drawn by Alex) is a tongue-in-cheek nod to the trompe l'oeil wallpaper that frames the dining area further along.

Alex: "I work in the study area in the evenings or on grey days, but when the sun's shining I sit at the dining table so I can look out."

Down the hall, Alex and Katherine have used the double-height ceiling of the stairwell to its full potential to display a range of the artwork they've collected over the years.

Pieces from America, Portugal, Italy and the UK hang side by side: etchings, illustrations, oil paintings and watercolours. Modern and traditional, abstract and still life. The common theme is that every piece means something to them. It's a memory of a journey, a project, an experience. Something to make them smile and to lift their spirits.

Katherine: "We like to pick up something, however small, from everywhere we go."

"I work in the study area in the evenings or on grey days, but when the sun's shining I sit at the dining table so I can look out"



As a former chef, Alex is very particular about his kitchen and admits that when choosing a home if the kitchen doesn't cut it, then the rest of the place doesn't even get a look in.

Alex and Katherine's bijou balcony complete with olive tree and fragrant herbs as befitting a former chef, and a couple that love to entertain



The Kitchen and Dining Room

When it comes to dining it's all about Alex. Having been a professional chef, he loves nothing more than to put his skills to use when entertaining friends and family, and an invitation to dine chez Chens promises to be as delightfully surprising as it is delicious.

"Everything they've done feels achievable"

Alex: The heart of the home for us is definitely the kitchen. This is what we've learned from all the different places we've lived in.

Katherine: "Alex likes to go down to Borough Market early in the morning before the tourists, and take his time buying ingredients. But he never actually plans the menu until the very last minute."

It's clear that the key to Alex and Katherine's success is that they play to each other's strengths. Their design-savvy approach is bolstered by the confidence to try new things and to do it themselves. And their success is evident. In just one year they've achieved what many of us couldn't even imagine getting done in a decade: a house that feels very much like a home, filled with beautiful, and lovingly chosen and displayed, furniture, art and objects. What's really wonderful though is that everything they've done feels achievable, even by those of us who wouldn't know a paint roller from a spirit level.

With thanks to Alex Chen and Katherine Blaisdell for letting The Peninsulist have a nose-round their stunning home.



The generously proportioned, rustic dining table was picked up from a farm in the USA. It is a focal point for the living space and also inspired the trompe l'oeil wood cladding wallpaper above it.

With *Money for Nothing*, the BBC has made essential TV viewing from transforming skip fodder into *objets d'art*. In April 'upcycling' was the unofficial theme of 2017's Salone del Mobile, and over on Pinterest, a frenzy of spray paint, varnish and glue guns has given rise to the 'IKEA hack board'. It's well worth a browse; you'll see flat pack furniture get a second life as high-end-looking furnishings and fixtures. Plain bookcases turn into elegant chests of drawers, bed slats turn into storage, and dishes turn into pendant lamps – queue disbelief from family and friends.

But vintage chair creator Yinka Ilori wants it known that upcycling is no passing fad. Rather, it's as old as furniture itself and is accessible to anyone wanting to make a house a truly unique home.

"In some countries around the world, this is a way of life. It helps the environment; it helps everyone," says Ilori. "Even in this country, we've always made new from old – it's just that it's only in the last few years, with Milan Design Week making it cool, and big companies getting involved with designer collaborations, that it's getting a label 'upcycling'."

Why should you try it?

Jewel tones and feature walls come in and out of fashion, but for Ilori, upcycling's permanence owes to its ability to tap into a deeper human association. "People like the idea of working with something they have a connection with," he says.

"If you're buying a chair from Habitat, or wherever, it's just not the same as the attachment you feel from putting all your love and hard work and effort into upcycling that item. The whole process – from choosing your colours to your upholstery – it's much more personal. People love to show off their craft and handiwork."

Make an object tell your story

"Your best creations," says Ilori, "will be those that hold personal



Yinka Ilori, by Veerle Evens

meaning." Storytelling is central to his chair making; his pieces are injected with his Nigerian-British heritage, personal experiences with family and friends and parables that inspire him.

"In telling your own stories through a piece of furniture, you don't need to be too literal," he says. He recalls a piece he worked on at university, a chair inspired by the parable: *Don't throw stones at a bird that wants to fly away*. The words 'birds' and 'stones' turned into green and red tones to symbolise the jealousy and judgement at the moral heart of the story.

"Start with something like a small table. Keep an eye on Pinterest and Instagram for inspiration and keep your story simple," he recommends. "It might just be about how you feel, or want to feel, in a particular space like your lounge or

Make and Mend

For designer Yinka Ilori, upcycling isn't a trend – it's a way of life.

"Mistakes are perfect," says Ilori. "I always make mistakes in the studio and sometimes they result in the most beautiful pieces of art I make. As human beings, we're none of us polished to perfection. We've all got rough edges that make us individuals and that mistake can be what makes your piece of furniture individual."

Upcycling as therapy

The days, weeks, or months you spend absorbed in your upcycling project can be hugely therapeutic. Not just because of how relaxing the process can be, but because your creation can become a focal point for your emotional state.

Ilori recalls a South American woman who attended one of his chair workshops. "She moved here for love. Although, that meant leaving her grown-up son in South America. He was about to go to university, but it upset her that people gave her a hard time about it."

"She had an idea for a chair based on a parable: *The plate never thought it would taste pepper in the end*." It represented her desire to have something more in her life – a message she put into the chair with a plate in place of the seat. "It was really thought-provoking and when she presented to the class she cried. Creating something can allow people to let down their guard."

Yinka Ilori will be running upcycling workshops at NOW Gallery during London Design Festival in September. To join him, keep an eye on greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/wbats-on

bedroom," says Ilori. "Think about what message you want to put into that chair and what colours will help evoke that story."

Look out and explore London

"If you have no dusty bric-a-brac, just keep your eyes open," Yinka tells us.

"Sometimes that's all it takes to start forming an idea. Yesterday I cycled from West to South London and along my journey I went through King's Road and Earl's Court and I kept seeing chairs discarded outside people's houses," he says.

"Be inquisitive. If you're passionate, you will find a way to source what you're looking for. There's always second-hand shops and Gumtree. But I like to find objects

on the streets of London because I find that more interesting. There is a trend of chair styles across the city – I'm used to finding café chairs in Dalston; Danish chairs in Chiswick. Often, I get a peek at the owner when they come outside and that gives the chair character and a deeper narrative."

Remember quirks are part of the process

An upcycling novice shouldn't get too hung up on process or sticking to a rigid vision. "At art school we were always taught: sketch, prototype, make," recalls Ilori. "But working from a sketch can create pressure to make exactly what you've drawn. So I work backwards, going straight into making and sketching the finished product." Don't worry about going wrong either.



Images by Veerle Evens



I often make a version of this salad throughout BBQ season at home and this year we'll be selling it with the meat from our fire pit at the Urban Village Fete. It's a delicious way to make use of leftover tomatoes, but it's a bonus if you have fancy tomatoes of lots of different colours and flavours. This recipe is enough to feed four peckish people along with some sides.

Salad

- 500g/1lb plum tomatoes, roughly sliced into wedges
- 2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 3 tbsp olive oil, plus extra to drizzle
- 2 thick slices of rustic white bread, crusts removed
- ½ tsp smoked paprika
- 300g/10oz baby tomatoes, ideally a variety of colours, halved
- 2 spring onions, finely sliced
- 1 big handful of parsley leaves, shredded
- 1 tbsp sherry vinegar



Dressing

- 60g/2oz blanched almonds
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed with a little salt
- 1 tbsp sherry vinegar
- A squeeze of lemon juice
- 150ml/5fl oz extra-virgin olive oil

"A delicious way to make use of leftover tomatoes"

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/gas 6.
2. Place the plum tomatoes, garlic and olive oil in a baking dish or tray and season well with salt and pepper. Mix everything together with your hands, then place in the oven for 15 minutes.
3. Remove it from the oven, rip in the bread and sprinkle with the paprika.

4. Toss everything together with a spoon so the bread absorbs all the oil and juices and is lightly dusted in paprika, then return to the oven for another 15 minutes until golden. Leave to cool slightly.

5. Meanwhile, make the dressing. Combine the almonds and garlic together in a food processor (or pestle and mortar) until finely ground. Stir in the sherry vinegar and lemon juice and season generously.

6. With the machine running, slowly start pouring in the oil in a steady stream until it is incorporated. Add a few splashes of cold water to loosen it slightly for drizzling.

7. Tumble the contents of the baking dish into a salad bowl and add the raw tomatoes, spring onions, parsley and sherry vinegar. Season with salt and pepper, and drizzle over extra oil if it needs it. Transfer to plates and spoon over the dressing.

Salad: Stevie's summer staple

Stevie Parle of Craft London shares his go-to summer staple, a tomato salad with spicy fried bread, and almond and garlic dressing.



Stevie Parle

LUPANAR by Craft London

40mls Buffalo Trace, 20mls Grand Marnier, 15mls beetroot shrub, 1 basil leaf

The Lupanar cocktail is a tongue-in-cheek homage to the beetroot, named after a famous Pompeii brothel that had paintings of the ancient aphrodisiac on its walls. This is a drink that takes a lot of time to create, especially if (like us) you plan to grow the beetroots yourself. The beetroot is the heart of the drink, giving it incredible depth and earthiness.

Method

- Peel and cut 1kg of beetroots into 2cm pieces.
- Cover the beetroots in 500g of sugar and leave for 24 hours.
- Drain off the liquid that is created (we also puree a small amount of the remaining beetroots but you don't have to).
- Mix with 500g of high quality apple vinegar.

Once you have your shrub, simply combine the ingredient in a shaker, fill with ice, shake vigorously and pour over fresh ice in a rocks glass. Garnish with 1 basil leaf to balance the drink with a great sweet smell.



The Peninsula playlist



Balthazar – Do Not Claim Them Anymore

Some tracks lend themselves to loud speakers, top volumes and cathartic moments. Others to the thrill of the festival field or the ambience of the office background. Do Not Claim Them Anymore, however, is a pure, unequivocal headphone track. Best listened to

alone while reading in your living room or during evening strolls.

Like many of their more cerebral peers (Radiohead, Massive Attack et al.), Belgium's Balthazar specialise in the kind of music designed to bury itself deep into your brain.

It's not that the scattershot beats and gently creeping atmospherics are difficult or impenetrable in any way. Far from it, they're the kind of sounds that you want to keep for yourself, for solo walks through the city once the sun's gone down when you can embrace your inner introvert for a brief half hour.

Roughly picked bass lines set a walking pace, while a host of heady falsettos provide intoxicating harmonies that lure you into Balthazar's world. It's a world that operates at night time, when the streets are empty and there's a slight chill in the air. But it's a pleasing chill – the kind that wakes you up and makes you feel a little bit more alive for it.

Here's our guide to what's happening on Greenwich Peninsula this summer.

At The O2

An epic nightclub, a bowling club and home to one of the biggest arena's in Europe, here's what's on at The O2.

30 Sep 2017

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds

—

9 Oct – 11 Oct 2017

Lady Gaga

—

10 Oct 2017

Lady Antebellum

—

13 Oct 2017

Impractical Jokers 'Where's Larry?' Tour

—

15 Oct – 16 Oct 2017

J.Cole

—

18 Oct 2017

Emeli Sandé

—

22 Oct & 24 Oct 2017

Metallica

—

23 Oct 2017

Future

—

26 Oct 2017

Little Mix

—

28 Oct 2017

BluesFest presents Daryl Hall & John Oates

—

29 Oct 2017

BluesFest presents Steely Dan

—

2 Nov – 3 Nov 2017

John Bishop: Winging It

—

4 Nov 2017

Above & Beyond

—

12 Nov – 19 Nov 2017

Nitto ATP Finals 2017

—

21 Nov 2017

Queens of the Stone Age

—

22 Nov 2017

Depeche Mode

—

23 Nov 2017

Deep Purple

—

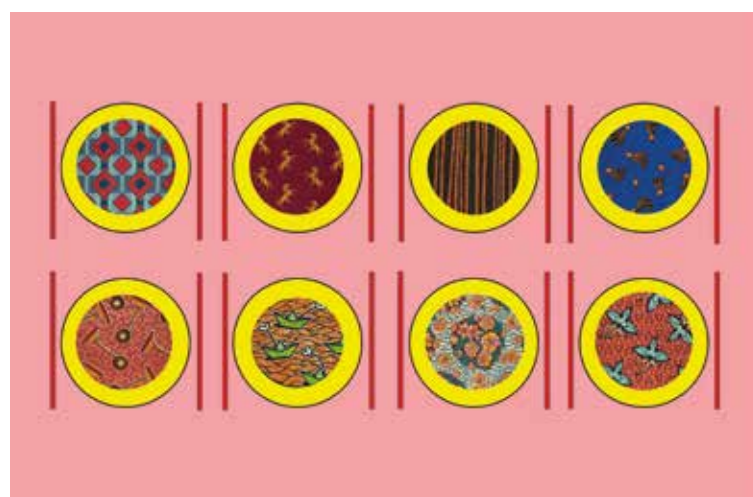
24 Nov 2017

Steps

—

*Dates correct at time of going to press

Design Salon with Yinka Ilori



21 September, NOW Gallery

A unique collection of designer chairs invites you to rest a while, but will you plump for aesthetics, comfort or functionality, and what does your choice say about you? Find out at this discussion with vintage upcycler, Yinka Ilori, who also joins a panel of leading creatives to discuss inclusion in London's photography, fashion, art and design spaces. How can cultural institutions empower the melting pot of artistic talent and spread diversity? Join the debate alongside live music, drinks and Nigerian tapas.

www.nowgallery.co.uk

The Body Issue



13 October – 12 November, NOW Gallery

However much we condemn the airbrush, our obsession with perfection refuses to go away, incessantly drip-fed to us through social and mainstream media. But to what extent do we endorse today's narrow standards of beauty every time we like, favourite or upload a carefully filtered photograph? In the second instalment of the *Human Stories* series designed to encourage contemporary discourse on modern life, this collection of specially commissioned photographs, films and animations celebrates cultural diversity, while examining the blemishes and imperfections we seek to disguise.

www.nowgallery.co.uk

Origami by Satchie Noro and Silvain Ohl



12 October, Peninsula Square

Dispense with everything you thought you knew about the delicate and intricate Japanese art of paper folding. In this 35-minute riverside performance, an unwieldy and gargantuan white shipping container plays the role of a sheet of paper, its sharp corners and vertiginous edges constantly in motion as a gravity-defying dancer flies, cartwheels and tiptoes her way around the unfurling, ever-changing space it creates. Fred Costa's shipyard-inspired soundtrack lends an air of menace to what is already a truly breath-holding spectacle, that's been described as equal parts choreography, architecture, sculpture and mechanical design. The event is free but booking is essential.

www.danceumbrella.co.uk

Malbec and Roll: an evening of wine tasting



17 November, Vinothec Compass

Marcelo Pelleriti, celebrated South American oenologist (meaning one engaged in the science of wine—don't worry, we had to look it up too), personally hand-collected all 900,000 berries used in his limited edition Malbec. That's not a level of commitment shown by your average fruit picker, but the real proof of course is in the sniffing and the glugging. That's why you're cordially invited to the uncorking of Vinothec Compass' winter collection, where you'll sample the results of Pelleriti's endeavours alongside other Argentinian rubies, whose secrets are currently exciting the taste buds of red wine buffs worldwide.

www.greenwichpeninsulagolfrange.com