

The STYLE Observer



ROOT *of* Flowerheadz

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(Photo: Hugh Findletar)

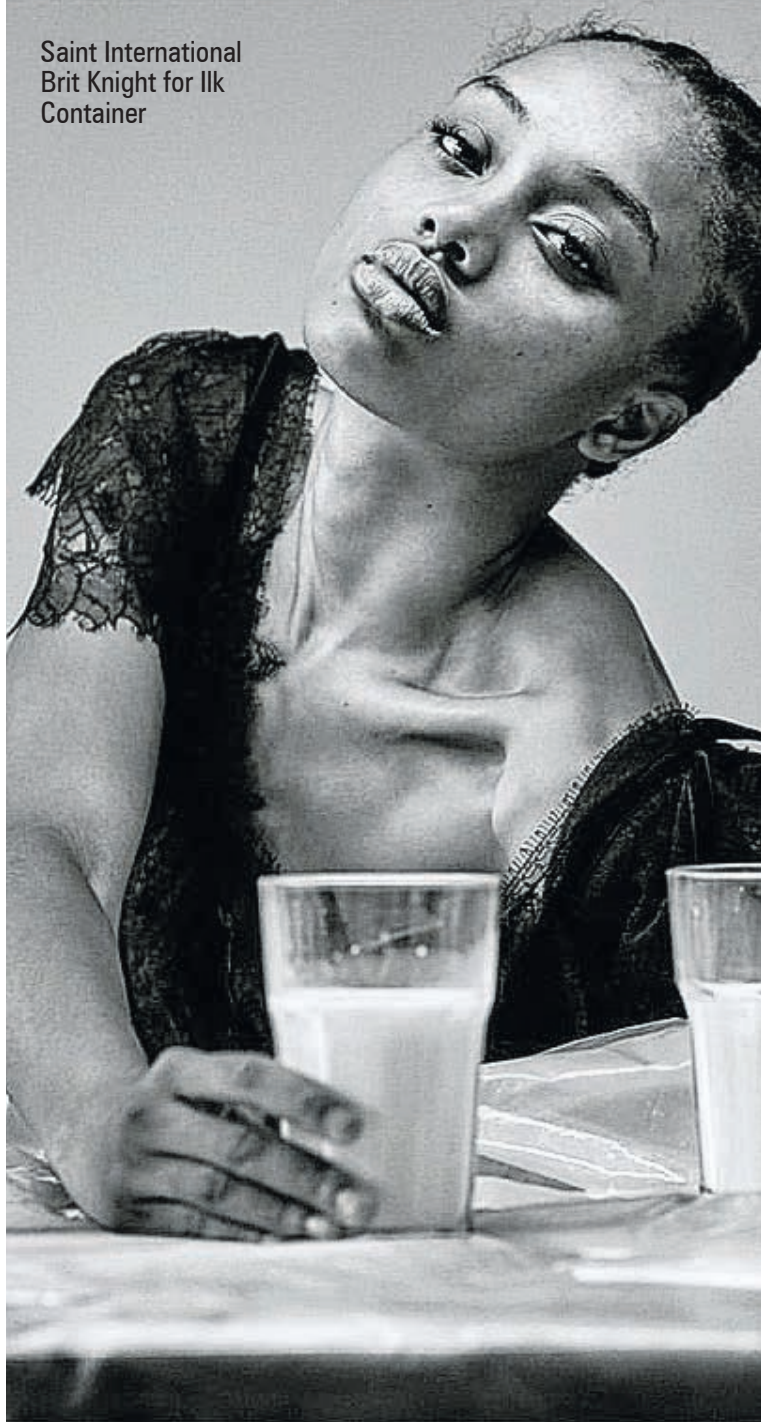
SO2

First

An image of Saint International model Brit Knight for Ilk Container has hit the 'net and can we just say: Stunning! Lensed by Italian painter and photographer Amilcare Incalza and styled by image consultant Barbara Bartolini, the snap showcases a seemingly barefaced Knight with glasses of milk as props.

Model: Brit Knight
Photography: Amilcare Incalza
Styled by: Barbara Bartolini

Saint International
Brit Knight for Ilk
Container



Cover girls...
Aurelie Giraud
(right) and Maja
Evjen Nielsen

Also

In other Saint International news, the agency's Martinique-born starlet Aurelie Giraud has landed the cover of *Horizont Magazine's* April SS20 issue. Giraud shares the frame with model Maja Nielsen, in a shoot by Mollie Clothier.

The photog, who shared the images on her *Instagram* page, posted the following message: "It's a very bizarre thought that this was shot only five weeks ago in Central London just as things were starting to rumble. Life feels a million miles away from that hustle now!"

Models: Aurelie Giraud and Maja Nielsen

Photography: Mollie Clothier

Hair & make-up: Shiv Ashman Makeup

Jewellery: Olive Earrings



Angles...

Photos:
[patmcgrathlabs.com](https://www.patmcgrathlabs.com),
[IG: patmcgrathreal](https://www.patmcgrathreal.com),
[YouTube: Spice Official World](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSpiceOfficialWorld),
Patrick MacLeod,
Amilcare Incalza,
Mollie Clothier/[IG: deiwghtpeters](https://www.deiwghtpeters.com)

Métallique...

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Then Fresh off her exclusive *Instagram* live interview with Minister of Health and Wellness Christopher Tufton, dancehall artiste Spice has created a family-friendly *YouTube* channel that takes us inside her life in Atlanta. Hours after being launched, the *Spice Official World* channel had over 20,000 subscribers with her first video receiving almost as many views. In what seems to be the start of a subscription-worthy series, Spice details the events that led to her being stuck in Atlanta while the Jamaican borders remain closed. Featured in the video are her children, Nicholas and Nicholattoy, who are enjoying school virtually like most children across the world. Spice also shares her domestic side as she prepares ackee (the canned version) and salt fish for breakfast.



Also It was a major make-up moment as 'Mother' Pat McGrath went live with supermodel Naomi Campbell on *Instagram*. The link-up was sheer genius as the British duo tested new releases from McGrath's beauty line, Pat McGrath Labs, and revealed a new lipstick shade inspired by the iconic model. Omi, a mid-tone rose, is part of MatteTrance lipstick line.

How To Survive THE COVID-19 'NEW NORMAL'

LIFE throws us many curve balls and gives us opportunities to step out of our comfort zone and this COVID-19 curve ball has been no different. Many of us are dreading the long-term implications whether it be on our health, finances or social life. Any crisis involves change, which is the one thing most of us are guilty of resisting. But I learned in life, you must adapt, redefine and refocus on the things needed to achieve your goals.

LAMAR HARRIS,
vice-president,
wealth management,
NCB Capital
Markets

As the daughter of a strong-willed female entrepreneur, I was able to witness from an early age the undulating and unpredictable atmosphere that came with running a business. I believe that's why I am able to adapt to change, and learn to cope with the 'new normal'.

LOOK GOOD, FEEL GOOD

Looking good will have a great effect of how you feel. Have you ever noticed that one trip to the hair salon, and a quick manicure later and you're suddenly Rihanna — shining "bright like a diamond"? Just because we have to stay in, doesn't mean we can't look good and feel good. In fact, it's one of my top coping mechanisms during this time. I wake up, I give thanks for life, I exercise, I continue my normal get-ready-for-work routine and I dress appropriately for my next online meeting.

BUDGET

More than likely, we will have unexpected expenses during this period even though we are going to fewer brunches, spending less



(Graphic: Rorie Atkinson)

on gas to go on those random country trips and racking up less bills on parties and fun nights out. The reality is, now that we're always at home our utilities and food consumption have increased and we need to be very mindful of that. My supermarket bill pre-COVID-19 vs what it is now has

seen an increase in the number of zeros.

If you haven't started yet, now more than ever it's important to budget and stick to it. Use this extra time to go through your credit card statements and your transactions for the previous month so you can track your

spending patterns and identify ways to cut back.

See where you can begin to make changes to improve your long-term financial health and of course, institutions have financial advisors that will help guide you through this time. Many financial institutions like NCB

have already implemented some relief measures for their business and personal customers that you should review to see if you can benefit from.

DON'T PANIC-SPEND

Most of us are all guilty of this. The day the news hit about mandatory work from home, I too ran out to stock up on my groceries, much-needed comfort food and some good wine. We don't know how long this will last, but it is important to spend every penny wisely or you may create a dent in your available financial resources. Supermarkets and local manufacturers have said that they will have enough stock to cover our necessities and we can also use the opportunity to increase the number of local goods and services we use that are often less costly. I highly recommend the fruit and vegetable boxes from our farmers — eat and buy local.

WHERE MY GIRLS AT?

In the wise words of recently deceased musician Bill Withers: "Lean on me when you're not strong." We get by with a little help from our friends and it's even more evident at a time like this that we need them most. Take the time to arrange a girls' virtual wine night in or a guys' virtual dominoes night. There are so many online meeting platforms available right now that make it quick and easy to get together while being socially distant. We're human beings and we were meant to be social, so stay sane and find creative ways to do the regular link-ups virtually.

The best advice I've given and received is to take it all in one day at a time. Manage your intake of fake or stressful news and keep surrounding your mind with daily gratitude reminders. At the end of the day, how we survive this is when we come together, share our experiences, spend and save wisely, check up on each other and know that this, too, shall pass.



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ROOT *of* Flowerheadz



Patook owls
In the countryside they say Patook!



Patook and Kingz Cup
The Kingz Cup embedded
with 24k gold and copper
dust in Murano glass
(Photos: Hugh Findletar)

If the normally loquacious Hugh 'Flowerheadz' Findletar is a tad discombobulated, who could blame him? He's in Milan, Italy, where he has resided since 1991. COVID-19 has, however, complete with daily patrols of members of the military forces in close proximity ensuring strict adherence to the state of emergency plus, up to press time 24,648 deaths, presented a new normal.

A photographer by profession with a particular interest in portraiture, Findletar's front-row seat, nowadays, spotlights mortality.

He is, however, in survival mode and when we catch up with him Monday afternoon he is helping to load supplies on a truck destined for a nearby hospital. "We all have to play our part," he tells **SO**. Indeed, his inability to return to Venice and to Murano, where the glass for his creations is acquired, affords him more time to hark back to another time and place: Jamaica, the land of his birth, and to his great-grandmother Sarah James Johnson's Cave Valley, St Ann, garden where he would as a child accompany her at the end of each day to bask in the beauty of her beloved flowers. She was especially proud of her roses, he shares. "This is where my obsession with floral composition commenced... everything I do [my floral compositions] is dedicated to her."

The seeds were sown, nourished and would forever bloom. Firstly, in New York where he would be planted after leaving Jamaica at the of age of eight; and uprooted at the end of high school. "No longer

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Hugh Findletar outside Marcus Garvey's home in St Ann, Jamaica



Hugh 'Flowerheadz' Findletar's dad Cecil



Hugh 'Flowerheadz' Findletar's beloved great-grandmother Sarah James-Johnson (right) and niece Deniece Johnson



Hugh Findletar and his daughter Zadie



Hughbiscus



Always studying

For Flowerheadz's father Cecil Findletar...



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comfortable at home, I found the Village and the art scene of downtown Manhattan which became my nourishing school up until this moment," he shares. The Village was, too, where he would connect with Italy. "I was assisting various photographers in the fashion world when I met my Italian girlfriend, Melania. We moved to Italy in 1991 and I have been here ever since." Flowerheadz not only relocated but made his presence felt. His response to the question "What has kept you in Italy?" is slow and deliberate.

"Once you

break the ice and become accustomed to the beauty of Italy, it is very difficult for you to be anywhere else... over the years, I had my daughter and promised never to leave her until she was of the age to fend for herself. So I have made Italy and the beauty of working with artisans a part of my livelihood, life."

In The Beginning...

I started working as a photographer. I'm a [self-taught] fine arts photographer. I don't really show my photographs but that

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Findletar's self-portrait



Miss Sarah pays homage to Findletar's great-grandmother Sarah James Johnson



Flower Headz



Miss Mette, for Mette Hjort, co-founder & creative director HAY Accessories



A Freak Ca Headz (Freak Caribbean)



For John Demsey group president Estée Lauder



Mariella Calvesi aka Miss G



For Dolce & Gabbana (Photos: Hugh Findletar)

... and for his mother Margaret Findletar

Murano glass goblets



ROOT *of* Flowerheadz



Murano goblets

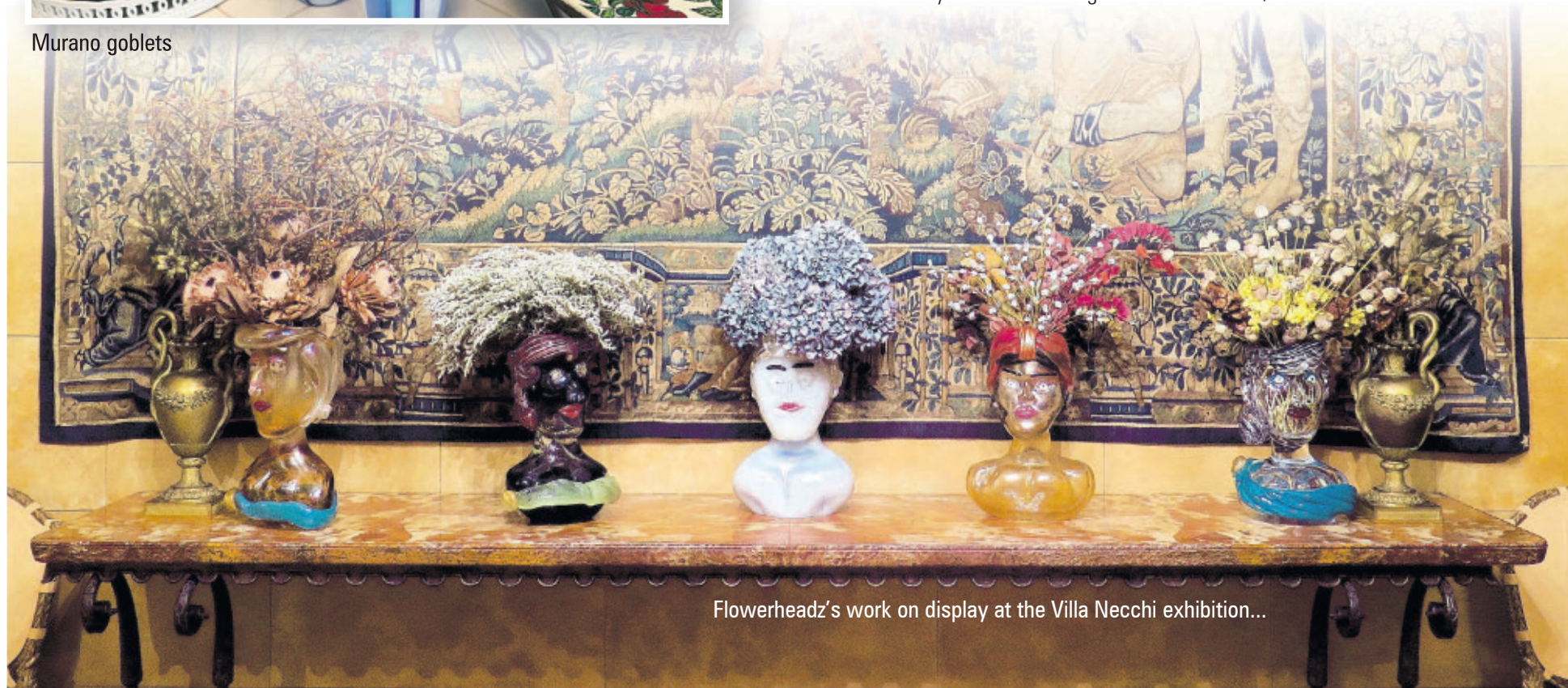
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will come soon. When I got to the corner of my garden work doing my still life I was doing floral compositions for myself. I did not, however, want to use other people's vases. It occurred to me that I was living in Italy and could make the glasses myself. I first went to Kenya, Africa, and started to create personal pieces using recycled glass. Unable to return I went to the Murano Glass Factory in Venice and started to experiment there... From that moment it just took off. It's all in dedication of my great-grandmother Sarah. I am still 10 years later working on

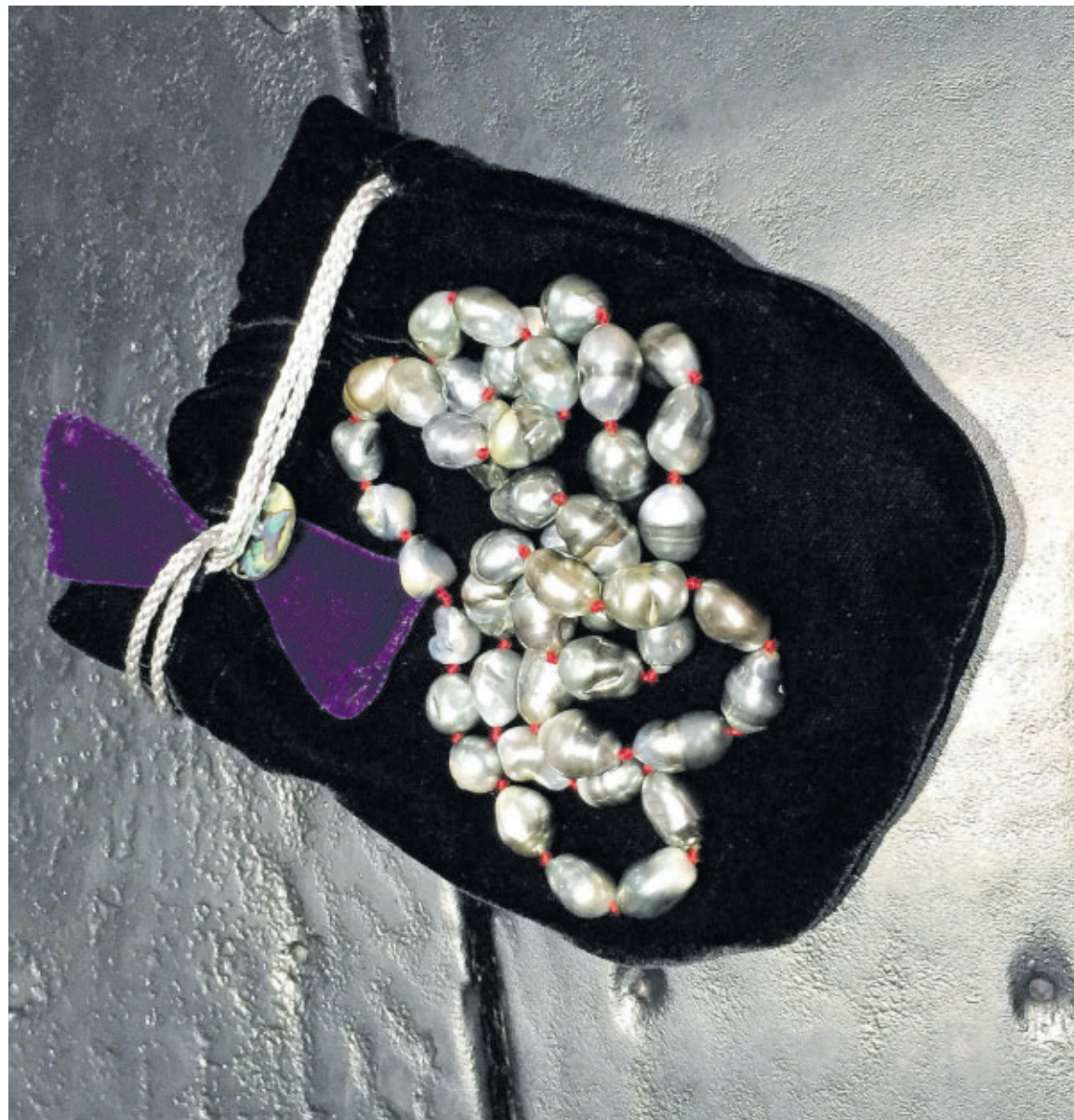
my project.

His relationship with Miuccia Prada started...

"I would probably say in New York with the purchase of my first wallet... I wasn't a fashion victim but rather in love with being fly; cool! Coming from Ja I have that rude bwoy doctrine inside of me (that I'll carry to the grave)... I fell in love with her style, embraced her wholly until I met her. I would every so often do some work for the company... She's probably, thanks to Shala (Monroe), one of the first people to collect my work.



Flowerheadz's work on display at the Villa Necchi exhibition...



FlowerHeadz has added pearlz like these Coffee Beans to his repertoire.

Why the 'head' with a Z?

In Italy it's about father and child The 'z' is for my daughter Zadie. It gives personality to my compositions. Each head is dedicated to someone.

Obsession with flowers...

... harks back to my evenings spent with my great-grandmother. She would spend hours sharing the beauty of her flowers, talking

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Blooms in abundance ahead of a show



Murano glass fish



... and on display inside the Pomellato Venice Boutique



A selection from Findletar's Beez jewellery line
Why Beez? Because they pollenate... like I do with my work



Bee brooch (Photos: Hugh Findletar)



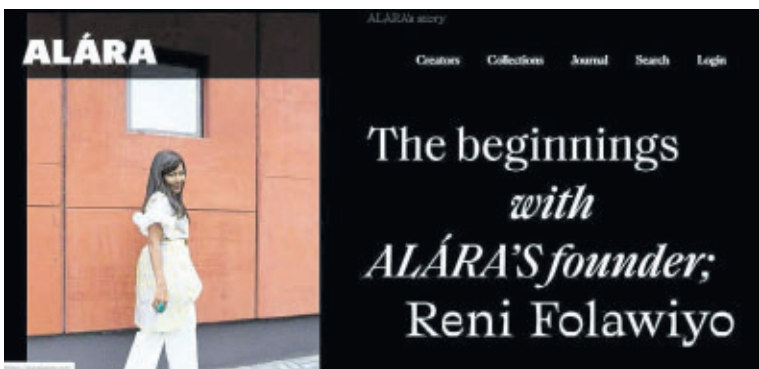
Architect and art collector Daniela Turotti hangs the WallFlowerz.



Gallery owner Armand Hadida stands beside his Wallflowerz acquisition by Hugh Findletar.



Flowerheadz (left) and US singer Lenny Kravitz



Reni Folawiyo, founder of Alara, is yet another devotee of 'Flowerheadz's work.



Flowerheadz adjusts one of his masks.



Socialite Shala Monroe captured by Flowerheadz wearing one of his masks from Nigeria.



Reni stands alongside her Headz.

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about them [and to them], especially the roses. In time I, too, appreciated the wonder of being there with her, realised that something magical was going on and that flowers were my thing. In my floral compositions 'the messy' is the perfection for me. It's not about trying to be an academic with the flowers, but also to share what I feel through Rastafarianism and the natty dread and Raggedy-Ann style.

I am always at my most creative... I do so many things. I am a jewellery designer, an artist with jewellery, I do glass pieces and since reading the story of Mikimoto, I fell in love with pearls and wanted to add my shine on them based on the more you wear them, caress them, the more they live. My pearls are spelt Pearlz and are sold mostly in

Paris. Collectors included the late Karl Lagerfeld.

Devotees of Flowerheadz...

John Demsey, executive group president Estée Lauder companies, Missoni, Dolce & Gabbana, French and Swiss bankers, Arab princes and princesses, Guiseppe Zanotti, the King of Morocco (who purchased eight Murano glass fishes to decorate his beach house), and the Rockefellers, to list a few.

Future plans... I'd love to show at the National Gallery of Jamaica. I want to donate photos and some of my glass work. I also want to speak to high school and tertiary students about the beauty, trials and tribulations of living and working overseas. It is, after all, important to give back.

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Two of Hugh Findletar's clients, Daniela Santa Maria Ambrosi and her son Luigi. The image behind of Santa Maria Ambrosi dressed for the wedding of William and Catherine was captured by Flowerheadz.



Rosita Missoni stands alongside the floral masterpieces of Hugh Flowerheadz Findletar.



Made for step-grandmother Hyacinth Cross from Flowerheadz private collection (Photos: Hugh Findletar)

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His mélange of cultures has also been advantageous. In Murano glass he's quoted by noted critic Rosa Barovier Mantasti as saying that he found an expressive medium with which to create his ironic — perhaps even unforgiving — yet somehow affectionate interpretations of the human face.

She continues, 'Hugh accentuates the facial features and, mysteriously (or perhaps not, if we think of recent genetic research) his faces show the futility of racial barriers, highlighting the similarities that exist between people from all over the world. During a period working in a glass factory in Kenya, a country that does not have a strong glass-making tradition, he created his first simple, yet technically admirable, works in glass. He then decided to seek training from an expert in Murano.

When he arrived in Murano, the home of European glass art, Findletar serendipitously entered the Zanetti Murano glassworks where he began to collaborate with renowned master Oscar Zanetti, heir to an ancient glass-making dynasty that specialises in modelling sculptural forms at high temperatures.

Among the various faces he recreated was that of his maestro Zanetti, whose features are typically Mediterranean. We do not know how happy the maestro was when he realised his portrait was crowned by a bouquet of pink flowers!

It's doubtless that Zanetti provided the technical knowledge — of which the island of Murano boasts a millenary tradition — to help create these little masterpieces.

On the other hand, the practice of colouring glass using metal oxides and forming it exclusively by flame comes from a Roman tradition.

Hugh Findletar's heads in blown glass are flower vases, but they recall Greek terracotta oenochoe from the areas that were once Magna Graecia and Etruria. These particular vases were often decorated with young African male heads.

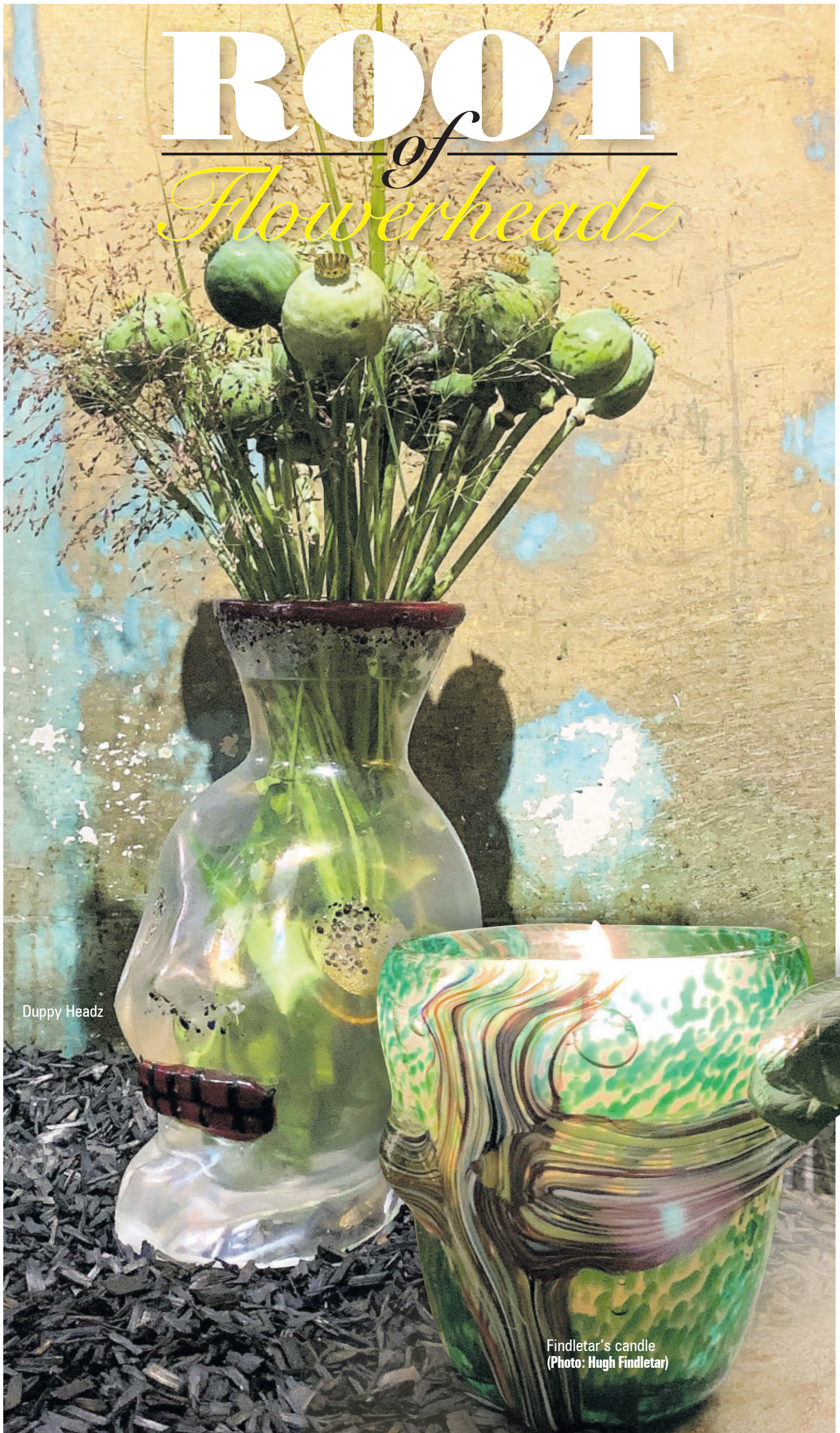
Equally strong is the comparison with the well-known, head-shaped flasks commonly used during the Roman Empire to contain wine for banquets, and for libations during funeral rites.

When Findletar's vases are adorned with flowers, they make us think of Italian or Flemish Baroque still lives that feature delicate glass vases filled with exuberantly lush and marvellously messy floral arrangements — a reference to the fleeting and vain nature of life could be found in the fragility of the glass and in the inevitably ephemeral magnificence of the flowers.

But Hugh Findletar's Flower Heads are not still lives, and we can bring them to life when and as often as we like.

Rosa Barovier Mantasti is one of the world's foremost critics on glass.

ROOT *of* Flowerheadz



Duppy Headz

Findletar's candle
(Photo: Hugh Findletar)