

Shopping & Style

NOTE
At the time of going to press many details were tbc; see www.caochangdi.org for updates



Edited by
Alice McInerney
shopping@timeoutcn.com

Design of the times

Alice McInerney provides her pick of the best style-focused activities taking place at this year's Beijing Design Week

Shanzhai Biennial

'We're an art project pretending to be a global fashion brand, or maybe a global fashion brand pretending to be an art project' – so say the folks behind Shanzhai Biennial, who are challenging the traditional chain of production by outsourcing the design process, as well as the manufacturing. They provide instructions, suggestions, references and potential problems, then lie back and let the designers work out the final form. It's not laziness – they're artists! They'll present their first capsule collection and advertising campaign at Beijing Design Week (BJDW), which they insist will be as shocking as possible. Both will be on display, as will limited-edition Shanzhai Biennial tote bags and clutches, the designs of which, the organisers say, 'verge on the illegal'. Someone call the

fashion police!
Location to be confirmed.



September 2012

Mao'er Jiguan by Wuhao Curated Shop

We can't wait to see what quirky activities Wuhao Curated Shop will bring to Beijing Design Week, following its phenomenal tea-house exhibit in Dashilar last year. Using the Chinese traditional five elements as its central concept, this year Wuhao will celebrate 'earth' with a special installation, new products and unique co-operations under the banner of Mao'er Jiguan. *Jiguan* was a coming-of-age ceremony in ancient China, when teens were accepted into the adult world by wearing symbolic hats (if they were boys) or hairpins (if girls). This transition – or, as Wuhao calls it, 'ripeness' – has been adapted into a project involving cross-branding and limited-edition products from some of Wuhao's established collaborators, including INNOVO-PINWU, Li Naihao and Ground Zero. Wuhao will also be joining forces again this year with motorcycle-sidecar tour company Beijing Sideways, aiming to link its Mao'er Hutong location with all the other BJDW hotspots.

Wuhao Curated Shop 35 Mao'er Hutong, Dongcheng district (189

1135 5035). Times tbc. 东城区帽儿胡同35号 Additional locations at Dashilar, Caochangdi, Dongcheng and Shatan Bejie, details tbc.

STAG by Parallel Lab

Earlier this year, Hong Kong-based architectural office Parallel Lab launched STAG, a non-profit project that 're-interprets' the idea of public spaces – apparently through the use of 102 of the titular STAGs. These are combined stools and bags – like a backpack with legs – made by Uncle Chan, Uncle Hung and Mr Tang, three craftsmen who operate from the back alleys of Kowloon. Parallel Lab claims that the STAGs, which are made from 100 percent recycled advertisement billboards, address mindless consumerism and re-appraise ideas of Beijing's identity. We just think they look like a useful tool for anyone stuck on a busy subway carriage. *Voilà* – instant seating! Location to be confirmed.



FABRICKOLOR by Tang' Roulou

We adore the vibrant and eclectic designs from local kidswear brand Tang' Roulou. French designers Amélie Péraud and Pierre-Yves Babin will be relocating from Sanlitun to

a very special pop-up shop in Dashilar, entitled FABRICKOLOR, to showcase their clothing and accessories ranges. Both designers will be available to explain what 'handcraft' means to a small independent brand. FABRICKOLOR aims to flit between past and present, East and West, incorporating elements of Chinese

daily life and bringing back childhood memories for all.

Tang' Roulou 7 Zhuji Hutong, Dashilar, Xicheng district (no tel). Open midday-8pm Sep 29-Oct 6. 西城区大栅栏朱家胡同7号

METROBAGS + NLGX pop-up shop

Local T-shirt label NLGX is collaborating with electronic music platform Metrowaves to create METROBAGS, an edition of affordable bags for daily urban use, designed and manufactured in Beijing. The METROBAGS and NLGX pop-up store will be a micro-marketplace, featuring new products, ideas and designs all inspired by the urban Beijing lifestyle. A great



Grand designs Clockwise from far left: Clothing from NEEMIC's 'Urban Forest'; foldable furniture from Wuhaio; a pillow from Tang Roulou; a hipster-baiting trainer from Jellymon's collection

mix of clothing and electronic music will be on offer, alongside a new line of limited-edition METROBAGS and NLGX's autumn Graphic Tee collection.

The Factory 8 Dawailangyin Hutong, Dashilar, Xicheng district (no tel). Open midday-8pm Sep 29-Oct 6. 西城区大栅栏大外廊营胡同8号

Linlinsays & Jellymon

Based in Beijing and Shanghai, the multi-disciplinary creative agency Jellymon and its co-founder, Lin Lin (aka Linlinsays), will be presenting a series of design objects and experiences that bridge the gap between heritage and contemporary urban culture in China.

One highlight is 'Return to the Park', a collection of anti-hipster designs involving Hui Li - Warrior, a trainer brand that once seemed on the brink of global success. The brand will now return to its place of origin: Tuanjieshu Park, where Jellymon's office also used to be. The footwear brand will launch a range of products that, we're told, are 'linked' to the area's colourful street slang - they've even recruited local youths and water-calligraphy gentlemen for authenticity. The trainers have been hand-customised by the Qiao Niang Workshop, a team of retired women who hand-sew and embroider bags to sell in Beijing parks in Beijing. The limited-edition models will be at BJDW and sold through selected stores in Beijing.

We also can't wait to sample the culinary treats from the 798

Spoonful of Sugar Deli & Café, a pop-up collaboration between Jellymon and celebrated chef Max Levy, whose work as the former chef de cuisine at the restaurant Bei won him repeated Time Out Food Awards. We are particularly excited about the Cang Sun street-food cart that will be out front. Cang sun means 'aged grandson' and is Beijing slang for an older man who doesn't want to grow up (the logic goes that a taste for street snacks are like a nostalgia for childhood; when you start missing them, you know you're getting older). This project says it's cool to be a cang sun, and Levy will serve fresh gourmet guan bing on-site throughout BJDW, using recipes created in his Okra Works kitchen.

Linlinsays & Jellymon 10-14 Yangmeizhu Xie Jie, off Meishijie, Dashilar, Xicheng district, 西城区大栅栏大10-14杨梅竹斜街前门煤市街东

'Urban Forest' by NEEMIC

The 'Urban Forest' installation, by local eco-fashion project NEEMIC, certainly looks like it will be worth checking out. Initiated in 2011 by Amihan Zemp and Hans Martin Galliker, NEEMIC strives to create fashion-forward, contemporary designs, while simultaneously making the industry more environmentally sustainable. As a member of the Agrachina Group, a network promoting organic agriculture in China, it utilises high-end natural materials from recycled clothing and organic production. Its 'Urban Forest' installation will showcase upcoming pieces from NEEMIC's 2013 spring/summer collection. Expect to see a canopy of clothes - the 'forest' - suspended above 'illuminated wooden boxes of soil', equipped with touch-sensitive sensors - the latter exemplifying the sustainability of nature by only consuming when there is demand.

The Factory 8 Dawailangyin Hutong, Dashilar, Xicheng district (no tel). Open midday-8pm Sep 29-Oct 6. 西城区大栅栏大外廊营胡同8号

Radical Materiality

Presenting the 'LIMITEDunLIMITED Editions project, Radical Materiality is a one-year collaboration between design space iLIVETOMORROW and designers, architects and artists from China, Italy, Spain, France, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Portugal. The project aims, it says, to explore the physical limitations of forms and materials through 'objects', installations, and 'nobjects' (Radical Materiality's word) the projects presented at BDW will relate to the link between materials and memory. Look out for fashion designers CCChu and Nicola Borg-Pisani, who'll introduce their hybrid furniture; a chair from Pili Wu that's a homage to industrial craft and Xiaodong's ephemeral works, which express the transience of the natural world. Location to be confirmed.

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Monthly planner

Sat 1

Watch some of Beijing's best bands rock the hell out at the **Maybe Mars 5th Anniversary** party at Yugong Yishan (9pm).

Sun 2

Listen to celebrated British author **AS Byatt** discuss her work at the National Library of China (2.30pm).

Tue 4

Show everyone what a genius you are at **The Cool Ideas Society** at Caff   O'Henry (7pm).

Wed 5

Hear **Ning Feng and the National Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra** at the NCPA (7.30pm).

Thur 6

Catch **Vanishing Horizon**, a dazzlingly creative play, at the Oriental Pioneer Theatre (7.30pm) before it flies away on Sat 8.

Fri 7

Enjoy a multi-genre mash-up with a dash of funky house magic as **Classixx** play Haze (10pm).

Sun 9

Take your kids to **The Young Inventors Club** at the Familier Center (11am) and become the mother (or father) of invention.

Mon 10

Gawp at cult movie **Dark City** at Dada's Sub-Cinema Nights (9pm).

Tue 11

Party at **Zoomin' Night's** Low Bow album launch at XP (9.30pm).

Wed 12

Listen to some of the authors of **Chinese Characters** discuss their experiences of Chinese life at The Bookworm (7.30pm).



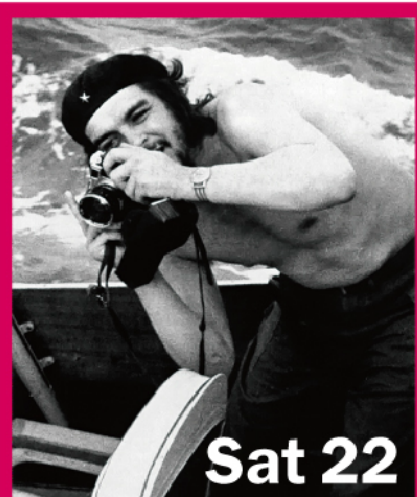
Mon 3

Try not to scream (you're not in space – everyone will hear it) as you watch **Prometheus**, from the director of *Alien*, in cinemas from today.

Sat 8



Worship at the throne of dance as LCD Soundsystem's **James Murphy** takes to the decks at the UCCA, supported by bands and fellow LCD star Pat Mahoney (8pm).



Sat 22

Pore over photos of – and by – Che Guevara at the **Che Photographer** exhibition at Three Shadows Photography Art Center.



Thur 13

Take a year-long walk around China without leaving the UCCA with **Millet Mounds**, Kan Xuan's photographic study of the country.

Fri 14

Rock on down to Dada to hear bass-heavy beats from **Scratcha DVA** (9pm), the British DJ behind celebrated album *Pretty Ugly*.

Sat 15

Throw your arms in the air like you have little regard for things going on around you, as **Cazette** play dub-house at Le Nest (10pm).

Sun 16

Enjoy an explosive performance of classical music as **Valery Gergiev and The Mariinsky Orchestra** perform an all-Shostakovich programme at the NCPA (7.30pm).

Mon 17

Go on a **Metaphysics Walk** in Ditan Park (8pm) and learn about Tao and the five elements.

Tue 18

Put on your best incomprehensible growl to get in the mood for **The Dark Knight Rises**, which continues its run in cinemas.

Wed 19

Take in the **Concert of Russian State Theatre of National Cultures** at FCCH (7.30pm) to hear traditional Russian folk songs.

Thur 20

Pump those legs with **Pedal Peking: On the Axis!**, a bike tour across Beijing (also held Sat 15). See 'Beijing bicycle' feature.

Fri 21

Dance to some of the best bands in China, including Carsick Cars and Pet Conspiracy, at **Yugong Yishan's 8th Anniversary** (8pm).



Sat 29

Get into the swing of things as the **China Open 2012** starts its 15-day run of ball-busting racquet action (11am).



Sun 30

See fashion go avant-garde at 'Urban Forest', an installation at The Factory for Beijing Design Week (midday onwards; Beijing Design Week begins Fri 28).

Sun 23

Stretch your acting muscles at **auditions for Snow White**, a pantomime, at British School of Beijing (Sanlitun, 6.30pm).

Mon 24

Submerge yourself in 50 years of Chinese history with epic family drama **White Deer Plain**, in cinemas (Mandarin language).

Tue 25

Help your children to get a handle on moving art with the **Touching Art History** class at the UCCA – good, creative fun (11am).

Wed 26

Say goodbye to Jianghu Bar at the first of a month-long series of **Farewell Dongmianhua!** (9pm) live-music parties.

Thur 27

Melt your brain with the surreal paintings featured in **Ambivalent Landscape** by Nashunbatu at Pèkin Fine Arts.

Fri 28

Lose yourself in the Teutonic tech-house stylings of celebrated electronic dance music duo **Digitalism** at Lantern (10pm).

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