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ABU DHABI:
OASIS OF IMPRESSIONS
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HELSINKI'S NEW DESIGN SCENE
EXCLUSIVE: FRENCH WRITER
CHRISTOPHE ONO-DIT-BIOT

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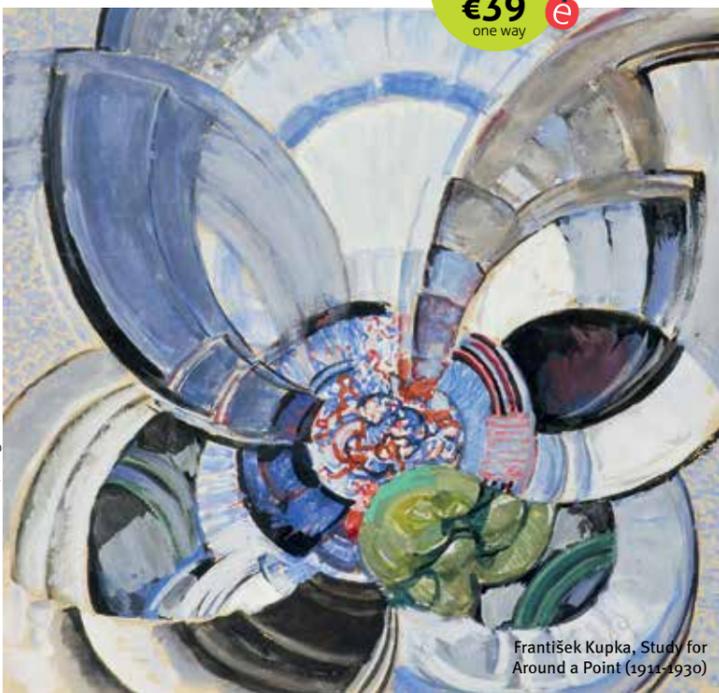


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Brussels

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Andy Warhol, Self Portrait in Drag, 1986



František Kupka, Study for Around a Point (1911-1930)



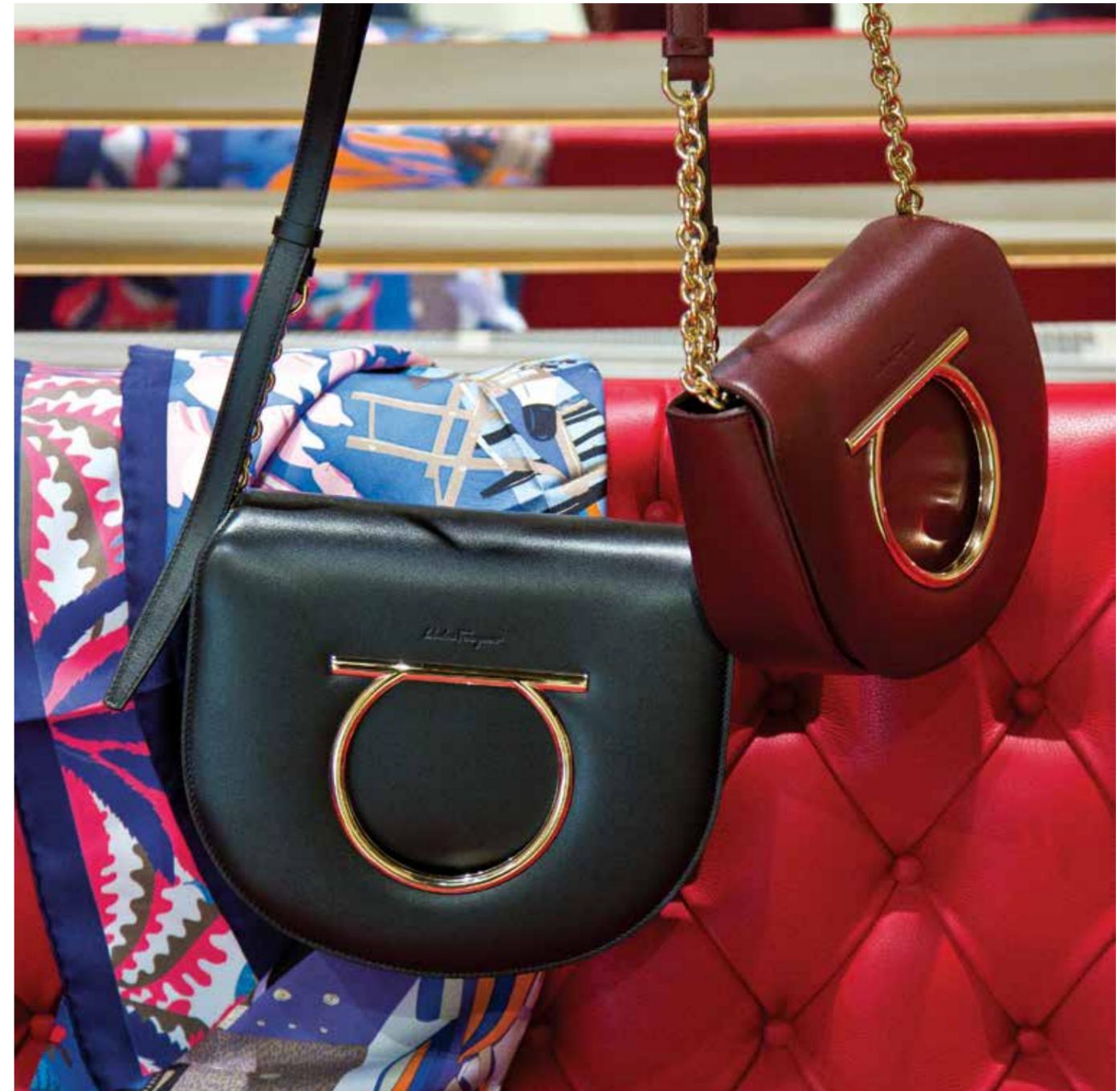
Le 27, the new flagship store of Delvaux. Photo by Santi Caleca

Until January 20, the artistically diverse Centre for Fine Arts, or BOZAR, is hosting the exhibition **Beyond Klimt: New Horizons in Central Europe, 1914-1938** (bozar.be). The major cultural and political changes that occurred in Europe at the outbreak of the First World War and the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire brought new artistic waves expressed in the strong voices of individuals as well as creative communities. Through the eyes of the masters of that era (about 75 artists, including Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka, and Moholy-Nagy), the exhibition reflects on the opulent and diverse scene of Central European art. For some, the major historical changes marked the end of successful careers, for others they indicated new beginnings, artistic challenges, and new forms of broad intercultural communication. BOZAR also invites visitors to dive into the world of virtual reality – filmmaker Frederick Baker has prepared a dazzling VR journey inspired by Klimt’s mosaic panels in the Secession-style Stoclet Palace in Brussels.

Fashion, art, and architecture blend into a single high-class masterpiece at **Le 27**, the new flagship store of *Delvaux*, the world’s oldest luxury leather goods house (founded in 1829). The showroom was designed by *Vudafieri Saverino Partners* and is located on two floors of a 19th-century mansion at Boulevard de Waterloo 27 that has preserved most of its historical allure: frescoes, mouldings, mirrors, and a grand wooden staircase. Here, carefully selected works of art, crafts, and iconic pieces of 20th-century Belgian design meet bold, contemporary furniture and lighting by Italian design guru Gino Sarfatti. The four-metre ceilings and tremendous symmetry of the Art Deco windows highlight the grey-gridded wall displays, creating the finest of backgrounds for *Delvaux*’s creations. The sharp, minimalist cabinets contrast with the dark wood, rich marble, and robust iron finishings, and the brand’s leather bags and accessories are treated as real pieces of art.

The former *Citroën* factory building in Brussels was recently chosen to undergo a major redevelopment and thus gain a completely new, artistic face. A spectacular 35,000-m² cultural hub, **KANAL – Centre Pompidou** (Quai des Péniches; kanal.brussels) will host a museum of modern and contemporary art, an architecture centre, and a wide range of public multi-use spaces. Although the completed reconstruction is expected no sooner than 2022, the urban space is already organising various exhibitions, actively engaging visitors in upcoming changes, and introducing them to a rich gallery of local and international artists. Design, installations, audio-visual arts, and contemporary theatre performances have already occupied the stage. A new event not to miss is **Between Art and Design: The Belgian Scene** (until November 19, 2019), which explores boundaries (or the lack thereof) between creative expressions, form and function, aesthetics, materials, and techniques. Meanwhile, **Red and White** (until January 7) displays iconic industrial designs from the technical revolution of the 1960s up until today, focusing on the colours white and red.

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