

OPENING SHOT



Angel's Paradise, 1985, by Howard Finster

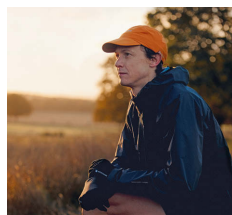
HEAVENS ABOVE

A pictorial history of angels

In the season of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”, a new book by author Ed Simon explores the historic and artistic representations of angelic beings. As cherished as they are fearsome, angels have been influential figures in theology, politics, philosophy and culture through the ages. Complex, powerful celestial figures – such as the one in Jean-Michel Basquiat’s 1981 *Untitled (Fallen Angel)* – they are “foremost messengers, the deliverers of God’s edicts in all of their inscrutability and terror”. Elsewhere

they are eroticised – just look at the models at Victoria’s Secret. Or adored as muses by artists and poets including John Milton, Andy Warhol and the Rossettis. According to Simon, the angel’s appeal lies in its mystery, and endures to this day in civil rights movements, Leonard Cohen lyrics and lovable characters such as *It’s A Wonderful Life*’s Clarence Obody. **CAITLIN O’REILLY** *Elysium: A Visual History of Angelology* is published by Abrams Cernunnos at £35

CONTRIBUTORS



FERGUS SCHOLES

Ten years ago, the writer rowed the Atlantic Ocean: “Unquestionably the wildest trip I’ve done and it ignited a passion for adventure and endurance,” he says. Scholes has since run ultra-marathons and biked across Switzerland’s mountain passes. For this issue he rounds up the best winter running gear. “Winter running is as good as therapy; the harsher elements make you feel alive, vistas are more dramatic, and it’s quite often just you and nature – heaven!”



STEFAN ARMBRUSTER

Having walked the runway for more than a decade, the former German model switched to fashion photography, getting his first break with Hugo Boss in 2008. Armbruster spent 25 years abroad in New York, Paris and Vienna, before moving back to his birthplace in the Black Forest, Germany. For this issue he travelled to Berlin to shoot the UNHCR goodwill ambassador, model and former Refugee Olympic Team swimmer Yusra Mardini.



ZUZANNA SZAMOCKA

“For me, taking pictures of people is a way of getting out of my introverted shell,” says Szamocka, who brings a documentary sensibility to her portrait photography. For our How To Spend It in... Warsaw column she photographed accessories designer Zofia Chylak. “We went to the same high school in Poland and are both old souls,” she says. “We share a love for classic black-and-white outfits, analogue photography and art history.”



TIM AULD

The *HTSI* executive editor has been an arts and features writer for more than three decades. Life highlights include interviewing John Irving, Jane Birkin and Mstislav Rostropovich – and taking the wicket of West Indies cricket captain Jimmy Adams. For this issue he visited architect McLaren Excell’s renovation of a tithe barn. “My first job was at *The World of Interiors*, so getting the chance to write on architecture and design felt like a bit of homecoming,” he says.