

CRISTIN TIERNEY

**WWD**

## **Paris Scene: Places to Eat, Drink and Play Off-Hours**

Take some time off this Paris Fashion Week to check out the new shops, restaurants and art exhibitions the city has to offer.

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**CULTURE VULTURE:** For aficionados of 20th-century art, culture and fashion, there is plenty going on in town this spring. Les Docks — Cité de la Mode et du Design is celebrating the fashion work of Erwin Blumenfeld from after the influential photographer moved into exile in New York in 1941. Co-curated by his granddaughter Nadia Blumenfeld Charbit, the exhibition of nearly 200 works from during the Second World War and post-war period, including around 30 that have never been shown before, explores how Blumenfeld was torn in his commercial work between the brief and his artistic ambitions.

For a dose of subversive French irreverence over at Bastille, there's the Maison Rouge's "L'Esprit Français, Countercultures 1969-1989," exploring the emergence of French subcultures and the notion of national identity and social malaise in the post-1968 era. The exhibition, spanning popular culture, philosophy and art, features more than 700 works and documents from around 60 different artists.

At the Jeu de Paume at Place de la Concorde, the work of avant-garde photographer Eli Lotar is on display in collaboration with the Centre Pompidou, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Close to Germaine Krull and later to the Surrealists, Lotar's work bridges documentary, sociopolitical commentary and travel photography, and bears witness to his multiple collaborations with artists, playwrights, poets and filmmakers of his era.

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At the same venue, “Peter Campus. Video Ergo Sum” is the American video artist’s first exhibition in France, and spans from his work from the Seventies, which explores the perception of space, to his current digital work, in which he experiments with pixels in the manner of a painter, in an immersive experience.

At the newly reopened Bibliothèque Forney — a library specialized in graphic arts and artistic professions — the “Mode & Femmes 14/18” exhibition explores how the First World War changed women’s relationship with apparel, contrasting uniforms from the front with items worn in civil life through a selection of period clothing as well as postcards, catalogues, posters and photos, many of which have never been exhibited before.

For those still in town on March 8, the Palais Galliera will open its tribute to Cristóbal Balenciaga with an extra-mural exhibition at the Musée Bourdelle in the Montparnasse neighborhood. The “Balenciaga: L’oeuvre au Noir” expo features more than 100 pieces from the Galliera’s collections and the fashion house’s archives — all of them black.

It’s another era — and genre — in focus at the Louvre, meanwhile. The museum places Vermeer’s works in the context of his contemporaries of the Dutch Golden Age, highlighting parallels in their depiction of everyday life and the competition between them. The exhibition is organized in partnership with the National Gallery of Ireland in Dublin and the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

— Alex Wynne