



SEDUCTION



Things We Like



Sean Monahan

The Dark Knight Poster

I just retrieved my belongings out of cloud storage. Unpacking is always filled with moments of *what the fuck is this thing?* and *where the fuck is that thing?* The best discovery is a poster. It's still sealed in its plastic sleeve and backed with a slip of thin cardboard. At the centre is Heath Ledger's Joker from *The Dark Knight* (2008). It's just a weirdly formatted JPEG – possibly a screenshot from a torrent – on a baby pink background. Lilac Comic Sans reads: "You don't have to be crazy to work here ... But it may limit your chances of promotion if you aren't." I'm going to hang it in my new office like some schizo version of the "HANG IN THERE" kit-ten, or those moody pictures of sand dunes or forests that say "TEAMWORK" or "INITIATIVE" in all-white serif caps on "tasteful" black matting. SEAN MONAHAN is a writer and trend forecaster based in Los Angeles.

Hera Chan

Santeria Amulet

The French diplomat told us he only believed it when it happened to the Canadians too. The symptoms included nausea, splitting headaches, dizziness, and blood dripping from the ears. When the Americans claimed that there had been a sonic attack causing so-called Havana Syndrome, they were met with scepticism and Cold War-era taunts of invisible violence. A vocabulary vacuum existed behind paranoid, furrowed brows. The Americans disappeared, one by one, never to be heard of again. Less well known is that there was a similar attack at the American consulate in Guangzhou a month later. Embassy staff passed around a questionnaire. Are you experiencing nausea, splitting headaches, dizziness, or blood dripping from your ears? If you experience any or all of these symptoms, use this amulet. It is to be hung on the inside of your home, next to your front door, where it will protect your household against the evil eye and other forces beyond our comprehension. HERA CHAN is a curator and writer based in Amsterdam by way of Hong Kong, she is Adjunct Curator of Greater China at Tate.

Sophie Gogl

Tchibo Salt Dreams Crystal Moon Lamp

I can't sleep without a light on. If I'm honest, I never could. I used to think this would get better with age, but like all quirks and oddities, it actually only gets worse. But with my fancy moon-shaped salt lamp, I

can disguise this childhood silliness as a spiritual life hack. For me – and all those who can only experience relaxation through indulging in wellness fads – this product is absolutely recommendable. The mere sight of it already feels like an accomplishment. Like in a computer game: You buy the item in the tavern which helps the main character succeed in their mission. The lamp is subtle and not very high-end, but calming, a rather new-age form of function. Aesthetically, I cannot even judge this lamp, because who am I to judge the beauty of the moon? SOPHIE GOGGL is an artist living in Vienna.

Javier Peres

Versace Scented Candle

The world of Versace has always been a guilty pleasure for me. The ornate and intricate details are the ultimate symbol of indulgence. While doing some holiday shopping this past December, I was pulled into the Versace boutique on Via Monte Napoleone in Milan. Before I knew it, over an hour had passed as I picked out gilded Medusa-embazoned gifts (and of course, a few presents for myself). But the real treat arrived when I got home and saw that the wonderful sales associate had snuck in a free scented candle. It has an intoxicating yet delicate fragrance, packaged in an over-the-top porcelain container with a gold-tone Medusa motif surrounded by the brand's hallmark Barocco accents. I'm drawn to these details – kitsch has a deep emotional and cultural resonance. After a long day, lighting it can feel like a ritual, a reminder to remain grounded in the body. JAVIER PERES is the founder of Peres Projects which has locations in Berlin, Seoul, and Milan.

Michelle Nicol

Dipfinger by BLESS

It's made of ceramic, thirty-one centimetres long, rosé in colour, and depicts a long finger. I love this object because it's awkwardly attractive and has no function. But I have always asked myself if the name, "Dipfinger", presumes a function unknown to me. Should it be used to dip into cheese sauces instead of vegetable sticks? Manufactured by the Karlsruhe and Marrakesh-based company BNAG, it's designed by BLESS, a brand famous for transgressing the boundaries of architecture, fashion, design, and stuff with frills. For me the object is a proof to Baudelaire's maxim: "The beautiful is always strange." MICHELLE NICOL is art historian and co-founder of neutral.ph. She is based in Switzerland.