

Word of mouth



Swede dreams: Say Lou Lou's Miranda and Elektra, above. Abba's Agnetha and Anni-Frid, right



SUPER TROUPERS

Dust off your hot pants: ABBA the Museum (www.abbathemuseum.com) opens in Stockholm this month. While its biggest export enjoys exhibition status, Sweden's new music scene has never been healthier. One band set to make it big this summer is **SAY LOU LOU**,

who look a little like Abba but without the hairy blokes, and make the sort of synth-coated dream pop you could drift round the fjords on. 'Our mother said Abba were super uncool for her generation, but we grew up with them as a

"retro" band – they weren't something you loved or hated, they were just Abba.'

SAY LOU LOU'S SWEDISH MUSIC TIPS

- If you like Florence & The Machine, try **Noonie Bao**: 'A cute redhead who makes quirky pop; download "Do You Still Care?"'
- If you like Björk, try **Lune**: 'An amazing electropop singer and performance artist. Her voice alone can spellbind you.'
- If you like Patti Smith, try **Sibille Attar**: 'A free-spirited rock chick who plays a thousand instruments and writes beautiful, melancholy lyrics.'

www.sayloulou.com

RICK JORDAN

CREATIVE FORECAST

WHERE ARE THE WORLD'S MOST HAPPENING ART SCENES? WE ASKED THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE BUZZ

Pastures new

In the quest for escapism we've had BlackBerry-free hotspots, many-handed massages and all manner of meditative retreats. Next up is the rural break, in which stressed-out urbanites can recoup and restore while connecting with the land and learning traditional crafts. Take **rangering**, available this summer on the National Trust reserve at Stackpole (www.nationaltrust.org.uk), or **basket-weaving** with The Style Academy (www.the-style-academy.com) in the cossetting surrounds of Glenmuick House, down the road from Balmoral. Activities such as **quilting and jam-making**, once the preserve of the WI, are now so popular that workshops are springing up countrywide – we like the look of the ones in Cornwall (www.bedruthan.com/breaks). If you want to roam further afield, how about **shepherding in Puglia**? This three-day retreat with Messors (www.messors.com) will teach you all about **sheep milking, cheese making** and 'the solitude of a shepherd's occupation'. Expect an early start.



LONDON Hans Ulrich-Obrist, co-director, Serpentine Gallery.

'Bogotá reminds me of Mexico or Glasgow in the 1990s. Gabriel Sierra is an exciting young artist who bridges art, design and architecture, while Mateo Lopez has gained global visibility. Both are represented by Galería Casas Riegner (www.casasriegner.com).'

BOGOTA Catalina Casas, director, Galería Casas Riegner

'There's something exciting happening in Guangzhou, China. A gallery there called Vitamin Creative Space (www.vitamincreativespace.com) always has fascinating stands at the international fairs. At Frieze London it had an installation by Pak Sheung Chuen made entirely out of peanuts.'

GUANGZHOU Zhang Wei, director, Vitamin Creative Space.

'I'm intrigued by the Spot project in Istanbul (www.spot-projects.com). It supports young Turkish artists and aims to bring together producers and collectors interested in the burgeoning contemporary art scene in Istanbul and Turkey as a whole.'

ISTANBUL Tansa M Eksioglu, founder, Spot project

'Saudi artist Nasser al Salem is one to watch. He's intriguing for the way he combines Islamic phrases with a modern take on traditional calligraphy. His peers at the pioneering Jeddah gallery Athr (www.athrart.com) reflect the changing face of the Middle East through art.'

JEDDAH Mohammed Haviz, co-founder, Athr, Jeddah

'There's some interesting work coming out of Beirut. Rana Salam is a talented artist who combines Arab culture and popular art in her graphic designs. For striking furniture that looks like art, design store Bokja (www.bokjadesign.com) has been instrumental in developing Beirut's creative image.'

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