



ARTS ILLUSTRATED

Editor's note

Criss-crossing lines
On the inside of your palms
Speak the language of infinity
Old words for crushed souls, a soothing balm

And yet, between the said and the heard
The remains of meaning exist
Floating on the surface like lifeless bodies
Swirling and tumbling through time's ageless tryst

It's telling (yes) of the world we live in
Where updates and hashtags often set sail
Through the open seas of virtual liberation
Along with the 'like', a dog's incessant wagging tail

When beneath the burden of the eye
Memories bump against identities
That bump against invisible visible boundaries
That slip and slide through multiple realities

To create a vortex throbbing with prejudice
Drowning in (un)limiting categories
And, dare we say it, themes
Clutching on to the ends of stories

That reveal as much as they conceal
That surmount as much as they defeat
For if not for words, dead or alive
How would meaning derive its rightful beat?

And when it does
When it stops to pause and breathe
The words, I mean
Then to us, the dance of silence it bequeaths

Because first there was the word
However sandwiched between the walls
Of silence and thereof and hereunder
Wordlessly pointing to truth's buried calls

Much as we discovered this issue
Through, between, with and without words
That between the said and the heard
There also thrives a space, quietly shaken and stirred



Praveena Shivram
praveena@artsillustrated.in

Cover Artist



'I paint with light,' claims Shailan Parker, while we look through his innumerable images on a large-screen Mac at his South Delhi studio, where you manoeuvre around photographic equipment and lights that seem to have taken over the space... stacked on the floor, on the podium and hanging from the ceiling.

Parker began his career as a professional photographer over 35 years ago. He is an alumnus of the National Institute of Design (NID, Ahmedabad) where he trained in Visual Communications, and continues his association with the institute as a guest faculty member. Product photography is at the core of his practice, and Parker is recognised for his ability to design and craft visuals around client briefs. While it may seem like a mundane professional requirement, it has allowed Parker the creative freedom to project the best visual of an object in a controlled studio environment. His resourcefulness leads him to apply this learning to his artistic works. He takes hours to *set up the stage*... placement of the object, working with multiple sources of light and reflection, adjusting the angles and controlling the intensity of the lights. Just as the painter decides which colour and



how much of it should be applied on canvas, Parker controls his imagery by orchestrating the lighting. This is fundamentally different from capturing what exists or is available for anyone to take notice of. Parker *creates* his images.

For this issue as we begin our fifth year, we chose an image of a found silk-cotton flower. Half dried and almost disintegrated, it would normally never attract a second glance. Parker gives it a rebirth, a new voice, an emergence from the silence of the discarded to the silence of the revered. Enhancing the textures, accentuating the undulations, the image allows for a meditative gaze. The back cover is the same image in negative. It looks like a charcoal drawing of the rays of light Parker used to create his image in the first place. The work is consciously left untitled to allow the viewer an absolute and unbiased experience and interpretation.

The words of Georgia O'Keeffe evoke the appropriate emotions of Parker's artistic practice – '*If you take a dry flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for a moment.*'

Conceptualisation of the cover and text above by Rahul Kumar.



Shailan Parker

Arch Glasses

Levan Lominashvili | XYZ Integrated Architecture
xyz.com.ge

Arch Glasses have been created for architects and it can be easily made using some basic materials from any architectural modelling studio. Formally designed to deal with the issue of sustainable design, Arch Glasses takes the issue a step further and tackles the problem of sustainable design aesthetics. The main task that the designers were trying to carry out was to create a configuration of parts of glasses that would correspond to a unique standard of art and craftsmanship.



Photograph by Daro Sulakauri.

MODIBAG

Lim Sungmook
limsungmook.com

MODIBAG is motivated by wrapping clothes. Just like LEGO, users can customise their bags to suit different tastes and occasions. A compound word made up of ‘modify’ and ‘bag’, MODIBAG is made from a single sheet that can be folded in a wide variety of ways. The design considers how various everyday contents are carried around and explores how one single bag can possess almost infinite multitasking potential for any activity or occasion.



Wooden riding toys

Laurent Lamballais | Chou Du Volant
lamballais.com | chouduvolant.com

The wooden riding toy, with its sleek design and timeless and immediately recognisable features, has been designed to accompany children from their first steps to their first turn of wheels. The wooden riding toy can also be used as a toy to push, thus allowing multiple children to play at the same time. This toy, designed by French toy brand Chou Du Volant, can also be transformed into a rocking toy with an additional support piece.



NOMAD

Orit Dolev
nomadyourmusic.com

NOMAD is a digital musical instrument born from the desire to create music on the go and designed to be thrown into a backpack. NOMAD comes in a soft tactile material that will never break or go out of tune! The wooden neck creates a familiar feel, while the minimalistic form enables musicians to take their musical instrument anywhere they go. The pressure-sensitive frets and flexible rubber strings preserve the traditional playing experience.



que Bottles

Jean and Kevin
quebottle.com

que Bottles are collapsible water bottles that are functional and fashionable. Its unique spiral design compresses bottles into half size without compromising the good looks. que Bottles can easily fit into virtually any bag, making them perfect for travelling, outdoors and everyday life. Food-grade silicone material makes que Bottles safe for both hot and cold beverages and also dishwasher safe. They are also 100% plastic free.



PAIS

Brigitta Nemeth | Blaha office, Austria
brigittanemeth.com | blaha.co.at

Designed with the aim of revolutionising fixed and rigidly set physical boundaries within modern work environments, PAIS includes an easily adaptable partition wall, a magnetic pin board and a wall protection or an acoustic panel. With PAIS, employees now have control over the privacy of their workplace and can individually adjust it to their different needs. PAIS is made of eco-friendly natural materials like felt and real sheep wool.



Paper

Ludwig Rensch
ludwigrensch.com

Paper is a smart, easy-to-use machine that can print, scan and copy. Instead of an over-complicated interface with tons of functionalities, Paper uses physical controls for its key features. The resulting simplicity makes it self-explaining and intuitive, which leads to a joyful user experience. With refillable ink tanks, Paper makes printing affordable and has revolutionised the printing industry.



Tatami Tables

Nada Debs
nadadebs.com

Lebanese designer Nada Debs offers a fresh blend of Middle Eastern and Far Eastern craftsmanship with her Tatami Tables collection that reinterprets, or rather reintroduces, local furniture design for contemporary interiors. For this collection, Nada Debs has combined traditional straw weaving technique – typical of Japanese flooring – with the old craft of Marquetry which was often used for classical old pieces. In the end, the set includes colour gradient pieces with flexible functions, shifting between a table and a bench.





