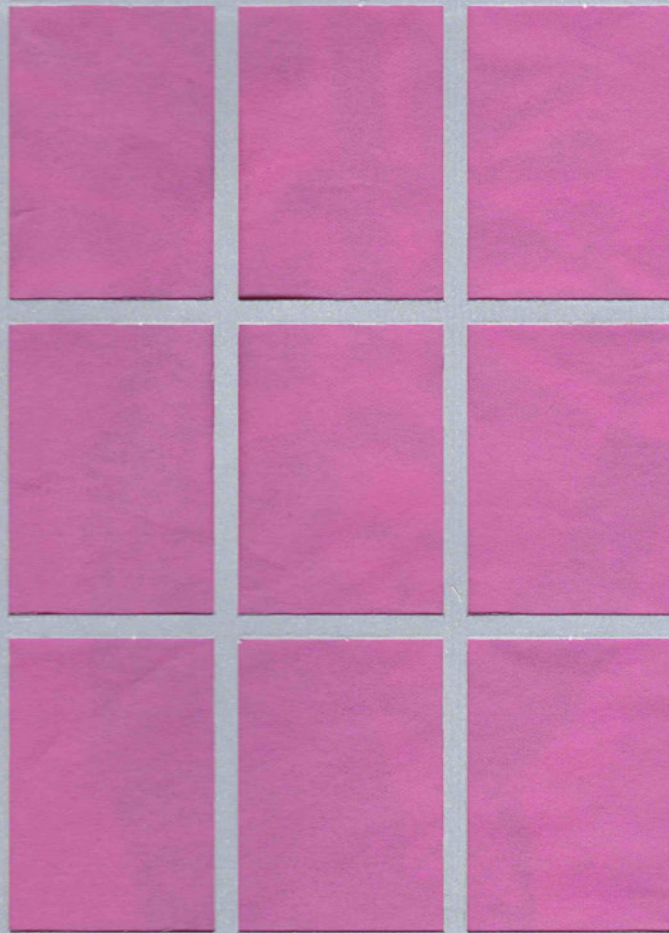




BELGRAVIA

President's Journal



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Stretch those legs

The Goring has recently teamed up with tour company Art History UK to create a series of six tailor-made tours celebrating the special occasions and festivals that punctuate the English calendar. 'High Days and Holidays' will play out over the course of the year, marking St George's Day, May Day, Harvest Festival, All Souls Day, Guy Fawkes and Christmas in turn. Devised by Art History UK founder Rose Balston, the tours will consider the capital's artistic gems with enthusiasm and juicy anecdotes a-plenty. The Goring will be the start and end destination, where specially created cocktails will welcome back jaded guests after a long, memorable day. On Saturday 4 May, May Day will be celebrated with a wander around the National Gallery. Renaissance depictions of the ancient pagan ritual, rejoicing in spring and fertility and by the likes of Botticelli, Jan Van Eyck and Rubens will be discussed at length. Other images portraying the promiscuous love lives of the pagan gods and goddesses will also be considered as the afternoon pans out.

www.thegoring.com



Waxing lyrical

by local resident
Briana Handte Lesesne

What woman doesn't take a bath or like to enjoy a romantic dinner in the presence of... a few candles? Maybe she's even wished she could create her own. Well she can, thanks to Rachel Vosper. During a course at the shop, my private chandler, Rachel, gave me a brief history on the art of candle making. Then, donning a fashionable black apron, I elected a beautiful grey glass vessel, the company's signature colour. I chose Hellebores fragrance as it reminded me of an old Issey Miyake fragrance.

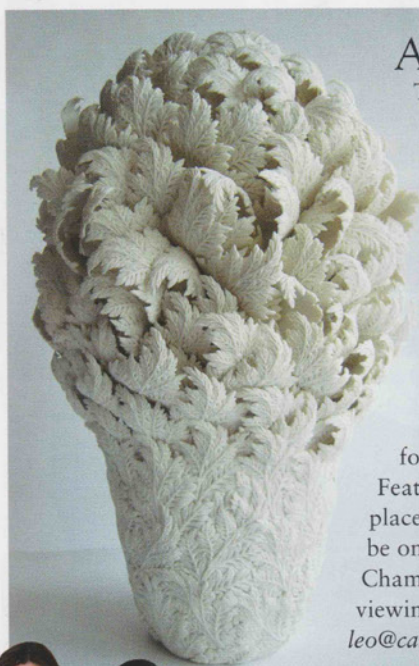
Three dipping cans resembled Russian samovars and these I was told act as a *bain marie* for paraffin wax, bees wax and vybar wax. In the centre of the vessel, I gingerly placed my wick-cotton, anchored by a small piece of zinc. Five ladles of hot wax filled her to the brim. Finally, once the wax had fully cooled, I trimmed my wick (the shorter the wick, the longer the burn). I was giddy as they wrapped up my own candle, something I had made myself, in a beautiful tissue-lined box with a ribbon to boot. Just one problem; I wasn't sure I wanted to burn my hard work.

Rachel Vosper:

69 Kimmerton Street, 020 7235 9666

A cracking show

Those who think Perrier-Jouët is all about sipping champagne on the fifth floor of Harvey Nichols should think again. The champagne brand has a much wider-reaching agenda, as demonstrated by its recent formation of an Arts salon, comprising some of the UK's most influential creative persons and inspired by Parisian salons of the eighteenth-century. The salon has recently selected its first annual prize winner in emerging talent in contemporary craft. Hitomi Hosono, a London based ceramicist, will receive £10,000 for the development of her career. Hosono's 'A Feather Leaves Tower' (left) wouldn't look out of place in Belgravia and an exhibition of her work will be on display at the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel Chambers Club from 25 July until 4 August. Private viewings can be arranged by emailing Leo Findlater: leo@campbell-bell.com



Not such a British summer

Ascot has in recent years become stricter in its women's dress code; not only are bare shoulders not permitted but dresses cannot have straps of less than one inch. Elizabeth Street's Verónica Moncho Lobo had this at the forefront of her mind in the designing of her latest collection, which sports dresses apt for Ascot, Henley, Goodwood, Wimbledon and company.

But it's not all a serious affair, as Verónica told the *Belgravia Residents' Journal*: 'The mood and colours for my spring-summer 2013 collection have been inspired by Andalusia and early spring flowers from the south of Spain.' Spanish culture and colour have always had a very significant impact on the creativity of Verónica, who was born and raised in Argentina. 'The English social season is an incredible opportunity to display different dress looks,' she said. 'I like to use innovative interpretations of classic fabrics such as technical lace... Summer coats and little jackets in light colours are always a feature in my collections for a total look in our unpredictable British summers.'

Verónica Moncho Lobo: 73 Elizabeth Street, 020 7730 6699



Reader offer

Readers of the *Belgravia Residents' Journal* are offered a fifteen percent discount on bookings made in May for Rachel Vosper's candle-making courses. Please quote the promotion code: *BRARV01*. A minimum of four people and a maximum of six must attend the course, which costs £100 before the discount.

Do you have an event that you'd like us to cover? Send us an email: belgravia@residentsjournal.co.uk