

SAN FRANCISCO HOTEL DES ARTS

Founder of the Start Soma gallery – dedicated to showcasing emerging and affordable artists such as Shepard Fairey – John Doffing's latest venture is the Hotel des Arts in Union Square, San Francisco. Throughout January, top underground and graffiti artists such as DAIM, SEAK and Dalek will decorate the bedrooms in their individual styles. From 01/01/05; www.startsoma.com.



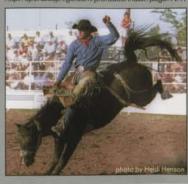
LOS ANGLES AMIR ZAKI

The artist Amir Zaki addresses the problem of photographically representing the impossible – if something is impossible, how could it be photographed? His architectural photographs aim at "de-spatialising the viewer and tweeking temporality," which he does by pointing his camera at the underbelly of the rebuilt and redecorated homes of Los Angeles, hit hard by multiple earthquakes. Spring Through Water @ the MAK Center. 7/1 (05-19/2/05; www.MAKcenter.org



RODEO

United cowboys and cowgirls from across the globe come together in Las Vegas' Thomas & Mack Center for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeos. Competing for \$5 million in prize money and the prestigious winners' gold belt buckles, the Rodeo "Superbowl" is a guaranteed white-knuckle celebration of the domination of mover bovine. WranglerNFR: 3/12/04-12/12/04; http://sports.eson.go.com/prorodeo/index?page=NFR



CANADA ICE HOTEL

It may sound horrific, but sleeping in a room of ice does wonders for the lungs and can kickstart the body into action. After its success in northern Sweden, the Ice Hotel concept hits Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier, near Quiebec City. Get there before the sun destroys it. 9/1/05-1/4/05; www.icehotel-canada.com



NEW YORK RYOJI IKEDA

The luminous tunnel of Eero Saarinen's TWA Terminal at JFK Airport in New York was always the perfect symbolic experience of the future. Ryoji Ikeda's stunning site-specific instillation, the only survivor of September's group show, is nearly invisible and inaudible due to the high frequencies of both the lighting and the sound. spectra [for Terminal 5, JFK]; until 31/1/05; www.terminalfive.com, www.forma.org.uk



NEW YORK DISGRACELAND

Former RuPaul producer and current king of New York's nu clash scene, Larry Tee plays every Thursday at Disgraceland, Visiting Italents like Princess Julia, Grandmaster Flash and Avenue D have all graced the disgraced DJ booth and dance floor of Crobar, rapidly gaining popularity as a cult venue in the heart of Manhattan. Disgraceland, Thursdays @ Crobar; www.crobar.com

BRAZIL

São Paulo Fashion Week is Brazil's foremost fashion event. Last season, Alexandre Hercovitch had a blooming show with flowers sprouting from the catwalk. Also, check out Fashion Rio. Never mind its image as the Los Angeles to São Paulo's New York – there's extravagant staging, technical innovation, super-sexy models and great weather. Stick that in your pipe, Paris. São Paulo; 19/01/05-25/01/05. Rio de Janeiro 12/01/05-15/01/05; www.fashionrio.org.br



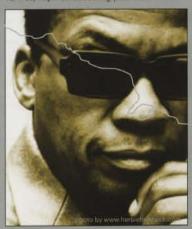
NEW YORK SCRATCH CODE

Just as endless combinations of DNA code describe with beauty our natural world, computational code describes the reality of the world we have created since the late 1960s. The exhibition Scratch Code explores humanity's compulsive desire to make order out of chaos. Scratch Code @ Bitforms; 11/12/04-1/8/05; www.bitforms.com



BARBADOS HERBIE HANCOCK

Cool jazz on Barbados' warm shores: the Barbados Jazz Festival is the country's flagship musical event, attracting major stars from across the world as well as homegrown talent. This year Herbie Hancock headlines alongside Poncho Sanchez, Fourplay and Errol Bradshaw. 12/1/05-15/1/05; http://barbados.org/jazztickets/



COLUMBIA FILM FESTIVAL

Since its inception in 1959, the Cartagena International Film Featival has championed films from the South American continent. Last year's 44th edition awarded best film to Hector Babenco's Carandiru – a real-life tale of a doctor's dramatic experiences in a state penitentiary in Brazil. Expect equal hard-hitters this year. 27/2/05-5/3/05, www.festicinecartagena.com



LONDON TOM VEK

Tom Vek's Io-fi high impact sound and impressive live sets show a maturity that belies his age – 23. Equally at home with raw garage rock as he is with louche electro, Tummytouch's golden boy headlines Oxford Street's Metro on December 8. Look out for his debut album We Have Sound, set for release in early 2005. Tom Vek @ the Metro Club; 8/12/05; www.tomvek.tv

ANTWERP MALIGN MUSES

Fashion as a form of recollection may seem peradoxical, but fashion is, after all, more than the sum of its parts. Taking the motto "you are what you wear" literally, *Malign Muses* places fashion as the foremost signifier of the social and cultural dynamics that define the world. Belgian designers Bruno Pieters and A.F. Vandevorst feature. *Malign Muses: When Fashion Turns Back* @ MoMu; 18/9/04-30/1/05; www.momu.be



FLORENCE YOHJI YAMAMOTO

Contemporary fashion is simply complex, but Yohji Yamamoto's uncluttered and sophisticated clothes provide relief. Correspondences is a retrospective that places Yamamoto's clothes among the existing artworks of the Pitti Museum in Florence, greating a new dialogue. Correspondences @ Pitti Immagine; 12/1/05-6/3/05; www.pittimmagine.com



PARIS

If you missed his outrageous dog-collar extravaganza at Fashion Week, this Palais de Tokyo show is a great opportunity to catch the huge origami dogs made by the Danish master. Henrik Vibskov @ Palais de Tokyo; 2/12/04-15/1/05 www.palaisdetokyo.com, www.henrikvibskov.com