

# Front- lines

Arts, design, culture, events and ideas from across the globe

Words: Annemarie Hoeve



## Dig it

Gardens ■ Wheelchair

DESIGN

This one's for gardeners who like putting their feet up. Thanks to design duo Sascha Urban and Dorothea Wirwall, now you can lie back and watch your veggies grow from the comfort of your wheelchair. Remove the cover and their niche but nifty 'loungebarrow' becomes a comfy padded seat, complete with headrest and mini-laptop desk. Suitable either for laid-back gardeners or green-fingered lounge lizards.

**Future furniture**  
The loungebarrow was recently shown at the D3 young designers competition at this year's IMM Cologne furniture fair. See [imm-cologne.com](http://imm-cologne.com)

## Transport



This mean machine doesn't come cheap, at €25,555. But according to M55, "the technology helps you ride a bike like you've drunk from the fountain of youth." Quite the claim. See [m55-bike.com](http://m55-bike.com)

## Electric idea

Cycling ■ 'The Beast'

This new bike by M55 has been designed to tear its way through the toughest off-road terrain imaginable. According to its makers, it's the bike Batman would have. The hybrid electric bicycle, with a range of 150 kilometres, gives the rider extra power when necessary and can go up to 64kph.



Signs of affection

Feeling unloved? Graphic designer and 'interventionist' Paul Price has created a series of posters called Signs of Affection. He hangs them up in public places and each one is printed with a different compliment. See [paul-price.net](http://paul-price.net)

## FRONTLINES



TREATS



Turn an iPhone into a mini-guitar with the Fingerist, a strap-on amp for a guitar app. Just strum your phone and avoid the sore fingers caused by the real instrument. From [evenno.com](http://evenno.com)



This spring, Converse and Marimekko team up to create a special series of sneakers with bold, graphic prints to celebrate the Finnish textile company's 60th anniversary. From [converse.com](http://converse.com)



Dutch brand Property of is all about no-nonsense, practical bags for men, although women are also discovering the label's Amsterdam flagship store. See [thepropertyof.com](http://thepropertyof.com)

Culture



A tender, comic portrayal of one woman's experience of love and war  
The Stage Awards

You're not like the other girls  
Chissy Amsterdam ■ 17-22 May

British theatre maker Caroline Horton performs her one-woman play about the charming, funny and hopelessly romantic, Chissy. At Gare du Nord, Paris, 1945, the young French woman recounts the love story between her and her fiancé - a tongue-tied English teacher from whom she's been separated for the duration of World War Two. Horton's performance in the role won her the 'Best Solo Performer' award at the 2010 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. For more details, see [qetc.nl](http://qetc.nl). And for other events in Amsterdam and the rest of The Netherlands, turn to the Update section on pages 61 and 63.



BOOKS

## Walk & Eat Amsterdam

A handy guidebook for walkers who love to eat, and eaters who love to walk. There are 11 walks to choose from, as well as restaurant tips and recipes for classic Dutch dishes.

An introduction to the culture and cuisine of the Dutch capital by local food writer (and regular *Holland Herald* contributor) Cecily Layzell, published by Sunflower Books.



## Photography

## Been there, seen that...

Travel ■ Holiday snaps

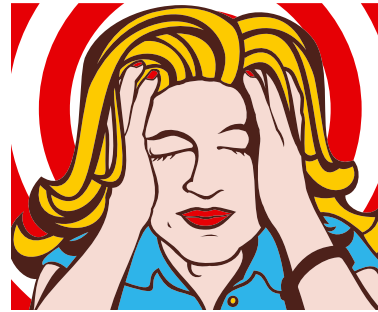
Some cities are defined by a famous landmark: think Eiffel Tower in Paris or Taj Mahal in Agra. Swiss-based artist Corinne Vionnet has combined tourist snapshots found online to create single images of some of the world's best-known attractions. The results, like the Dutch landscape here, look almost like pencil sketches. The series is called *Photo Opportunities* and includes 24 famous sites from across the globe. See [corinnevionnet.com](http://corinnevionnet.com) for more.



Location: Kinderdijk, The Netherlands



**Toylet**  
Adding a new meaning to the words 'live streaming' is Sega, with their new Toylet prototype for video games that men can play with their urine stream. Pressure sensors in a urinal are hooked up to the video screen. There are four games including Graffiti Eraser, where you spray away virtual graffiti for as long as your bladder holds out.



**Social stress**  
If you thought interacting with friends online was relaxing, think again. Research by Edinburgh Napier University has found that those with the most Facebook friends suffer from more stress. "It's like being a mini news channel about yourself. The bigger the audience, the more pressure you feel to produce something," says Dr Kathy Charles, who led the study.



**The big draw**

New York ■ **Most illustrious**

ART

When Australian illustrator James Gulliver Hancock moved to New York, he was awed by the architecture. It sparked a mammoth project: drawing all the buildings in the city. He has already completed 300 illustrations and admits he finds the scale of this self-inflicted task frightening. "I am very interested in obsession, and wanted to use it as a way to get to know New York," he says. His favourite buildings are Brooklyn brownstones.

This is Rivington between Orchard and Ludlow on 28 December 2010. Discover more of Hancock's New York at: [allthebuildingsinnewyork.blogspot.com](http://allthebuildingsinnewyork.blogspot.com)



NEW



A cluster of thoughts made visible

**Driving style**

Fashion ■ **Car tiara**

Jewellery designer Rachel Galley proves that when it comes to creating eye-stopping new pieces, she has the drive to succeed. Honda asked the award-winning Brit to create her own couture from a CR-Z, the company's new hybrid car. She spent six months wrestling bits of metal in a local workshop into a futuristic headpiece with the car's grille forming the basis. She reckons that the work displays "a cluster of thoughts", with a curved spiny ribbon linking the head with the heart.



IDEA



The world's strongest organic nanostructure has been developed by boffins from Tel Aviv University and the Weizmann Institute of Science. It's stronger than Kevlar (used in bulletproof vests) and made from proteins similar to those found in the brains of Alzheimer's sufferers. It remains unnamed.

**New nests**

Wacky sanctuaries ■ **Interiors**

Cocooning is so yesterday. Today, relaxation is all about nesting, apparently. Two recent designs for unruffling feathers include: the Moody Nest by German designer Hanna Ernsting, resembling a cross between a nest and an army surplus sleeping bag; and the Nestrest which can hang from a tree and looks like a cushy home for a giant, lazy bumblebee. See [hannaernsting.com](http://hannaernsting.com) and [dedon.de](http://dedon.de)



Trend

The perfect hang-out?

**Amazing discovery**

Photography ■ **Street shots**

In 2007, John Maloof bought a box of negatives for \$400 at an auction. At home, he discovered image after image of captivating street shots of mid-century Chicago. He quickly bought up the remainder and now has 100,000 images plus countless rolls of still undeveloped film. The anonymous photographer turned out to be a former nanny, Vivian Maier. Sadly, she died aged 83, just three days before Maloof tried to contact her. He has become a passionate advocate of her talent, and a documentary and book are in the making. See [vivianmaier.blogspot.com](http://vivianmaier.blogspot.com)



Installation by Slavs and Tatars

**Emirate art**

Exhibition ■ **Sharjah Biennial**

This is your last chance to check out the Sharjah Biennial, which runs until 16 May in the Emirate of Sharjah, next to Dubai. With work by 119 artists from 36 countries, as well as 60 site-specific commissions on display throughout the emirate, it is one of the most important art events in the Middle East. See [sharjahart.org](http://sharjahart.org) for details.



**Pocket priest**

Confession app

Busy sinners can now make use of a new app which helps them keep track of their sins until they can squeeze in a proper church confession. Users can choose from a list of common sins, or add their own. It is the first known app to have been officially sanctioned by the Catholic church. See [littleapps.com](http://littleapps.com)

