



with...  
*Alley Cat Racing*  
*Rocky Horror*  
*Naked People Climbing Things*  
*Darklight 2010*  
*Meljoann*

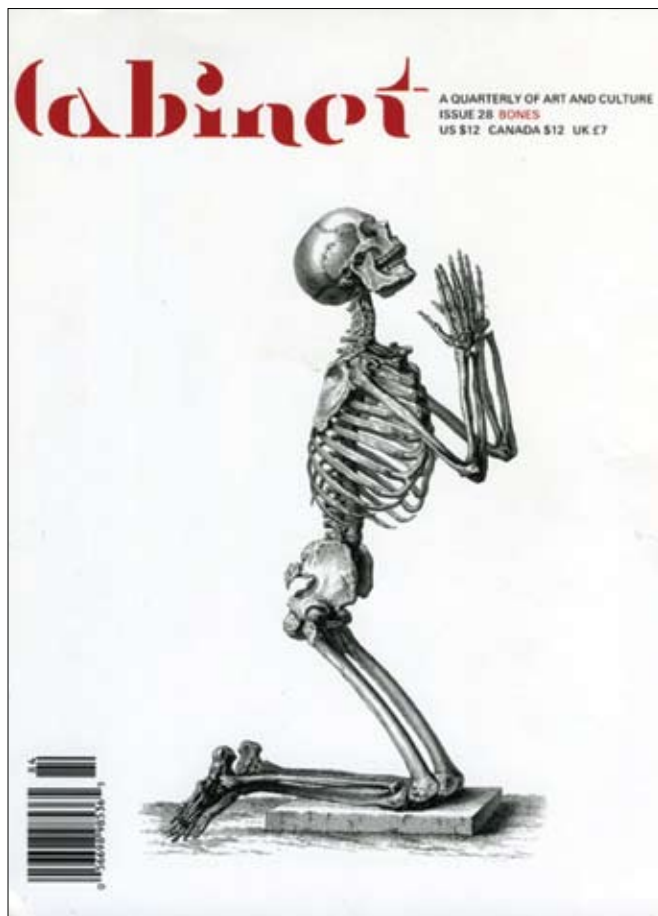


***PUT A RING ON IT***

 **TOTALLY DUBLIN** 73

September 2010 ADMISSION FREE [totallydublin.ie](http://totallydublin.ie)





**Cabinet Magazine**  
Quarterly [www.cabinetmagazine.org]

Cabinet is an arts and culture quarterly which mischievously questions and brings perplexity to our idea of what an arts and culture magazine really is. The Cabinet group also operate an event and exhibition space in Brooklyn, where they are based.

The very layout of the magazine is unique – sensitive in this to the radical mindset that drives the spirit of the articles. The beginning of the magazine is divided into four columns (“Inventory”, “Colors”, “Ingestion”, and “Leftovers”), the main section has articles, interviews, essays, and arts projects, and a themed section. Past themes include doubles, shadows, bones, deception, and horticulture.

The publications nomenclature is an allusion to the typical 17th Century cabinet full of curiosities, and Cabinet certainly does not disappoint – the opening column of issue 37, Inventory, is an exploration of a chart entitled Liquidation, which was in the March 1921 issue of Parisian journal Littérature, created by Dadaists Breton, Soupault, and Louis Aragon. The charts list, in typically absurd Dadaist style, a seven page roster of the Western canon. Beside each personage is recorded a rating given by eleven different judges, and a final tally.

This is only a small taste of the treasure chest which is Cabinet magazine – collections of inmates posing in front of scenic painted backgrounds, a balloon version of Whistler’s Mother, an exploration of the conceptual similarities between bread and the soul... Anyone who takes pleasure in innovative multi-disciplinary scholarship will find real delight here. -ZJ



**Eco-Fashion**  
Sass Brown [Laurence King Publishing]

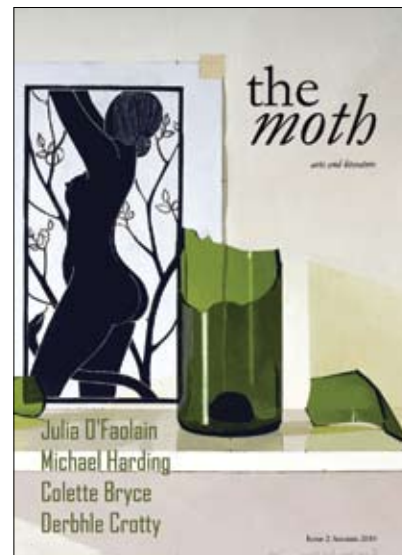
In a mission to prove that ethical clothing is not just for unwashed hippies, Sass Brown compiled Eco-Fashion: a sort of hand-book compiling humanitarian and environmentally friendly clothing designers. Brown’s hand-selected list of go-to eco-fashionistas will blow away any preconceptions you might have about this growing area of design: the quality of design in this collection is held to a high standard, many of the names included catering for celebrity clients. Labels like Danish line Noir in particular smash the frumpy stereotype of eco-clothing, with their deliciously dark, femme fatale inspired collections.

The only downside is your new eco trousers need rather spacious pockets: most of the labels in the book are sold in expensive boutiques, aimed at a wealthy, high-end market. Meanwhile, it’s the huge mass-market chains that sell cheap ‘disposable fashion’ to the masses that are doing the bulk of the damage, whether it’s sweat-shops or carbon emissions. Clearly there’s still a gap in the market for affordable ethical fashion, and Brown is most likely aware of this. However this doesn’t override Eco-Fashion’s message: this book will make you re-think your approach to shopping, fast-fashion and disposable culture. That’s something we can all afford to do. - RA

**The Moth**  
www.facebook.com/pages/The-Moth

The Moth is a quarterly arts and literature magazine, launched only this June, which has just released its second issue. Edited by Rebecca O’Connor and published by Will Govan, The Moth is a rare gem which exhibits a thoughtful selection of nearly thirty different prose, poetry, and free verse pieces. Something quite special has been created by O’Connor and Govan, not only in the exceptional content of the magazine, but also in the elegantly set print and images.

The Moth includes a diverse range of topics; creative prose and poetry sit alongside an autobiographical piece about the difficulties of pursuing acting as a young woman (facing confronta-



tions with Cate Blanchett and surreal encounters with Dame Judy Dench), and an interview with Michael Harding, who wrote and directed the critically acclaimed *The Tinker’s Curse*. A particular highlight in their first issue was an extraordinary sequence from Dermot Hearn’s forthcoming book, *A Fool’s Errand*.

The winter issue is to be launched in London this December. Although many still need to be confirmed, it will be featuring a short story by Tom MacIntyre and poetry by Matthew Sweeney, Vona Groarke, Ciaran O’Rourke, and George Szirtes. - ZJ

**The Financial Lives of Poets - Jess Walter**  
Jess Walter [Harper]

Matthew Prior quit his job as a financial journalist to set up a doomed website providing an outlet for his literary calling. His at first peculiar and yet wonderfully fitting pessimistic financial poetry provides a constant accompaniment for his readers throughout this glimpse into a middle-class father’s emotional breakdown.

We meet Matt in a 7/11, buying milk for his children and the wife who he’s fairly sure has been cheating on him with her dreamy high-school sweetheart, Chuck. Matt later tracks down his wife’s burly lover and makes an awkward and hugely entertaining attempt at becoming the alpha male. It’s on that late night milk run that Matt makes his fateful encounter with Jamie and Skeet, has a taste of the strongest weed he’s ever had in living memory, and loses his slippers.

Jess Walter memorably creates endearing characters; for Matthew Prior at least, we are ceaselessly reminded of his failed literary venture by the poetry which occupies a certain amount of the text itself, and his distraught and self-mocking interior monologues are bleakly droll.

We accompany Matt as he decides to start selling weed to his middle-class friends, rages at his wife’s coldness, lusts after his son’s teacher, and comes to the hysteric brink of inner turmoil, turning back at the end to salvage and finally treasure the pieces of his life which came so close to shattering completely. -ZJ