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PARTY PEOPLE

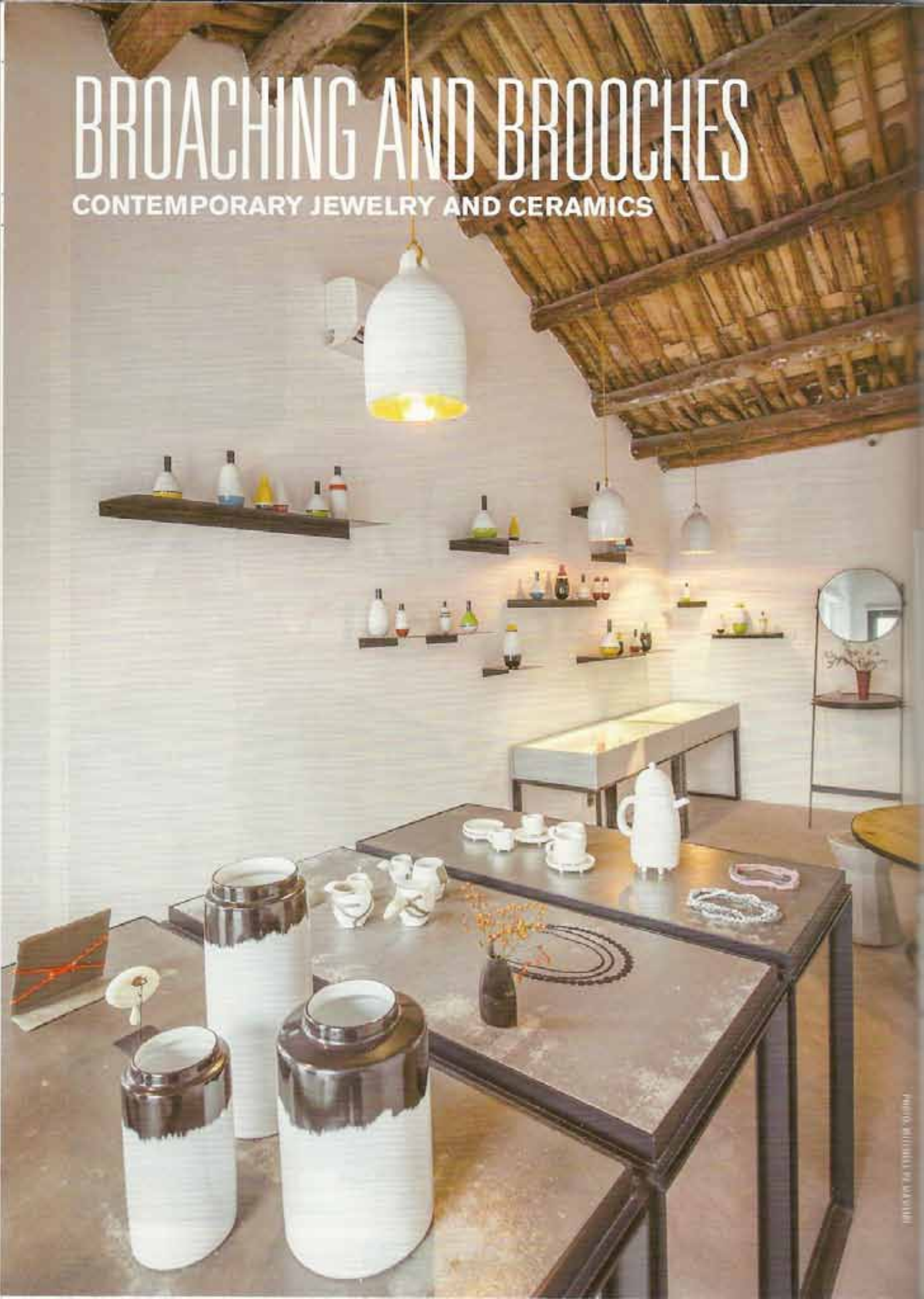
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WHAT'S NEW VENUES & SHOPS

UBI GALLERY

Wed-Sun 11.30am-6.30pm. 62 Yangmeizhu Xiejie,
Xicheng District (6301 2382)
西城区杨梅竹斜街62号

 700m southwest of Qianmen station, (Line 2)

Ubi Gallery in Qianmen is one of the lasting products of Beijing Design Week, a sneak peak of what Yangmeizhu and Dashilar Hutongs can become with a few more years of careful curation and urban planning. With a simple, yet elegant showroom of white-washed walls, low-hanging lamps, and black-rimmed glass tables, the newly relocated Ubi Gallery immortalizes wearable contemporary jewelry by local and international artists, a pioneer of sorts in Beijing's relatively small contemporary jewelry community.

Brooches, rings, and other wearables made with the likes of airplane wood, laser-cut steel, and spools of ribbon are hidden deep within an area of Beijing known for its 600-year history of being the crucible of creativity in the city. The birthplace of Peking Opera is now called home by more than 40 artists from China and abroad. Beijing's Central Academy of Fine Arts has a small, but long-running program for contemporary jewelry design, as does Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology and Tsinghua University's metals department, but their first wave of students often found recognition in exhibitions outside China. Ubi founder and art liaison between the Netherlands and China, Machtelt Schelling, is bringing these artists back home.

One of Schelling's key philosophies is sharing with customers the story behind the artists' works so that they can feel connected with pieces that may initially seem completely abstract. All of the works in Ubi also incorporate either materials or concepts from China, like Xiao Mu Zhao's brooches made from objects found in Beijing's hutongs, or Heng Lee's reinterpretation of ethnic minority embroideries. This makes for a good excuse to buy statement pins, even just as a souvenir (as if you need an excuse – take, for instance, former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who has never feared boasting a bold brooch and was known to use them for diplomacy).

Ubi Gallery's one-of-a-kind items are available for most budgets, but if you just want to take a look, the gallery often holds exhibitions and lectures. For more information, visit Ubigallery.com. *Jessica Rapp*

Also try: Paloma Sanchez, Belita Jewelry