

MODERN LUXURY

DC

BEST — of the — CITY

*Who and What to Love
Around DC in 2014!*

DINING TRENDS
FASHION FIRSTS
DESIGN FINDS
BEAUTY BETS
CULTURAL CACHE

GATEWAY TO
FOOD HEAVEN

HOW TO FIND
LOVE AMONG THE VINES

THE CITY'S NEW
VINTAGE VIXEN

STYLE CONVERSION!
VICTORIAN CLASSIC TO
A MODERN MARVEL





BEST
OF THE
CITY

FROM CULTURE TO DESIGN, FOOD
TO FASHION, AN UPCOMING YEAR
HAS NEVER LOOKED SO
POSITIVELY APPEALING.

By Katie Bianco, Michael McCarthy, Erin Hartigan,
Sam Hiersteiner, Jennifer Sergent and Nevin Martell
Photography by Greg Powers



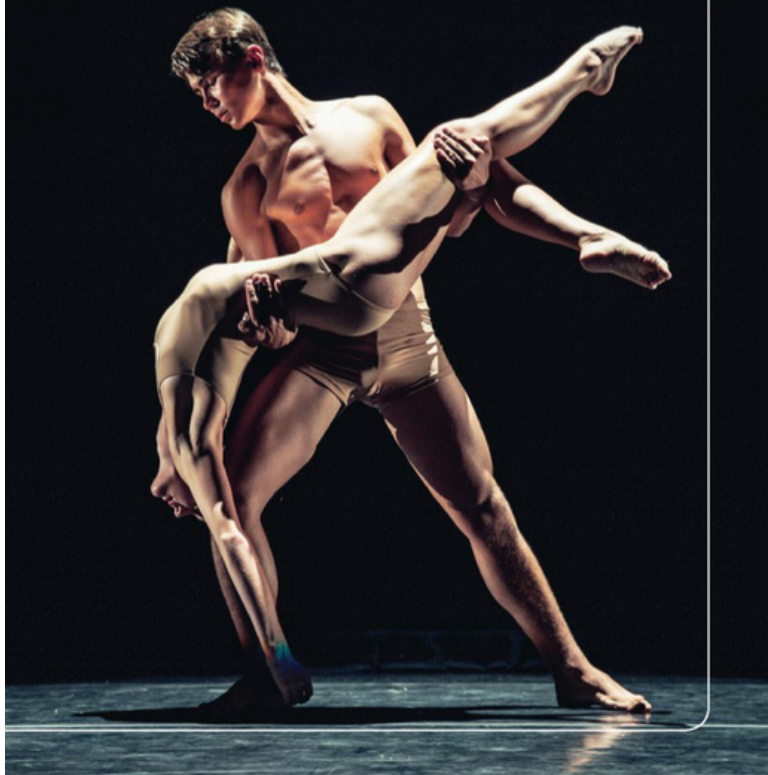
FACTORING ART
Gabriel Mellan in front
of his work “ $(_)2(2)$
 $(16+32)$,” named for a
math equation.

CULTURE

Magic Man If an artist can define a city in transition, **Gabriel Mellan** (gabrielmellan.com) is it. His current work includes massive sculpture, photography and video. “I make big, loud and often heavy sculptures that sometimes move, illuminate and make noise,” says the artist, who experienced childhood in DC and Maui before spending his teen years in Japanese public schools. His most recognizable work, an interactive sound column dubbed “Heptachord,” challenges our capacity to appreciate our senses. The year ahead for the Corcoran College of Art + Design grad promises more pop-up exhibits at places like Union Market; a photography project in Finland; and filmmaking in China, Bangladesh and Nepal. “I’m really humbled to have a life that allows me to pursue my passion of art and teaching,” Mellan says.

LOVELY LINES
The American
College Dance
Festival will be at
GMU's Center for
the Arts in March.

BEST OF THE CITY CULTURE



BODIES, REST AND MOTION Susan Shields can hardly believe her good fortune—or the fortunes of those who appreciate dance in the Washington region. As the director of the School of Dance at George Mason University, Shields will host 500 dancers and the public March 8-11 at the Center for the Arts as part of the **American College Dance Festival**, which lands in Fairfax this year. While four days of performances (including the Joffrey Ballet, March 7-8) are on tap, one of the biggest coups is the program on March 9 in the Concert Hall called *A Life of Dance*. Panelists for the forum include **Robert Battle**, artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; **Ashley Wheeler**, artistic director of the Joffrey Ballet; and **Elizabeth Streb**, artistic director of Streb and a MacArthur fellow. “We’ll have some of America’s biggest players in dance on hand to talk about the beautiful art form, how it has influenced their lives and where it’s headed in 2014 and beyond,” Shields says.
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TOP FIVE: Hot Artists To Buy Right Now

Leigh Conner of Connersmith (connersmith.us.com) gives us her picks for contemporary art’s rising superstars.



Photographer Agniet Snoep’s images were introduced at DC’s (e)merge art fair.

1 **Katie Miller**—The gifted painter (artistkatiemiller.com) will have a much-anticipated second solo show at Connersmith this spring. “There’s already a waiting list for her paintings,” says Conner. Collectors such as Fred Ognibene, and Don and Mera Rubell already own Miller’s work.

2 **Leo Villareal**—Conner presented a new body of Villareal’s (villareal.net) work—digital light sculpture—at Art Miami and will present an installation in DC in the coming year. “The artist is working on several major large-scale commissions—look for announcements soon,” Conner says.

3 **Janet Biggs**—“This video artist’s (jbiggs.com) revelatory new work is based on her recent journey down China’s Silk Road,” says Conner. “Her star continues to rise with international exhibitions, including the first Cartagena Biennial.” Connersmith will show Biggs’ new work in 2014/15.

4 **Agniet Snoep**—The Dutch image-maker (agnietsnoep.nl) shoots unforgettable still life from the natural world. “She first appeared in DC at the (e)merge art fair with Amstel Gallery in Amsterdam,” says Conner. “Since 2011, her work is highly sought after in America. Look for big things in 2014.”

5 **J.J. McCracken**—The sculptor and performance artist (jjmccracken.com) constructs what she calls immersive installations that are activated by everything from sound to taste. “She’s a very exciting artist,” says Conner, and 2014 will see her completing a new body of provocative work.