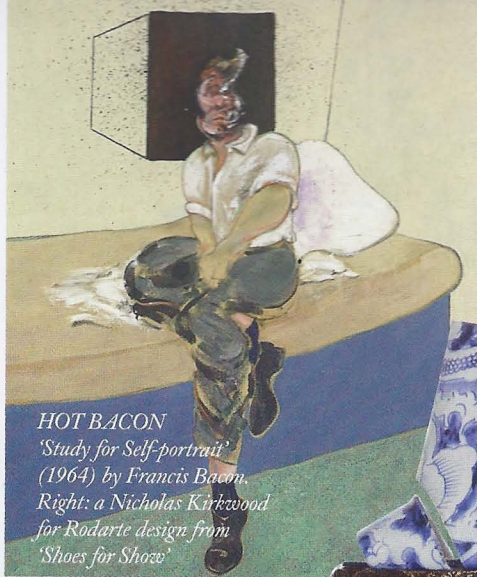


Why don't you...?

Pile up the special treats with our pick of indulgent cultural highlights this December



HOT BACON

'Study for Self-portrait' (1964) by Francis Bacon. Right: a Nicholas Kirkwood for Rodarte design from 'Shoes for Show'



...FIND POWER IN PAINT

Catch a brilliant show of hitherto largely unseen Francis Bacon canvases (from private collections), paired with self-portraits by his icon Rembrandt. This is the debut exhibition at former Gagosian director Pilar Ordovas' chic new gallery. 'Irrational Marks: Bacon and Rembrandt' is at Ordovas, 25 Savile Row, London W1 (020 7287 5013; www.ordovasart.com), until 16 December.

...INDULGE YOUR SHOE FETISH

Visit 'Shoes for Show' to see a collection of the late Isabella Blow's extreme heels, together with other footwear fascinations – including one-off fetish ballet pumps by Louboutin and Ferragamo's wooden moulds for film stars. 'Shoes for Show' is at 91 Brick Lane, London E1 (020 7845 7800), from 4 to 25 November.

...GET THEE TO MARKET

Head to Borough Market for Yuletide wares: Cinnamon Tree Bakery gingerbread, Furness Fish & Game turkey and mulled New Forest Cider – and stop for lunch at Elliot's. Borough Market (020 7407 1002; www.boroughmarket.org.uk) is open daily from 15 to 24 December.



...SHAKE IT OUT

Florence + the Machine's *Ceremonials*, the much-anticipated follow-up to *Lungs* from Gucci and Chanel muse Florence Welch (above), soars with soulful anthems. 'Ceremonials' (Island) is out now. LUCY HALFHEAD



BLONDE STREET
Michelle Williams and Eddie Redmayne in 'My Week With Marilyn'

...watch icons reimaged

Seeing her styled up as Monroe in the new film *My Week With Marilyn*, you wonder why Michelle Williams ever hesitated about taking the role. Perhaps, for an actress who had never wanted to trade on sex appeal or beauty, the feat of capturing the greatest sex bomb of all time seemed just too daunting.

Reservations aside, Williams found her way into the character by exploring Monroe's on-screen body language, and has 'pulled off something really remarkable', says director Simon Curtis. The film chronicles a week in the life of the actress during the notoriously fraught filming of *The Prince and the Showgirl* in London in 1956. Monroe was married to playwright Arthur Miller (played here by Dougray Scott). She suffered

a miscarriage during filming and clashed with director Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh). Bruised by the ordeal, Olivier didn't direct again for 13 years.

The histrionics are seen through the eyes of Olivier's assistant Colin Clark (a dashing Eddie Redmayne), on whose diaries the film is based. When Monroe escapes the set, accompanied by 23-year-old Clark, a cross-country jaunt ensues, reminiscent of *Roman Holiday*. Since we can't get enough of Redmayne, we're also itching to see his *Richard II* in Michael Grandage's swansong production as the Donmar's artistic director. A Red-mayne-hot ticket. 'My Week With Marilyn' is released nationwide on 18 November. 'Richard II' is at Donmar (www.donmarwarehouse.com) from 1 December.

...TRAVEL IN STYLE Sarah Williams' off-kilter suitcases in elongated, zigzag and crescent shapes may be a challenge for airport security to stack – but we want one anyway. Suitcase, from £600, Williams British Handmade (www.williams-handmade.com).

