

DECEMBER 1996

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SHOPPING



VOGUE

in vogue

EDITED BY ANNA HARVEY

Bowl, £80, by Rupert Spira, at Egg

Bottle, £350, by Tsubusa Kato, at Andrew Readman

Square bottle, £45, by Gayatri Gorton, at Egg

Dish, £240, by Edmund de Waal, at Egg

Short-neck vase, £195, at Donna Karan

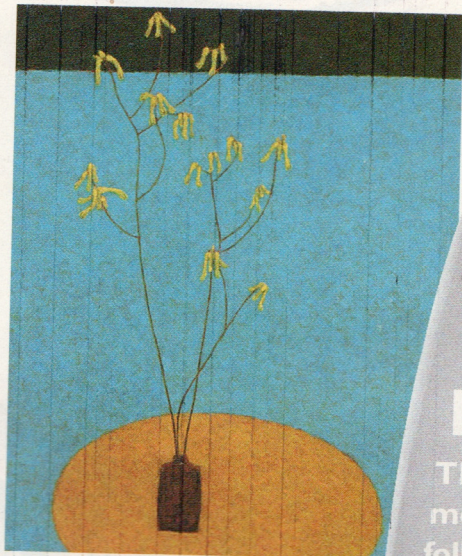
Beaker, £85, by Tsubusa Kato, at Andrew Readman

Choc tactics

Before you chastise yourself for reaching for yet more chocolate during the festive period, consider this: it contains vitamins and minerals, cocoa butter that lowers cholesterol and, if it has a high level of cocoa solids, is low in sugar. These surprising but true claims were made by Nicola Porter of The Chocolate Society, who could probably tell the difference between Cadbury's and Valrhona by sight, let alone taste. The society was founded in 1991 to educate the chocolate-craving British public – we compete with the Swiss as the biggest consumers in Europe – in the difference between "proper" chocolate, which contains a high percentage of cocoa, and that which Porter scathingly dismisses as "candy bars". Life membership costs £45, which initially brings a Valrhona chocolate-tasting fact files on the history of chocolate and a mail-order list containing such delicacies as gold truffles and chocolate-coated *marrons glacés*. The society also organises such events as tasting evenings, chocolate suppers and, if you have the stamina and a tooth sweet enough, indulgent week-long trips to Perugia. Make a chocophile know (or yourself) very happy this Christmas by joining up.

MARK HOLTGATE

Chocolate Society, Clay Pit Lane, Roelcliffe, York YO5 9LS (01 423 322230). The Chocolate Society shop is at 36 Elizabeth St, SW1 7L 259 9222)



First look

Abigail McLellan, a 27-year-old painter based in Scotland, has already won acclaim for her bold, semi-abstract portraits. She was a finalist for the National Portrait Gallery's BP Portrait Award for her painting *Louise*. But this young artist's portfolio encompasses more than just formal sittings: her landscapes and still lifes, such as *Kangaroo Paw* (above), are distinguished by a confident, luminous simplicity. From November 25 to December 24, the Rebecca Hossack Gallery is mounting McLellan's first solo show – artistic credibility and reasonable prices (£400 to £3,600) make it well worth a pre-Christmas look.

The Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill St W1 (0171 436 4899)

Pale and interesting

Three London exhibitions prove that modern ceramics have shrugged off their folksy, homespun image. English ceramicist Edmund de Waal's work is on show at Egg, 36 Kinnerton St, SW1, until November 30, and then at the Crafts Council Gallery Shop, 44a Pentonville Rd, N1, December 5 to February 16. Contemporary Japanese potter Tsubusa Kato shows at Andrew Readman, 57a Gainsford St, SE1, from December 7 to 20. And on Bond Street, Donna Karan's new flagship store has a small (but perfectly formed) ceramic collection (vases, bowls, dishes, bottles) in colours – taupe, black and this delicious milky white – to coordinate with her scented candles.

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