

FRIEZE



Top & Bottom Shop

Escalators, ghosts and a nail bar
by *Bod Mellor*

I will spray the words ‘& Bottom’ between ‘Top’ and ‘Shop’ to indicate the vast, abandoned building’s new, collective ownership.

Hopefully, the escalators will still be there to keep patrons inside long enough to forget how to escape – no flagship store is complete without some element of free entertainment.

The main attraction – set across two floors – will be a ghost library, called Go West, dedicated to all those who have died from COVID-19. Members will be allowed to borrow up to four ghosts simultaneously to take off-site or may, instead, take up to ten ghosts to the mirrored former changing rooms to engage with onsite.

In recognition of the local area’s rich history and previous inhabitants – sex workers, confidence tricksters, the condemned prisoners who were processed along Oxford Street to be hanged at the former Tyburn Gallows – there will be no economic support to provide living members or archived ghosts with capital. There will be no fines for the late return or theft of ghosts, as all such transgressions will be celebrated as charitable acts.

Once a month, members of the ghost library will be able to enter their names into a tombola for a chance to participate in the regular public speech parades. Winners will be led from the store to Speakers’ Corner and back in a pantomime horse-drawn cart. Upon returning, they will be allowed to speak publicly in the shop windows – on purpose-built, gravity-free gallows – for a maximum of 12 hours.

The nail bar and cafes will be retained ●

Bod Mellor is an artist. Their public mural to George Michael was unveiled in Brent, London, UK, in 2020, and their novel, *Strens*, was published by Montez Press in 2019. They live in London.

Previous spreads

Pablo Bronstein, *Security shutters in ormolu as installed on former Topshop in Oxford Street* (p. 97) and *Detail of hasp and padlock in Ormolu on said shutters* (p. 99), 2021, ink and watercolour on paper, 30 × 23 cm, specially commissioned by *frieze*. Courtesy: the artist and Herald St, London

This spread

Rottingdean Bazaar, 2021, specially commissioned by *frieze*. Courtesy: the artists

For Her, Not Me

A department store half-remembered, half-imagined
by *Lubaina Himid*

A department store should have at least three distinct entrances: the Food Hall, the Perfume Emporium and the Handbag Heaven. It ought to take up the entire block of a wide and busy street in the commercial centre of a city.

The experience of grandeur, an early understanding of desire and free entrance, are key to why I love these institutions and have held them close for more than 60 years.

The names of each can conjure glorious afternoons spent with my mother and aunt, with the women I have adored, and countless delicious moments buying secret and surprise presents for them all.

Patricia Highsmith’s *The Price of Salt* (1952) doubtless has a special place in my heart because a spark of love is lit between two women in a toy department.

The perfume section must have Jicky by Guerlain; the music floor must have a soundscape of live piano, which wafts through to adjacent departments.

There will be a soft, neat handbag in burgundy or burnt orange that I can squeeze and smell.

I may buy something in haberdashery: threads or ribbons, scissors perhaps.

The cushions can be square or long, silk or wool, holding the promise of softness on my cheeks. I want clever patterns, deep rich colours, but just too many to cope with so that I end up not buying anything at all.

The book department for celebrity signings; the pet department for songbirds, sawdust and diamond dog collars. The lingerie for her, not me. The Father Christmas Grotto for the wonderful train through the cotton-wool landscape and my desperate plea for a bicycle that never materialized.

In the cafe, I used to love toasted teacakes and weak orange juice; now, I’d hope for an oatmilk flat white and lemon drizzle cake.

In the Food Hall, I still want the French cheeses, the fancy biscuits, the herring, the gherkins ●

Lubaina Himid is an artist and professor of contemporary art at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK. She won the Turner Prize in 2017. Her major monographic exhibition at Tate Modern, London, UK, is on view from 25 November to 3 July 2022. She lives in Preston.

Pablo Bronstein is an artist. His solo show ‘Hell in Its Heyday’ is on view at Sir John Soane’s Museum, London, UK, from 6 October to 2 January 2022. An accompanying book is published by Walther König. He lives in London and Deal, Kent.

Rottingdean Bazaar was formed by **James Theseus Buck** and **Luke Brooks** in 2015. Their practice incorporates creative direction, fashion design, styling, art and film. They lecture in fashion at universities including Central Saint Martins, London, UK, University of Westminster, London, and HEAD Genève, Switzerland. They live in Rottingdean, UK.