

MONOCLE

Fresh thinking for spring
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0 4
 UK £10
 USD \$20
 DE/AT €15
 CHF 17
 DKK 139.95
 FIN €15
 BEN/LUX €15
 JPY ¥2,700^{max}
 AUD \$25.00^{max}
 SGD \$25.00^(per gram)
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The Agenda: Culture



ART — TAIWAN

Outside influence

Suburbs might not have a reputation as the home of cutting-edge cultural institutions but the New Taipei City Art Museum, which opens on 25 April is challenging that view. “The neighbourhood has traditionally been seen as a supporting area for Taipei but it has grown into a cultural force of its own,” says museum director Lai Hsiang-ling. The space in the Yingge District, a former industrial hub just 30 minutes from central Taipei by car, is New Taipei City’s first public contemporary art institution.

Designed by Taiwanese architect Kris Yao, the building is located on reclaimed land at the intersection of two rivers. Its façade of aluminium tubes evokes the image of reeds emerging from a riverbed. Outside the museum, cafés, workshops and restaurants echo the layout of streets in the Yingge and Sanxia districts. “This city is a

“The neighbourhood has traditionally been seen as a supporting area for Taipei but it has grown into a cultural force of its own”

microcosm of Taiwan,” says Lai. “We are able to reflect on settlement, labour and identity through art.” The museum’s inaugural exhibitions explore themes of heritage, migration and urban transformation. *Encounters in Reflection* examines the evolving identity of New Taipei City, while *Reimagining Radical Cities* considers international perspectives on industrial shifts and urban renewal. The gallery also plans to host artist residencies and educational programmes for the surrounding area. By balancing globally minded curation with community engagement, New Taipei City Art Museum is helping to put the area on the map. — ESI
ntcart.museum

MUSIC — FRANCE

Hit the decks

Yoyaku, a Paris-based label, distributor and record shop, is betting big on wax. The independent chain will discontinue sales of digital media, instead opting for a catalogue that’s exclusively available on vinyl. “It’s still too early to gauge the effects of this decision,” Yoyaku’s owner and director, Benjamin Belaga, tells MONOCLE. “But we’re already noticing a shift in purchase patterns: record sales increased by 30 per cent last year for us. Artists recognise that we have a broad yet highly targeted reach, without compromising on the values that make vinyl culture so special.”

The shop’s in-house label offers records by established and lesser-known musicians, including French techno producer Laurent Garnier and up-and-coming electronic artist DJ Immortal. Word about



Yoyaku has spread organically: the label hosts DJs in its shop and then uploads videos of the sets to the internet.

Fostering a social hub of like-minded music lovers encourages fans to converse in-store, providing exposure to a wider range of genres and, ultimately, driving sales, as listeners explore the shop’s vast collection. “Vinyl is not just a niche trend,” says Belaga. “It’s a thriving ecosystem.” — RJO
yoyaku.io

FILM — FRANCE

Q&A

Slice of life

Louise Courvoisier, director

The process of making comté cheese isn’t something that has had much cinematic airtime. But director Louise Courvoisier puts the arduous task centre stage in *Holy Cow*. The new film follows 18-year-old Totone as he takes over his father’s dairy farm, while wrestling with the travails of first relationships. Here, Courvoisier tells us about decentralising French cinema, casting non-professional actors and why cheese is a worthy protagonist. — SMC

How did you choose the film’s location?

I grew up in the Jura, so that’s where I shot the film. I wanted to make a film about the young people who I grew up with and those that don’t have a choice to leave the countryside. In France, films are always set around Paris, so it was important for me to focus on my area.

How did you cast the film?

I wanted to work with non-professional actors who

were from the area but I didn’t know how to find them. It isn’t a documentary, so they had to be good at acting. Clément Faveau, who plays Totone, has fire and fragility in him.

Why did you want to tell a story about comté?

Only a small part of France is allowed to make this cheese. When you come from the area, it surrounds you in a way. It was a challenge to film but I was confident about the idea because it’s interesting to capture a process that’s so physical. Totone grows up in the film and making comté helps him to evolve.

‘Holy Cow’ is in cinemas on 11 April

