

# What's cracking, Marc?

French artist Marc Turlan transforms magazines into sculptural pastiche

Artwork by Marc Turlan Commissioned by Hervé Landry exclusively for the readers of Bon

**F**

rench artist Marc Turlan uses magazines as his medium – tearing, engraving and reworking their glossy pages until what's left isn't the dull pout of a model, but a multi-dimensional work of sculptural pastiche. Classically trained in Roman mosaic, Turlan deftly straddles the twin realms of fashion and art. His contribution to *Dysfashional* – an exhibition at the Passage du Désir in Paris, which is slated to travel to Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin later this year – found him on a roster of tony artists and designers like Raf Simons and Mathieu Mercier. In 2008, Christian Lacroix offered Marc Turlan a room in the Musée Réattu in Arles, France, to do with as he pleased. He has also collaborated with the likes of Swiss artist Thomas Hirschhorn and sculptor Brigitte Naon – as well as on a campaign for Nike. His recent installation, *Re Use – I Do*, was exhibited at Galerie Anne de Villepoix in Paris.

**What question would you like me to ask you?**

– Why me?

**What question would you like me not to ask you?**

– I'm prepared to answer all of your questions, without restrictions.

**Apart from Bon, what other magazines do you like?**

– I'm interested in magazines as objects. They're a medium, a tool. But I'd be hard-pressed to name one in particular. For me, it's the image that counts: finding the image, focusing on the image and working on the image. And you can find that in a porn magazine just as easily as in a magazine devoted to fashion, architecture or design... All images, whatever their nature, belong to two or three self-referential categories: consumption related to a lack; consumption related to sex; consumption related to seduction. The overriding notion is always that of sex.

**You like magazines in the way parents who love their children don't spare the rod of criticism?**

– This question reminds me of a work on magazines exhibited in the Architecture, Urbanism and Environment Council of the Hauts-de-Seine département in 2008 that I titled *La même peine pour tous* (*Everyone penalised equally*).

**What is your favourite iconic work of art?**

– *The Last Judgement*, a mosaic in Torcello, an island in Venice, and the strict codes underlying its construction.

**Did you like the latest Kitsuné compilation?**

– As Kitsuné prints on t-shirts: 'I am curious and life is boring.' I listen to the music people want me to discover, but at a very slow pace. I can listen to the same piece for weeks on end. For example, I recently designed the sleeve of a record released by the group Hifklub, and I listened to a passage lasting just a few seconds for months on end.

**Which top model inspires you the most?**

– I think the worst thing that can happen to an artist is to be inspired. Having said that, my answer to your question would be Chris Martin, not the singer, the model or ex-model. I'm preparing a film about, and with, him for a forthcoming project.

**Do you think that posterity is more likely to remember Gilbert & George or Viktor & Rolf?**

– I remember virtually nothing. I have a very short memory and I fear that the collective memory is very short, too. But to answer your question, maybe Gilbert and Rolf.

**The latest FIAC art fair in Paris was a big success for you.**

– What I liked was working with a gallery and with Anne de Villepoix, the fact of working together ■

Interview by Hervé Landry.

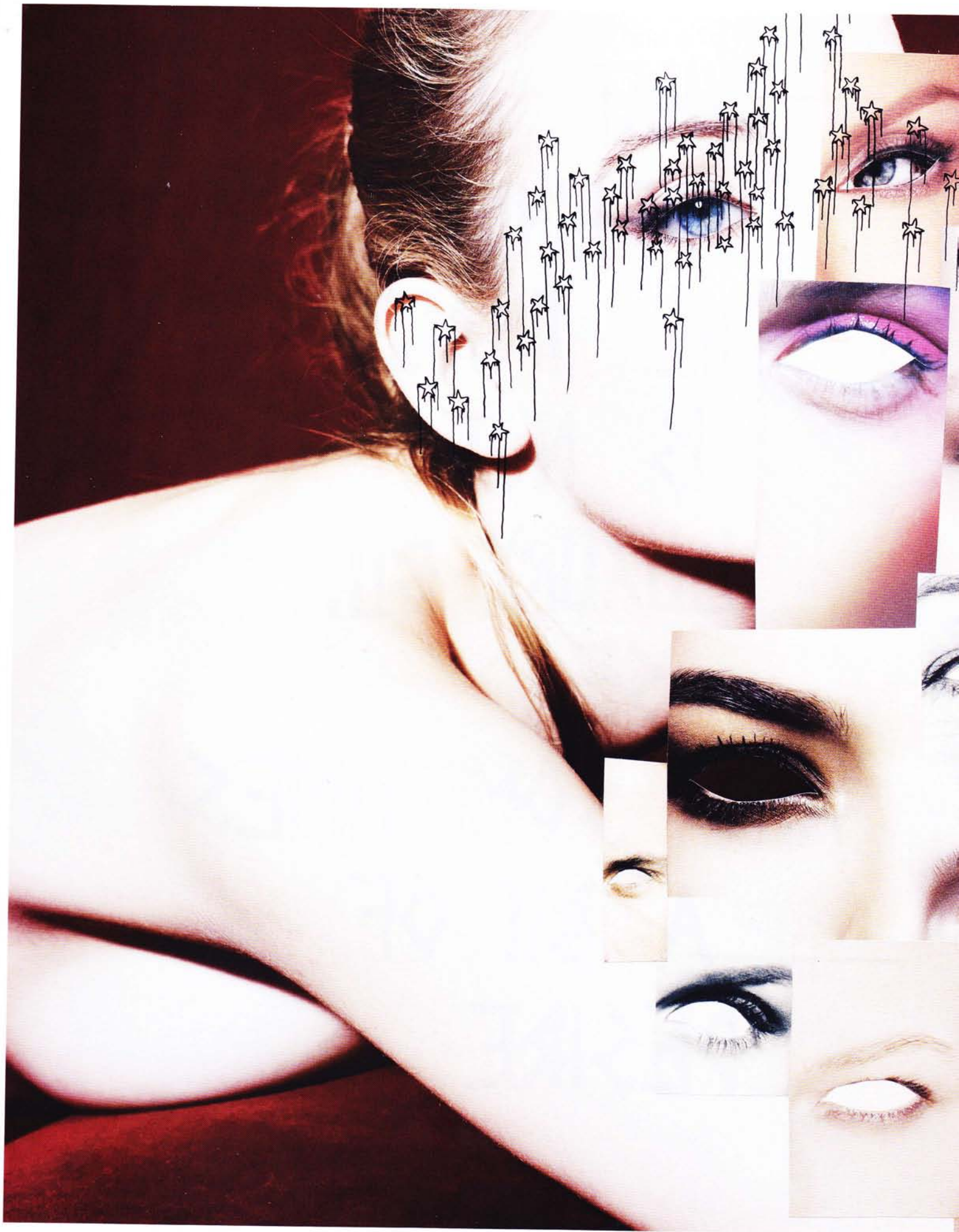






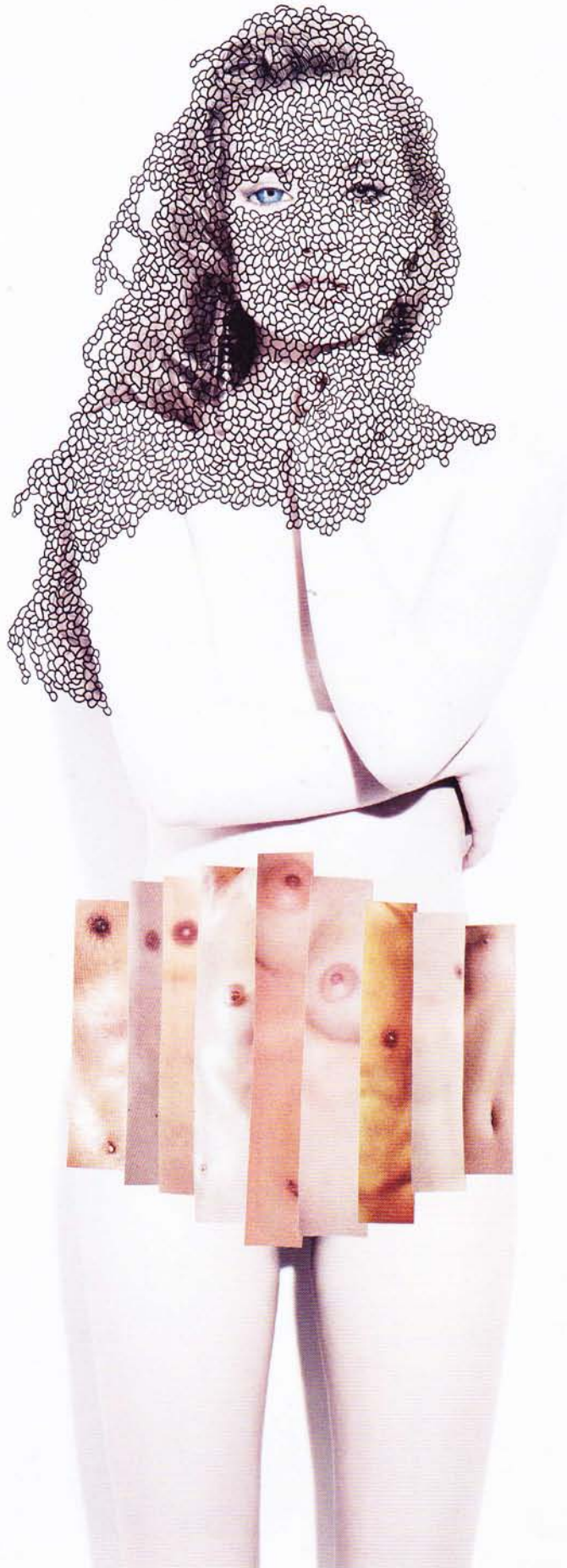
WHAT LIES  
BEHIND  
THE IMAGES  
IS NOT  
LUXURY BUT  
SEX  
AND SOMETIMES  
A BIT OF  
DESIRE











Photography **Piotr Stoklosa**  
Styling **Paula Maj** and **Jesus Borges**  
Make up and hair **Paula Maj**  
Photography assistant **Marianna Sanvito**  
Model **Joanna Stubbs** | **Ford**  
Earrings **Sigrún**



Marc Turlan is the 10th artist featured in our What's Cracking? series.

What's Cracking? includes original works by contemporary artists commenting on global news. Each piece is commissioned by Hervé Landry exclusively for the pages of Bon.

#### EXHIBITIONS

March, 2010, *The Armory Show*, New York City, US

April, 2010, *25e Festival international de mode et de photographie*, Villa Noailles, Hyères, France

June, 2010, *Dysfashional*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany

2009, *Re Use – I Do*, Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, France

2009, *Dysfashional*, Passage du Désir, Paris, France

Previous What's Cracking? Artists (in order of appearance): Abel Abdessemed, David Burrows, Kader Attia, Neal Rock, Lidy Jacobs, John Jodzio, Florian Merkel, Lou Doillon, Mathieu Mercier