

Here & Now

WINTER 2013

Our selection from this season's notables, quotables and curiosities

Art

NOT JUST ANY OLD IRON

The sculptor who turns machines into natural art

When the artist Edouard Martinet was 10, a teacher introduced him to the wonder of insects. He went on to study design at l'École Supérieure des Arts Graphiques in Paris – an elite academy for the most gifted students – and, 40 years on, the obsession is unabated. Martinet creates his extraordinary sculptures with scrap from all sorts of machinery, beautifully combined to make the finished work look both futuristic and retro. Sourced from markets and boot sales, materials include rusted pans, typewriter keys, car headlights, bike brakes, vintage watch cases, spectacle arms etc. Martinet will take months, even years, to find the perfect component for one of his pieces. When assembling the scrap, he does not solder or weld parts, but painstakingly screws them together, which imbues them with character, grace and life. They are tactile and exquisite in their anatomical detailing. Martinet gives a new meaning to 'flea market'. *Edouard Martinet's new exhibition is at Sladmore Contemporary, 32 Bruton Place, London W1J 6NW from 27 November until 31 January 2014; sladmore.com*



Clockwise from left: 'Rhinoceros Beetle' (33cm long) with, among other parts, a thorax made from a shoe tree and a Luxor bike headlight; 'Butterfly' (57cm high) with moped-chain-guard wings and brake cables for antennae; 'Three-spined Stickleback' (86cm long) with cake tins and fish slices for fins and a Solex-fender mouth

