

FIRST LOOK



BODY TALK

Conventional Western beauty standards bore Belgian costume designer Jennifer Defays, so she's spent the past two decades creating ensembles that accentuate and morph the body in unexpected ways. On April 23, Defays will present her newest work at Brussels's TicTac Art Centre in *MUTE*, an exhibition that highlights her use of costume to explore societal stigmas and oppressions. Featuring haunting cotton masks with protruding artificial cheekbones and her provocative *Window Dress* series—designed like targets, with circular openings at the pelvis, the works denote prostitution and the patriarchy's narrow gaze on the female figure—*MUTE* is a layered multisensory experience that explores the stifling of self-expression, incorporating recorded shouts and cries as well as text by writer Natalia Dusfraise. "My definition of costume is a crafted work on the human body," Defays tells GRAY. "It's like a sculpture, and it opens a lot of possibilities." —*Claire Butwinick*



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

California-based architect Scott Mitchell's landmark residences are characterized both by what they renounce (excessive opulence) and what they embrace (purity of form and space). Informed by Japanese minimalism and Shinto aesthetics, Mitchell's works are fusions of rich organic materials, sculptural concrete, and seamless connections to the natural landscape. This May, Rizzoli debuts the book *Scott Mitchell Houses*, a charting of the architect's design trajectory from a modern interpretation of an

18th-century farmhouse to the monumental Malibu estate seen in Tom Ford's 2016 film *Nocturnal Animals*. The book includes a foreword by architectural critic Paul Goldberger and contributions from longtime friend Calvin Klein. "I am most happy with the way that the book conveys, through the voices of contributors and friends, the emotional impact of what I aspire to create in my work," Mitchell tells GRAY. —*CB*

LAETITIA BICA, COURTESY SCOTT MITCHELL STUDIO