

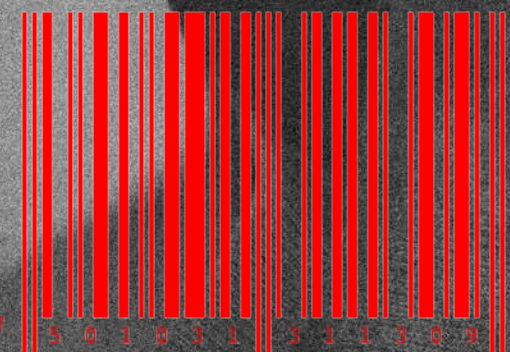
THE RED ROOM

ISSUE 1

MENS CONCEPTUAL FASHION & ART MAGAZINE



BECAUSE
DIANE
HEARS
EVERYTHING



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RAF SIMONS

“I don’t think that people accept the fact that life doesn’t make sense. I think it makes people terribly uncomfortable. It seems like religion and myth were invented against that, trying to make sense out of it.”

- David Lynch

The Red Room magazine’s first issue is split into two sides, reality and fantasy to convey the wondrous mind of David Lynch, showing men’s fashion and art. Using the term ‘reality’ we want to show the oddities that occur within the everyday, the normal people you see who have a wider, strange story to tell. Focusing around the artists who capture the ordinary, and the struggles that are faced within we want to convey our perspective of David Lynch’s suburban life. David Lynch’s reality brings off the strangeness that is seen within what from the outside, seems completely normal but when you start to unravel the outside world sees the oddities. We have translated ideas of David Lynch’s classic suburban life to modern Britain, how reality is perceived from our perspective of fashion, art, culture and absurdness.

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THE STRAIGHT STORY











THE STRAIGHT
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STORY



Photography - Colleen Considine & Olivia Kellerman
Model - Javid Dashti
(Top) Jacket - Zara Men
Shirt - H&M
Jeans - Levi's
Shoes - Timberlands
(Bottom) Jacket - North Face
Jeans - Levi's
Shirt - Burberry





Everyone Needs A Social Media Detox



towards yourself whilst scrolling through social media. If you're like me however and feel overwhelmed, insecure and slightly depressed every time you see someone's perfectly documented life online then maybe it's a sign you are in fact spending too much time on these apps. Why does it always seem to be post it online or it never actually happened?

Social media users grew by 320 million between September 2017 and October 2018, that works out at a new social media user every 10 seconds.

words by Dempsey Berry

DIane, 4:30, February 28th

Have you ever felt a little more insecure about your life or yourself after a scroll on Instagram? I know I have. Can you remember the last time you didn't care about how many likes your latest selfie got? Or how it felt not to spend 20 minutes applying several filters to a photo before posting it? Have you ever actually wondered what your life would be like without social media?

For many, the answer to these questions will be 'No.' The average person checks their phone 150 times a day, we have become so enslaved to social media that it is simply now a way of life, expressing ourselves in 140 characters or less. We are seeking validation and want to feel wanted and accepted. But who are we actually trying to gain validation from?

To many, social media is a big part of the job. The upsurge of the Instagram influencer has resulted in 71% of consumers being more likely to make a purchase based on a social media reference, according to SocialMediaToday. To others, social media is their go-to for connecting with people and finding a community. However, this doesn't stop the fact that this can often come with the berating of others and negative backlash.

My hat goes off to those of you who don't feel any negativity

It is so easy to get sucked in to, I know myself how a quick 'browse' on can turn in to an hour. Maybe it's time to think of all we could have done at that time. The conversations you could have had or that work you could have finished but instead we find ourselves stalking someone's page whose name we won't even remember in a few hours and letting their filtered lives make us feel inadequate.

According to ONS statistics, the UK has the highest number of social media users in the EU, the majority of them being in the South East.

Social media distorts our version of reality, the average daily time spent on social media is 116 minutes. Through our screens we are only seeing what others wish to portray of themselves, we are so

oblivious to the fact that these people showing off their lavish lifestyles do in fact have real problems like us 'normal' people too. The number of followers you have does not mirror your relationships in the real world, which in my opinion, is a lot more important.

Facebook's founder, Mark Zuckerberg stated that "by giving people the power to share, we're making the world more transparent.", However, I feel that it is actually making the world incredibly opaque.

Of course, we won't stop using it, many of us live and breathe it and for that reason, we need to be more aware of the effects that digital dependency is having on us. To the future generation, to our mental health and to the world around us. We need to ensure that we are the ones

using the technology and that the technology isn't using us. It's time to reconnect with the real world.

Let me tell you how life could be without social media...

Your private life won't be a public gallery for all to see. Deleting or even reducing the amount of time spent on social media will allow you to know the true meaning of a private life. You'll soon learn that nobody actually cares that you had avocado on toast for breakfast or how many G+T's you had on Saturday night. They don't care about your personal life, you are just giving them access to see it.

You'll cut off connections. Have you ever thought about how many people you'd actually keep in contact with if you didn't have social media? I see no sense in communicating just to communicate, always having to appear just so nobody forgets you. No thanks. Making your life more private will bring you closer to the people who genuinely care about you and get rid of those who are prying.

You will stop wasting valuable time. Stalking random profiles, scrolling and clicking, suddenly realising you've been doing it for over an hour. Is that really how you want to spend your day? A

social media detox can reenable you to focus on living your life, not stalking someone else's.







words by Shanay Taylor

Diane, 3:09pm, March 1st

Raf Simons AW19 collection was not one to miss. Expectations were high after his sudden departure from Calvin Klein in December, but the Belgian designer did not disappoint. The show took place during Paris fashion week in the Shangri-La hotel, awarded grand luxury hotel of the year in 2018 from the luxury travel awards.

Before the show began, guests received an email telling them that an interval would take place during the show, splitting it into two halves. Lights changed from blue to red to pink as instrumental noise blasted out for a little over 5 minutes until the show resumed again.

The first part of the catwalk saw a very neutral colour palette with whites, blacks and beiges dominating the runway. Whilst the second half portrayed the exact opposite with an array of rainbow colours.

The collection was as couture as it gets for men's fashion and was everything and more, you'd expect from



Simons Meets Lynch

Simons. The show was mostly made up of coats- each different in size, colour and fabric. A parma violet blazer appeared in the collection. The blazer was styled with a matching helmet like hat and camel coloured straight leg trousers. A mustard yellow floor length coat also made a statement on the runway. This was paired with a dark brown helmet hat and a yellow scarf wrapped around the model's neck.

By messing around with leopard print- incorporating this onto several coats and gloves, he proved that patterns never really go out of fashion.

The collection was complete after a few feminine touches. Signature pieces included a timeless trench coat embellished with a black cherry, silver butterfly, daisy and blue flower key chains dotted over it. A bright orange wide shouldered coat also covered in silver butterfly key-chains, finished off with a tomato red bowl hat, wine coloured trousers and black Dr Martens.

His Autumn/Winter collection also portrayed the undeniable love he has for legendary film director David Lynch. Stills from his movies Blue Velvet and Wild at Heart appeared on grey oversized jumpers and different tailored floor-length coats.

Back in 2016 the designer also dedicated his Autumn/Winter show to David Lynch by showcasing it on his birthday. He gave insight into his creative process as he told i-D "I use memories and future visions and try to place them in today's world." Perhaps in another few years he'll reminisce back to Lynch again, who knows.

It would seem that Simons has been taking his fans to the movies for a while now, previously featuring Jaws and now referencing Lynch's films in his collections, it is clear that this is becoming an ongoing theme for him. And it's safe to say, it's really working!

For being mainly coat based the collection was anything but boring. As well as the Blue Velvet

and Wild at Heart patchworks, pieces of text on the clothing read "Nymphobic (fear of being without one's cell phone), Xanthophobic (fear of the colour yellow), Heroes, Losers, Burning down the house, Antwerp since 1995 and History of my world.

Guests were shocked to find seating in the venue as Simons has previously made his audience stand as if they were at a pop concert. Just when you think he has finally taken the concert out of his shows- Belgian post-punk band Whispering Sons turned up to perform live whilst the models walked the runway. Which did make the finale pretty epic!

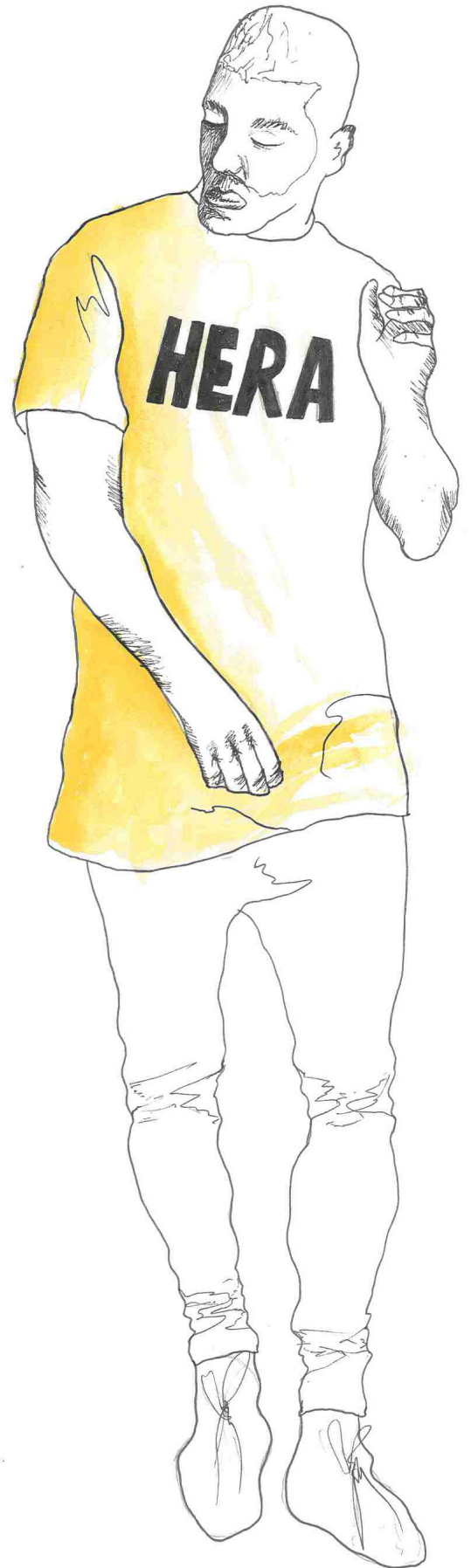
Overall the collection very much compromised Simons ideologies. Daring, experimental and fresh. The designer commented to i-D "I think the basis of everything is causing trouble, but at the same time I don't want to sound negative because I feel like it's so interesting to think of what could come."

Hera London Boy

The only thing in their wardrobe is fitness wear and spray on jeans, sticking to the simplicity of Hera London's basic black t-shirts with overly tight skinny jeans.

HERA clothing is a UK based fashion company curated by 22-year-old, Ash White, selling unisex 'streetwear' apparel. Not entirely sure whether their spreading the word about the Greek Goddess of women, marriage, childbirth, and family or just selling box logo t-shirts that look eerily familiar.

The brand has rocketed into the industry now being sold in Selfridges, which has only amplified the hype and demand for these simple tees. The style is simplistic, easy going and everything for London fitness junkies. So, if your name is Adam and your Corsa is parked outside, then this is the perfect style for you.



Three Boys From Suburbia

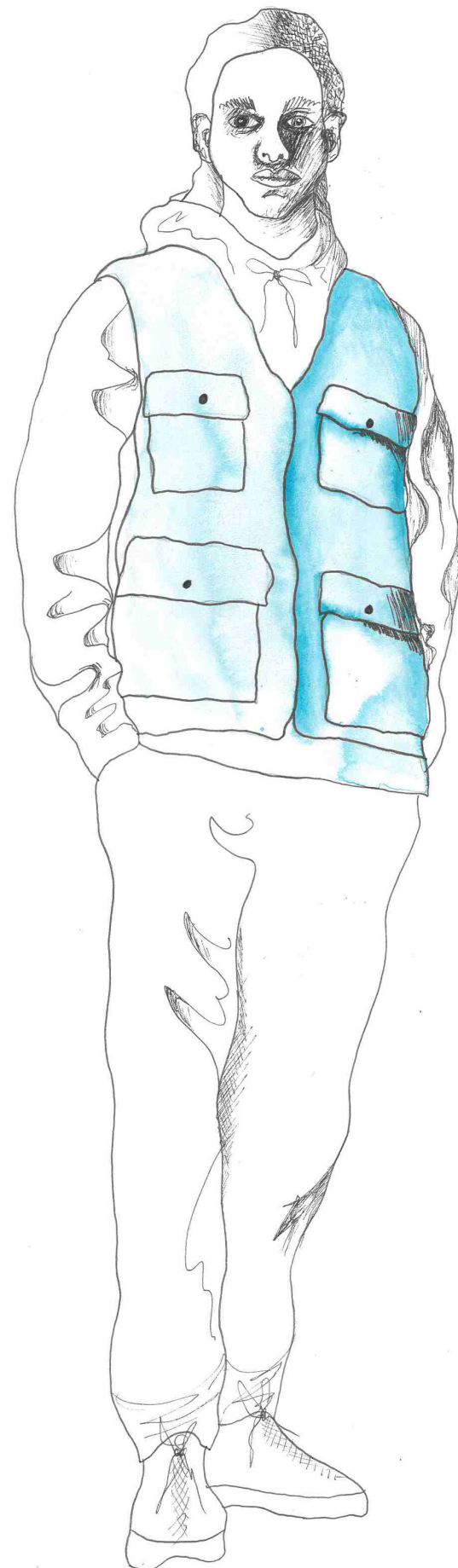
words by Olivia Kellerman
illustrations by Abigail Millen
Diane, 6:06pm, 19th March

The Boy in the Black Hoodie

Over the past century, this sportswear staple has gone from playing field to runway, stopping off at every possible urban subculture along the way. Possibly the most simple item to style, it is a staple in everyone's wardrobe being the instant go to for a lazy day.

Street and sportswear apparel brand Champion, take claims to creating the world's first hoodie in the 1930s. Though its initial design was to keep athletic stars warm on the side lines, the item is now key to creating a much need layered look during this Spring.

For the guy who's got work at 9 and the gym at 5, mixing mono chrome chic and lounge streetwear is the perfect way to style out this wardrobe staple.



Suburban Hypebeast

Alternatively known as the fisherman flex, the suburban hypebeast is the king of snatching resale bargains. Every item in this wardrobe has been grabbed from Depop or Grailed, this new style has blossomed through suburbia, with every millennial having a utility vest strapped to their chest. Granted the practicality of having 6 pockets on your chest alone is quite smart, but trying to remember what pocket you put your keys in must be a real task.

Although this look can be styled on a budget with every item being available at your local vintage store, brands like Supreme have caught the attention of many with their vintage inspired piece, which have these hypebeasts on the edge of their seats waiting for the next drop.



A Personal Look Into Everyday Life

words & photography by Olivia Kellerman

Diane, 6:12pm, March 12th

Our lives are filled with mundane, everyday tasks of which are rarely documented or capture by others, never shared or revealed and if someone asked you might feel uncomfortable. But, here we have capture key moments in daily life that express how familiar and personal our lives can be.

We asked a group of young creatives some intimate questions documenting their answers through visual conversations.

**What colour
is your
toothbrush?**

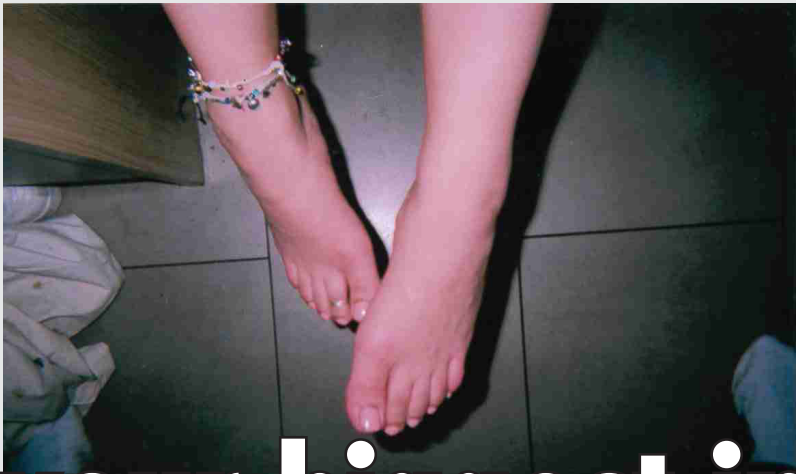


What's your favourite biscuit? Do you dunk?





What's your favourite sex position?



What's your biggest insecurity?



When did you last cry?



Which of your possessions could you not live without?



If you could only speak one word for a day, what would it be?



What's under your bed?



**“A photograph
is a secret
about a secret.
The more
it tells you
the less you
know.”**

Diane Arbus: 'In the beginning', at Hayward Gallery

words by Dempsey Berry

Diane, 2:07pm, February 20th

"A photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you the less you know."

From circus freaks to dwarves and nudists to transsexuals, the Hayward Gallery will be showcasing the first 7 years of American photographer, Diane Arbus' intense work, from the 18th of February- 06th May 2019. The exhibition will be filled with more than 100 photographs, many of which will be unfamiliar to the public as more than half has never been exhibited in Europe before.

Arbus was born on March 14th, 1923, in New York City. She began her career shooting fashion beside her husband, he as a stylist and art director. They contributed to glossy magazines including Vogue and Harper's Bazaar. Although finding success together, Diane soon quit commercial photography and branched out on her own in the late 1950s, she wandered everywhere from Central Park to New Jersey homes and morgues with her 35mm camera capturing the weird and wonderful, exercising her ability to coax and seduce her subjects. Several of the unusual images Arbus captured made it into the July 1960 issue of Esquire magazine, proving to be

a springboard for her future work.

Being one of the most distinguished photographers of the 20th century, well known for her unnerving portraits, the photographer was captivated by beauty in unlikely subjects and produced extraordinary portraits of individuals that were not considered "fit" to be in front of a camera lens. She immersed herself into the life of nudists, drag queens and loners on the streets of New York City, she was the original people-watcher, letting nothing escape her notice. She once stated, "I really believe there are things nobody would see if I didn't photograph them."

The Hayward Gallery was the first UK gallery to exhibit her work back in 1974, and this year sees a long-awaited return. Her inimitable photographs show detailed documentation of the diversity of life in post-war New York and provoke a strong curiosity, teasing imaginations and causing people to create their own narratives and beliefs about the subjects of each photo.

The raw imagery Arbus produced received many mixed opinions, some discordant and some believing that it reflected a genuine window into an individual's soul. Her work was a true representation on the outskirts of society. Whether it was female impersonators or exotic dancers, many believed that the choices of her subjects were a reflection of the photographers' own issues with her identity.

At the height of her career in 1971, she committed suicide in her New York City apartment after suffering from severe depression. The year after her death, Arbus was selected as the first photographer to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale. Arbus' work still remains an interest of strong intensity to many today. Her life was the basis of the 2006 film *Fur*, starring Nicole Kidman.

Curious, disturbing and remarkable- much of what you can expect to feel from the exhibition.

It has been put together so that it has no set route or chronology. The photographs are hung on opposite sides of a group of white individual free-standing walls, two to each, making the experience of the exhibition hard to get used to at first, playing with your mind, just as Arbus would.

Whilst you are looking at one pho-

The exhibition truly showcases the work of a talented photographer who possessed strong intelligence and a great eye, not only allowing us to see the subject of her photos but to meet them.



tograph, fragments of other ones are visible from the corner of your eye and each wall is so close together that pictures are within touching distance. It almost feels like you could get lost in there, like a maze, a place that you have to navigate yourself, although there is no correct way of doing so.

Arbus discovered the vast majority of her subjects in New York and depicts a section of urban life including portraits of local characters, strippers, transvestites and carnival performers.

In addition to the main show, there is a room dedicated to Arbus' A box of ten photographs (1970) which is a limited-edition portfolio on loan to the V&A. The series consists of square-format photographs such as A Jewish Giant at Home with his Parents in the Bronx, N.Y (1970) and Arbus was well recognised for these photographs.



Every Thought There Ever Was

words by Shanay Taylor

Dlane , 7:37pm, March 5th

Lindsay Seers brought her fascinations of the brain to life in her art exhibition dedicated to schizophrenia.

The 52-year-old female artist just finished her 'Every Thought There Ever Was' exhibition at the Focal point Gallery. The display ran from the 8th of September to the 23rd of December. She drew on philosophical ideas and scientific research on the condition schizophrenia to explore the works of the brain that are considered extraordinary, in order to create a virtual reality where people can experience the illness for themselves.

Schizophrenia is a severe long-term mental health condition which causes a series of diverse psychological symptoms. Being Schizophrenic causes the brain to hallucinate triggering the person to feel confused and not always being able to separate their own thoughts from reality.

There is currently no exact cause of schizophrenia. However, experts believe that the condition is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental issues. The mental health condition is treated usually with a variety of medication and one to one or group therapy suited to each

individual. If schizophrenia is well managed, it's possible for the person to recover from it. However, times of relapse can occur, which is when the symptoms return.

Seers' exhibition explored the workings of the unusual brain functioning that occurs in people with schizophrenia.

Through the use of digital anima-

Schizophrenia effects one in 100 people, showing the brain to be capable of believing in hallucinations. In a study run by King's College London and University College London, Professor Tom Craig, found that after 12 weeks of avatar therapy- on 75 people who had been experiencing hallucinations for over a year, there had been a dramatic improvement compared to other therapy.

could escape to, but people living without the mental health condition could go to experience what many go through on a daily basis.

The display was something but spectacular. The space was darkened with two screens hovered over robotic arms. As Seers wanted to work with the contrast of voices being up close and distant, she used headphones for people to wear which allowed them to enter into an alternate world, one which people with schizophrenia struggle with all the time.

The screens played a series of animations. The opening read the first written account of schizophrenia from Reverend George Trois, who in the early days of his life suffered from the condition. During the latter part of his life he wrote notes about the hallucinations he experienced and what he did. One hallucination he had quite often was people telling him to cut his hair off. Seers

portrays this in her on-screen film by recreating what Reverend Trois heard in his head into an animation.

Lindsay Seers really gave people a real-life experience of schizophrenia in order to help them understand what mental health illnesses are like to live with. It was one of the most empowering and mind-changing exhibitions to have ever seen.



tion, special effects, drawing and sound design, her work drew on the idea of experimental treatment. Better known as Avatar Therapy- an approach in which people who hear voices have a conversation with a digital characterization (avatar) of their presumed persecutor, that is voiced by the therapist so that the avatar responds by becoming less intimidating and acknowledges power over the course of therapy.

In order to fully understand mental health issues, Lindsay Seers portrayed the idea of consciousness and what science contributes to that. The average brain without schizophrenia, is on a constant cycle of filtering out anything unnecessary. Whereas, a schizophrenic mind is not able to do this. Therefore, Seers proposed a world where not only people who have schizophrenia

A beautiful mind is a 2001 American biographical movie directed by Ron Howard. The film shows Russel Crow playing John Forbes Nash Jr: a mathematician with a brilliant mind, whose life suddenly becomes interrupted after developing schizophrenia.

Girl, interrupted is a 1999 American drama film directed by James Mangold. Set in the 1960s, the film is based upon writer Susanna Kaysen's 18-month stay at a mental health institution. Elizabeth Moss plays fictional character Polly 'Torch' Clark, who is a childhood schizophrenic.

Benny and Joon is a 1993 romantic comedy movie directed by Jeremiah S. Chechik. Johnny Depp stars as character Sam who falls in love with fictional character Joon, who is schizophrenic.



A Life With Tourette's

words by Dempsey Berry

Diane, 1:32pm, February 25th

Tourette's is a neurological disorder that often displays itself in tics- sudden movements and vocalizations which are involuntary. Over 300,000 children and adults are thought to be living with the condition in the UK, according to Tourette's Action. Early symptoms, such as eye blinking or rolling, generally start around the age of 6 or 7. Despite many people associating Tourette's with uncontrolled and repetitive swearing (coprolalia), only 10 to 15 percent of people who have Tourette's actually have this symptom. Though medication can help reduce the tics, there is no absolute cure.

Sam, 15, is from Michigan USA, hoping to study cosmetology, I spoke to her about what it's like to live with Tourette's.

Q&A with Sam Byrne

How would you describe Tourette's syndrome to someone who's never heard of it?

S: Tourette's is a neurological

disorder where one does these things called tics, uncontrollable actions like saying things, repeating things, and making movements. For example, I'm a part of the small percentage that swears.

When did you first learn you had Tourette Syndrome?

S: I learnt I had TS when I was 10 years old, I went to a neurologist after having symptoms.

What are the main symptoms of Tourette's?

S: The main symptoms of TS are tics and repeating things. For example, I often say the word 'biscuit' and click my tongue.

What is the hardest part about having Tourette syndrome?

S: People think you are different, when in fact, I am no different to anyone else. I have the same feelings and do the same things as someone who doesn't have TS. Tourette's doesn't define who I am.

What are the biggest misconceptions of Tourette's?

S: The biggest misconception is that everyone with it swears.

How has having Tourette's affected your life? What has been your biggest challenges?

S: Having Tourette's has affected my life in many ways. Dating, school, making friends and trying to get a job are just a few. It's hard because it's not something I can control, it's impossible to hold tics in.

Are there other people in your family who have Tourette's?

S: I have a family friend that has Tourette's, but he's not related to me.

Any final thoughts you'd like to share?

S: Treat people with respect no matter what they have and never judge anyone. Myths and Misconceptions of Tourette's.

Everyone with Tourette Syndrome swears. – **Only 10-15% of people who have TS have this symptom.**

People with TS can control their movements/sounds if they want to. – **Vocal and physical tics are thought to be the result of altered brain structure and function which makes them involuntary or uncontrollable, like a sneeze.**

TS is caused by stress – **Although stress can make symptoms worse for individuals, it is not the cause of TS, the exact cause remains unknown. However, current studies suggest that TS likely has a significant genetic component, meaning it is inherited.**

People who have Tourette's often get very angry- **People who have TS are no more likely to get angry than people who don't have TS. However, individuals with TS who also have ADHD, OCD, or an anxiety disorder may be more likely to have a strong emotional reaction to stress.**

You are less intelligent if you have Tourette's- **Tourette's syndrome does not have an effect on intelligence.**

People who have TS cannot lead a normal life. – **Although TS can have a negative impact on an individual's life, many lead fulfilling lives. Many people who have TS are high-achievers and their tics become less intense when focusing on a task. People with Tourette's have gone on to work in many notable professions.**



SPLIT

words by Olivia Kellerman

Diane, 12:04pm, MArch 8th

Picture watching a film. It's filled with violence and destruction, the main character is shown as disturbed and harmful to others around them. You see that character as a threat to society, someone who is inhumane. They're a kidnapper and a monster and diagnosed with DID.

Split, the 2016 M. Night Shyamalan film following a violent kidnapper with dissociative identity disorder, has been deemed a misrepresentation of people with the disorder, fantasising it to appeal to a mass audience. The film follows the first movie released in 2000, Unbreakable, an American superhero, psychological thriller and the trilogies third instalment will soon be released this year following the story of Kevin who has revealed his 23 different personalities to his trusted psychiatrist.

Dissociative identity disorder (DID) is defined by two or more separate split personalities that are present and constantly have power over a person's behaviour. They have the inability to recall personal information that is too much to be considered simple forgetfulness. The alternate personalities can have their own age, race & sex and each has their own mannerisms or distinct ways of talking. "Switching" is each personality revealing themselves

and controlling the person's thoughts and behaviour, which can take seconds or even days.

It is difficult even among highly trained experts to understand and diagnose the growth of multiple personalities, the diagnosis itself remains controversial amongst mental health experts. Many experts have expressed that patients with DID have previously been diagnosed with other psychiatric problems, such as borderline personality disorder or severely being unable to cope with stress and anxiety.



Speaking to a young woman Sarah with DID, she expressed how everyone can have a dark side to them or something about themselves that they fear. Which doesn't mean that people with dissociative identity disorder have a serial killer inside them. She explained, "This movie shows that we're the ones to be afraid of when people with dissociation really have much more to fear because the stigma around us is so extreme." The condition is immensely over exaggerated in horror films, abduction and violence by people with mental illness is more common than with anyone else. She went on further saying, "Also in films, I

find it ridiculous how they show switching between identities it's always intense and scary. But in real life for most people it's subtle and people barely notice at first."

Different personalities can act as distinct roles in helping the person cope with traumatic events and decisions in life. For example, there's an average of two to four personalities present when the patient is first diagnosed, but that can increase to 13 or 15 over the course of being treated. Events and environmental triggers can cause a switch from one personality to another. "We need

support from others. Many of us have experienced pain and being afraid that people will find out we have DID builds on this", Sarah explained, "It can be extremely lonely to be the only person you know who is experiencing this."

The on edge intense feeling that the film uses, is good enough to grab audiences in and the story does provide some insight into the science behind DID, "Yes, some of the film is factually accurate and I could relate with the main character a times, sometimes feeling lost and not being able to talk to anyone about what I'm going through, but I don't agree with the monster they turn him into." The main character, Kevin, creates the 'Beast' inside him and feeds on humans. This perception of his character dehumanises the disorder and creates a monstrous image of people with the disorder.



BALMAIN

PARIS



BALMAIN

PARIS

A background image of a desk with a blue teapot, a pink water bottle, and a laptop. The text is overlaid on this image.

Verbal Exchanges With Everyday Objects

Vossage- the vegan Sausage Roll with A LOT to say...

Diane, 9:37 am, February 5th.

Flaky, golden, crispy crust, shimmering in the light brought in from the window, like love at first sight, but this time without the eyes or awkward exchange of mobile numbers. Placed on an immaculate blue and white china plate the lone vegan sausage roll. A nearby glass bottle of tomato sauce, just in-case he got dry in a small, yet cosy student flat prepared for the interview. "You know darling, all of this attention, I must admit has got to my head recently, I've never felt so much love before in all my life!" pronounced in a high-pitched squeaky voice Vegan Sausage Roll, or Vossage as he's known to his friends.

What does it mean for you to be vegan and not meat?

It has come as a surprise to a lot of people, it was a huge shock to me at first, there's a whole build-up of being a meat-based roll. One day you're just flour, eggs and milk expecting a sausage to be placed between your flaky pastry and then you find out they've opted for vegetables instead, how would you feel!? Then you get a guy called Piers Morgan bashing you down, what did I ever do to him?

Vossage, now getting emotional about the whole situation, handing him a tissue he calmed down.

What are your plans for the future?

I probably shouldn't say but I ADORE Yum Yums! Her glimmering icing sugar, the curves, the pose, sitting so elegantly in the glass shelf and what a laugh, she's just the best! A she I hear? Vossage, now blushing, "Yes, we're moving in together next week, a lovely one bedroom flat in Kensington but I really shouldn't say any more.

end.



Marky Mark: the gnome with a chip on his shoulder...



Diane, 5:49pm, February 9th

"(Hoot hoot), you alright love? I'm Mark." Sitting on a red and white mushroom, with a fishing stick in hand by a small fishing pond, an East End gnome shouted out, not the introduction to be expecting for an interview. Fiery red coloured pointed hat, chubby cheeks, a long curly white beard and grassy green shirt paired with big grey boots, looking like one of the seven dwarves. Staring each other down, this is a gnome with an attitude problem, he has messed with the wrong journalist.

"Let's not mess around, I don't like you, you don't like me, so can we just begin this silly thing, I've got the footie to

watch at four o'clock?" he announced in a deep East End husky voice.

Talk me through your day to day life...

Alright, well not much happens around these parts, a few beers with the lads Jerry and Jim who like to call me Marky Mark, don't know why though. Then getting out the pole and going for a fish, maybe a swim if I feel like a thrill seeker. The most amount of excitement I get is when the missus and I get the racket and balls out to play some tennis, I'm not talking about the game either. HAHA! Get it?

What do you do when you aren't fishing?

Funnily enough I'm a fishmonger, got my own little shop and everything, had it for about 20 years now. I am thinking of a career change, a model, always liked the idea of 'strutting my stuff' in a bright green leotard for 'Pwada', 'Gummi', or 'Sanel'.

Prada, Gucci and Chanel?

"That's what I said innit!?"

End.

Netty the net curtains ³⁵ who have seen A LOT

Diane, 11:29am, February 9th.

Net curtains, usually the quietest feature of the house, not much to say but certainly listens in on your conversations. "Cup of tea? Perhaps a biscuit? I know there's a slice of lemon drizzle around here somewhere! I must tell you about all the gossip." declared Netty, sounding like an old lady in your local charity shop. All while looking a shade of dusty grey rather than a shimmering white like her predecessors, Netty certainly has seen A LOT.

Where are you based?

Well deary, I am proudly set in the living room of a four-bedroom Guilford home of my 10-year owners Rose and Jim who I shan't give the ages of.

But you've got some interesting stories to tell...

I thought you would never ask! Well, it was a Tuesday afternoon about 5 years ago when Jim stormed into the living room,

with another woman, the things they got up to would give you nightmares! Then, a year later I was fast asleep when a crazed man in a blow-up elephant costume began screaming down the street, followed by 5 men dressed in clown costumes chasing after him.

Any retirement plans?

Retirement!? I have at least another 5 years in me, I have no plans to retire. I'm going to be featured in granny weekly, the most popular net curtain magazine to date!

What's your biggest fear?

Ooh, I am terrified of being thrown out, imagine the rubbish, spiders terrify me with their long eight legs crawling through my holes, but most of all, the thing that scares me is car boot sales. The smell in the back and not knowing who you'll end up with."

End.



IT'S NOT UGLY,
IT'S JUST FASHION!



Trousers - Light Before Dark
Shirt - ASOS
Socks - Nike
Shoes - Vintage



Trousers - Vintage
Hat & Scarf - Models Own
Jumper - BDG
Socks - Nike
Shoes - Doc Martins



Diane, 10:13 am, February 2nd.

The term 'ugly fashion' was thrown around quite a bit last year. From Justin Bieber and his Hawaiian shirts and long dusty surfer hair to socks and sandals on the runway with Maison Margiela for SS19, good taste has become a peculiarity and as a result fashion has become ever-more hostile. With 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder' fantasies, are we moving away from a sugar-coated society of no opinions to a twitter fuelled battle? Or, is it a drive away from the typical high fashion exclusiveness? Rather than having to pay upwards of £300 for a designer t-shirt that has been ironically deemed 'ugly' by a piss-taking Chanel wearing journalist all you have to do is go down to the grubby charity shop and pay less than a tenner for a purposefully hideous old threads, Bargain!

In the mood for trashy chic? Get yourself down to London's ahead of the curve East London, Brick Lane. Currently full of the same brim-stiff Central St Martins wannabe fashion 'trend setting'

art students, shopping in second-hand stores seeking the new ideal of paying £50 for a ghastly bin bag belonging jacket. What about a 1980s neon pink fluorescent shell suit paired with sunflower yellow crocs and Kermit the frog coloured green t-shirt? Brill. A pair of stained leopards print hot pants teamed with 70s glam platform boots? Yes please! Why not? The Ritz may have a dress code but you will fit in well in McDonald's, throw on that hair

"There is no getting around it, Crocs are ugly,"

net too because it's old, gross, looks cheap, and offensive. Right now, it's all about looking as tasteless and boring as possible.

Don't worry about going out and looking like you have been pulled through a bush, back again and not showered for a week, that's the whole point! Imagine, the young London middle-class 16-year-old teenager who has been following the new trend of what we can call 'bad taste' to be told, 'Wow, you look so ugly in that outfit!' is that now considered a compliment? For Fashion Industry Broadcast, "Basic" is fashion's ultimate enemy. It's boring, it's bland, or worse, it's attainable." No one expects to wear 'naff' fashion, it isn't a singular style but clothing that individually styled apart aren't vile but put are put all together are trash. trash. trash.

Enough ranting on the love of this amazing 'new' trend...

We have in fact moved from the awful Hype beast streetwear desires and Balenciaga dad shoe obsessiveness of recent seasons to a dirty pair of Gucci trainers retailing at £615 (just in-case you were interested). Designers such as Christopher Kane, Jeremy Scott, Alessandro Michele, who have adopted the 'vile style' have reminded us of the joys included in bad taste, the unimaginable joys of raiding your grandmothers' awful closet that is unchanging on the runway. While Gucci have creatively managed to pull off the 'tacky' 1980s fashion into a modern vision full of Elton John influences others, less

so. Jeremy Scott is well known for his pop art enthused collections, SpongeBob on the runway, and McDonald's uniforms, but are they wearable? No. Saying that, is fashion meant to be wearable?

While Christopher Kane's ironically 'un-cool' SS18 crocs retailing for £475.00 may well be Instagram-able, with The Met Gala just a few months away something tells me that Glenn Close may prefer a classic stiletto instead. As Kane confessed, "There is no getting around it, Crocs are ugly," one may ask, why make clothes unless they are beautiful? According to, Dawnn Karen, a psychologist, "we're going to look because they're defying a norm," Yes, the so-called 'norm' of wearing a suit to work or, perhaps it is just another

"If people are laughing at me, that's fine. I invented the joke"

er fashion trend, who knows?

Where can we see this trend landing? It is less about multiple ugly items worn together as we saw last summer, it is about one individual item that trashes out from the crowd. Rather than find every trashy clothing item possible, take one shabby jacket and

simply, make it stylish. Take a knitted argyle tank top, wear it with pink velvet joggers, socks and sandals and that is certainly naff fashion. However, pair it with a slick pair of black straight leg trousers and you'll look like the cool granddad who escaped from the retirement home!

Tasteless fashion is very much in the heart of London, similar to the mid-80s of Leigh Bowery, performance artist and club promoter of Taboo. With his eccentric, over-the-top, tacky style that included makeup which could be considered an art piece, paint dripping from his head, white foundation, and big black clown shaped lips. The idea of not caring what others think and as Bowery himself said, "If people are laughing at me, that's fine. I invented the joke". The 1970s saw the same type of rebellion, against life's conservative system of hierarchy paving the way for punks. The simplicity of a safety pin in place of an earring held darted through your nose, pink hair, tartan bondage trousers held up so much more than just being a piece of jewellery. Symbolising a makeshift family who wanted much more than what was paved out for them. Can the modern mismatch of patterns hold up the same need for change in society? Perhaps so, however, you will need to do more than looking like you don't care to actually care.

Perhaps this trend can be considered a rebellion. A rebellion against conformity and having to look in society's image of beauty, if you can accept yourself for being able to go out looking worse for wear than who really cares? You may wear your granddad slippers and terrible red velvet jogging bottoms, but for God of fashion's sake don't wear socks and sandals!

End.



Vest - Fred Perry
Trousers - Vintage
Shoes - Doc Martins





T-shirt - Fred Perry
Shorts - ASOS
Hat - Vivienne Westwood
Jewellery - Vivienne Westwood
Socks - Nike
Shoes - Nike Dunks



Photography - Olivia Kellerman
Model - James Sharp



MIRROR



end.

begin.