

40 ARTISTS WHO WILL SHAKE THE WORLD

**UTNE**  
**ARTS EXTRA**

**THE BEST  
MUSIC  
BOOKS &  
MORE  
2003**



Tom Waits  
takes off  
with two  
(yes, two)  
new  
albums—  
see p.47

*After Oprah:*  
**INTRODUCING THE UTNE BOOK CLUB**

*Worth another look:*  
**REDISCOVER 40 PAST MASTERS WHO STILL MATTER**

*Not necessarily New York:*  
**FOUR SURPRISING CULTURE HOT SPOTS**



# Features

## Is Art Worth the Trouble? BY JON SPAYDE

Today's arts world doesn't exactly make sense—and that's why you'll love it. 30

## Not Necessarily New York

First-rate art scenes are springing up all over North America. Here are a few of the best. 38

### Winnipeg, Manitoba BY JILL WILSON

Ultra-hip art and quirky films spark a prairie renaissance. 40

### Hot Springs, Arkansas BY JOHN LOVETT

Artists make this old spa town jump. 41

### Columbus, Ohio BY ROB HARVILLA

An art-rich college town with an urban vibe 43

### Birth of an Art Space BY JON SPAYDE

A mini-SoHo rises in Cedar Rapids. 44

## Movers and Shakers

The 40 most exciting, soulful artists of 2003

Tom Waits 47

Mariko Mori 48

Colson Whitehead 48

DJ Spooky 49

Shigeru Ban 50

Dave Douglas 51

Julie Taymor 51

Whitfield Lovell 53

Natalie MacMaster 53

Allison Anders 54

Steve Earle 54

Matthew Barney 55

Laura Love 56

Joyelle McSweeney 56

Lila Downs 57

The Be Good Tanyas 58

Solomon Burke 58

Vija Celmins 59

James De La Vega 59

Gabrielle Roth 60

Lo'Jo 60

Janet Sternburg 60

Phoebe Gloeckner 62

Mickey Lemle 62

Joanna Haigood 63

System of a Down 63

Susan Rawcliffe 64

Susan Griffin 65

John Porcellino 65

François Ozon 66

The Yes Men 66

Värttinä 67

Dennis Zacek 67

Mark Napier 68

Richard Flanagan 69

Silvia Nakkach 69

Human Beans 70

Christopher Alexander 70

Atmosphere 71

Paul Hillier 71

## Blasts from the Past

Fabulous artists of yesterday who still stir our souls

Louise Brooks 72

Joseph Beuys 73

Maya Deren 73

Arrested Development 73

Marie Taglioni and

- Fanny Elssler 74

Rabindranath Tagore 74

Tina Modotti 75

Johnny Hodges 75

Little Walter 75

Jack Smith 75

Eubie Blake 76

The Pogues 76

Lady Murasaki Shikibu 76

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 76

Dorothea Tanning 76

Umm Kulthumm 77

Kabir 78

Théodore Géricault 78

Henry Cowell 78

Julia Morgan 79

Ladies Against Women 79

Plastic People of the Universe 79

Mildred Wirt Benson

(Carolyn Keene) 79 →

d.a. levy 80

Floyd Dell 80

Halldor Laxness 80

Judson Dance Theater 80

Paul Goodman 81

The Rascals 81

Muriel Rukeyser 82

John Ruskin 82

Johann Stamitz 83

Wolfgang Koeppen 83

Jens Jensen 83

Robert Edmond Jones 84

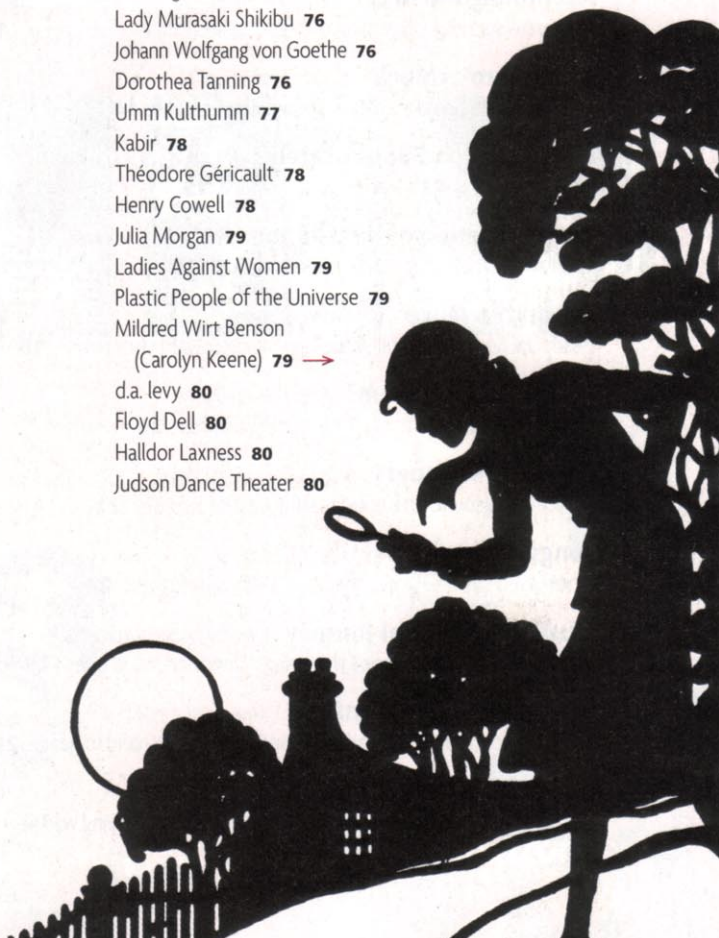
John Dos Passos 84

François Villon 84

Mary Wollstonecraft 85

B. Traven 85

Alan Hovhaness 85





# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## The 40 Most Exciting, Soulful Artists of **2003**

THE 40 CREATORS FEATURED HERE—most of whom are not celebrated stars—offer a thoughtful sense of where the arts are headed. They're innovative, edgy, and of the moment—but they're not mere flavors-of-the-month. They've all got a depth, resonance, and soulfulness that make them good companions on the journey toward a better world. And their work is full of ideas and insights that challenge us to live more fully, see more clearly, and have more fun.

—THE EDITORS

## Human Beans **BOGUS BRANDMASTERS**

The Web site of this two-man London design team showcases products that (one hopes) we will never see on our store shelves: Mr. Germy, a teething ring saturated with bacteria ("Exposure to the right bacteria can naturally strengthen your child's immune system"); Release, "easy-swallow tablets" that clean skin and clothing from the inside, by bubbling up through the bloodstream and the pores; and a chocolate cell phone—too inexpensive to attract thieves, and a good snack, too!

The Human Beans—Mickael Charbonnel and Chris Vanstone, both 24-year-old graduates of London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design—are among the wittiest and most astute of a worldwide corps of designers who spend part of their time satirizing their profession—and exploring society's deepest obsessions, hopes, and phobias. Charbonnel and Vanstone's fictional products—which they have so far only created digitally for exhibitions in art galleries—are particularly good at needling our fears of contagion, contamination, and disease.

Their next series of "products," still in development, include wacked-out versions of what they call "well-being" products. Look for, among other things, extremely strange vitamin supplements. [www.humanbeans.co.uk](http://www.humanbeans.co.uk) —JON SPAYDE

Crunching numbers:  
Human Beans' chocolate cell phone



## Christopher Alexander NATURAL DESIGNER

Architect and theorist Christopher Alexander is a populist who believes our built environment ought to serve and please regular folks. That's why he's full of practical ideas: Automobiles shouldn't intimidate pedestrians, children need their own living space at home, porches ought to be big enough so we can sit back and relax. But Alexander, trained in mathematics, also takes wacky and interesting mental flights. He uses mathematics, for example to quantify the beauty of Oriental rugs. Software designers have adopted his ideas to help them identify and categorize types of code problems and find common fixes for them.

Alexander's magnum opus is *The Nature of Order*, a four-volume treatise, three decades in the making. In it, he argues that all human-made structures should meet standards of beauty set by the natural world—standards that boil down to a handful of simple properties concerning shape, scale, texture, and so on. Universal measures of beauty? Those are fighting all words to postmodernists, with their penchant for seeing all aesthetic standards as time- and culture-bound. And sure enough, the controversy began even before the book was published this fall. William Saunders, writing in *Harvard Design Magazine*, called it "self-deceptive" and "full of pitiable delusions of grandeur." (Meanwhile, code crunchers have already begun



BRUCE DUFFY

Alexander says buildings should make us happy.

trying to apply Alexander's new theories to software.) Only time will tell if Alexander's ideas succeed in implanting the impersonal beauties of nature in the highly style-conscious—and ego-driven—world of architecture. *The Nature of Order* (Oxford)

—JOSEPH HART