



MAY

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST

Little boxes:
Donald Judd's
Untitled, 15 varia-
tions in plywood,
is among the stark
installations at
Dia:Beacon.

A sneak peek at
summer's **hottest** places,
people, and things

NEW YORK

The Art Mecca The Hudson River town of Beacon, an hour's train ride north of Manhattan, has become a promised land for artists fleeing stratospheric rents and cramped confines. This month, the Dia Art Foundation joins the migration when it opens a 300,000-square-foot museum in a former Nabisco printing plant. Trading turbines for Twomblys, **Dia:Beacon** takes a page from Mass MoCA (a former electronics factory) and London's Tate Modern (once the Bankside Power Station), reinventing an industrial-age relic as a showcase for contemporary art (845-440-0100; www.diabeacon.org).

—Kristin Miller

Here's the Dirt

Shops and spas are filled with globally harvested mud, the new upscale indulgence

ARIZONA The Agave Enchantment treatment at the Westin Kierland Resort spa in Scottsdale employs a local clay rich in desert plant extracts (kierlandresort.com).

ARIZONA The Sonoran Mud Wrap at the Miraval Resort, north of Tucson, uses red clay from the nearby desert to remineralize the skin, and is scented with sage (miravalresort.com).

GEORGIA For a do-it-yourself facial, Laura Mercier's Deep Cleansing Clay Mask includes balm mint, arnica, and olive extracts as well as Georgia clay (lauramercier.com).

DEAD SEA Crushed Napa Valley grape seeds are blended with mud from the sea floor and act as antioxidants in Uvavita's Exfoliating Dead Sea Mud Mask (uvavita.com).

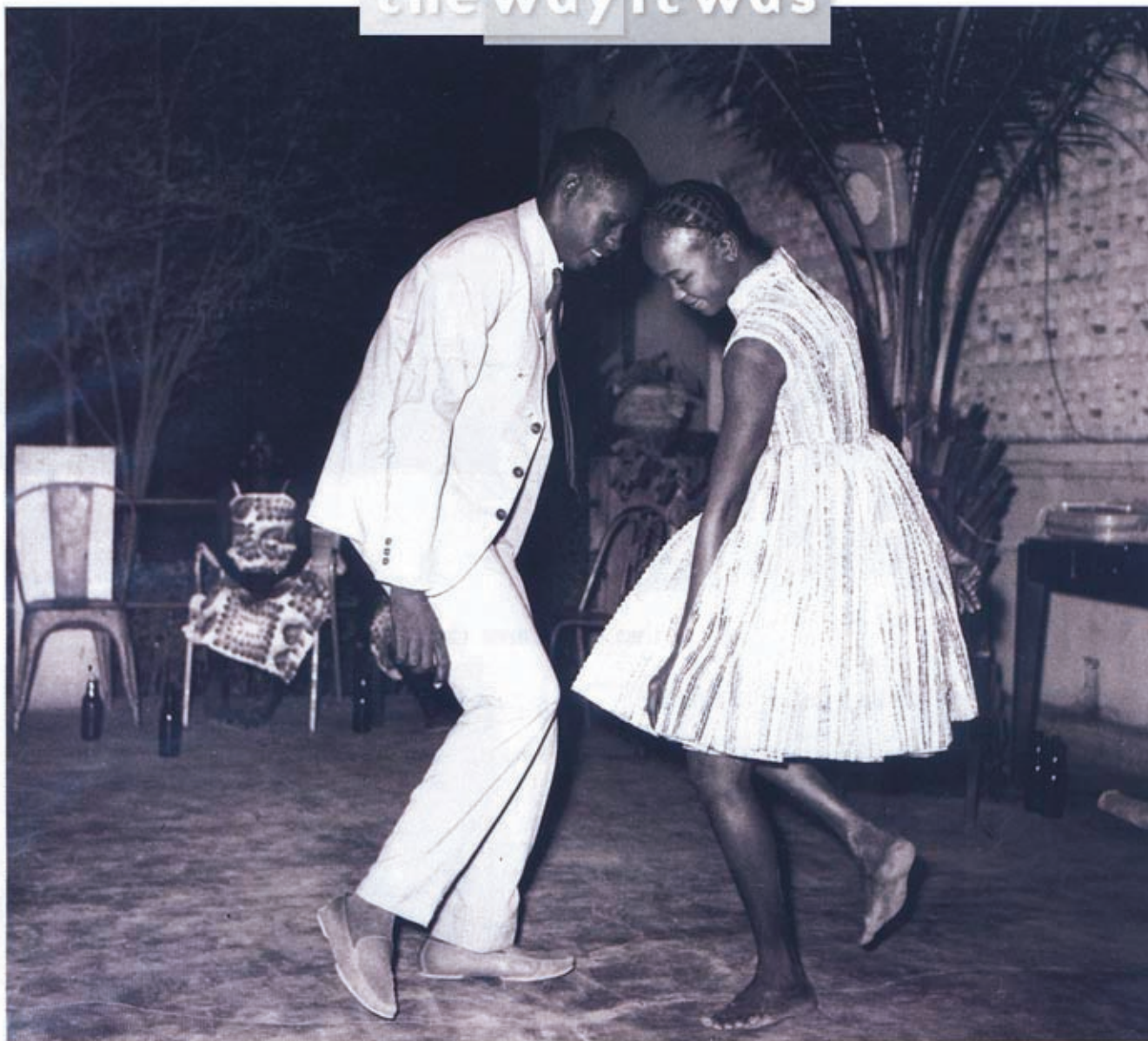
ICELAND The silica-laden white mud from Reykjavik's Blue Lagoon geothermal spa, fabled for its curative properties, exfoliates and softens skin (bluelagoon.is).

CANADA The spa at Belize's Lodge at Chaa Creek uses Pevonia's black magna mud from northern Canada; its amino and salicylic acids ease rheumatism (pevonia.com).

FRANCE New York City's Stone Spa favors Phytobiodermie's Ter-tonic mask of green clay from France to balance oily skin and eliminate hyperpigmentation (phytobiodermie.com).

UTAH The Adobe Lavender Wrap at the Red Mountain Spa, near Zion National Park, uses Ecologix's organic mud, made with local montmorillonite clay (ecologix.biz).

These days, once humble muds are as precious as rare herbs, with various types prized for their unique abilities to relieve aches and pains, ease psoriasis, and draw out impurities. Spas are importing clay from ever more exotic locales and using it in increasingly innovative ways, making the mud wrap the spa menu item of the moment. —Kristin Miller



Photograph by Malick Sidibé

Mali

1963

THIS IS WHAT FREEDOM FELT LIKE IF YOU WERE YOUNG and living in Mali when it gained independence from France. With a new Socialist government in the capital, Bamako, the inhibitions of colonialism, tribalism, and religion were openly flouted, and Malian photographer Malick Sidibé recorded the change in spirit. The

favorite chronicler of the city's youth throughout the 1960s and '70s, he captured moments such as this: a sister teaching her brother the latest dance steps at their home on Christmas Eve. Bamako's young people formed clubs called *grins*, some with clubhouses where members could listen to records, read European and American magazines, and have parties. In this traditionally Muslim country, girls would sneak out with their long, modest tunics hiding dresses and miniskirts, then spend the night doing the twist and the jerk to James Brown, the Stones, and the Beatles. Sidibé would be there with his handheld 35mm, shooting the night's festivities, and the next day partygoers would come to Studio Malick to buy prints. He also did studio portraits of the kids posing in the latest styles, sometimes accessorized by a favorite record, a guitar, or even a Vespa. His work documents the spontaneity and transformative energy of the moment: the dawn of a modern, pan-African spirit that borrowed liberally from the global youthquake of the '60s as well as the politics of the American civil rights and Black Power movements. It is all too fitting, then, that in 2003 Sidibé became the first African photographer to receive the coveted Hasselblad award for photography, in recognition of his unique depiction of Bamako's liberation.

—Kristin Miller