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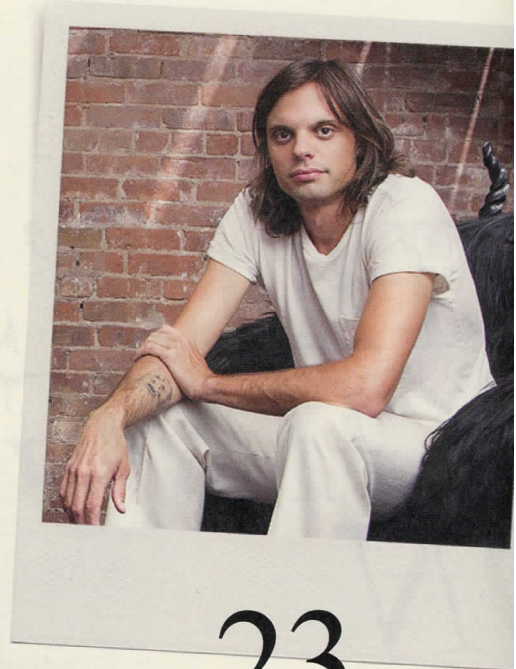




Maximum Exposure

A G-rated version of The Haas Brothers' larger-than-life King Dong is on display at The Joule this spring. For more on the well-endowed work, flip to page 8.

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**INSIDE THE
HEAD OF...**

Artist Nikolai Haas

pg. **14**
WELLNESS

Artful beauty buys



pg. **11**
STYLE

pg. **13**

EAT

*Pleasing the eye
—and the palate*



**BASIC EXTINCT/
PLEASE DON'T WEAVE**
(2017)
WOOL AND SILK



Loads of personality

AFREAKS SERIES (2015)
BEADED SCULPTURE,
CAST BRONZE



MINI BEASTS (2014)
FUR, EBONY, CAST BRONZE, LEATHER

*Hand-beaded
in South Africa*

YOU AND YOUR BROTHER HAVE IMAGINED A WHOLE WORLD OF C
MEGA BEASTS, ACCRETIONS... WERE YOU PARTICULARLY INTO
Simon and I loved cartoons when we were young. I still do,
influence directly in our work. I think you can communicat
emotions through characters in a way that's not too on the n
really portraits of family and friends done in a caricatured v
of someone's personality through gestures and expressions,
way that's still anonymous.

SO WHO IS KING DONG THEN?

In a way, it's a self-portrait of my brother and me. Two years
experiencing all this tremendous success and developing hu
our own hype. But we had a falling out with each other and
King Dong is a representation of that bravado and charisma,
in a time when we were most vulnerable.

HE'LL BE AT THE JOULE WITH A MORE G-RATED LOOK THAN AT H
IMPLIES, HE WAS CREATED WITH UM, WELL...

A big gold penis—a power symbol that's ultimately such
serendipitous timing to show it without it. Simon went to
really humbled us, taking us down a few pegs. It also sho
Simon is clean and sober now, and we have an amazing n
father now, too.

HAS FATHERHOOD SHIFTED YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

It shifts everything. For me, having a newborn son has sh
important in my life. It's the coolest thing. I love my wife
brother; my family—the rest of the shit doesn't feel as im

WHERE DOES YOUR WORK FIT INTO THAT?

I care deeply about my art, but it's a close second to the h
give it meaning. The sketching, the sculpting, the creatin
giving something emotional value. And I don't lose sight
brother and I are super lucky to do it all together.

MORE, PLEASE!

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INSIDE THE HEAD OF...

NIKOLAI HAAS, ARTIST

One half of the dynamic duo The Haas Brothers, Nikolai places his work at the intersection of design, art, and construction. The native Austinite began helping his dad, a stone carver, at the age of 12. "In a way, what we do now is the same business." Given the custom illustration the brothers did for this issue's cover, we thought it polite to give Nikolai the last word.



OPEN UP

Go into the world of Haas by following @thehaasbrothers

- Part of your work you enjoy most? Sculpting!
- Coollest thing in your closet? An awesome YES concert tee from the '70s my wife gave me when we were 19.
- Spookiest/craziest/most magical twin-connection moment? Shit, that's a hard one! The whole experience of being a twin is pretty magic.
- Best thing to happen to you this year? My son, Fox.
- Three qualities that got you where you are today? Drive, discipline, humor.
- Best part about being from Austin? Swimming in Barton Creek and waterskiing.
- Happiest when? With my family or in nature.
- Band you'd love to join? Pearl Jam.
- Best part about working in L.A.? There are no boundaries—not in material, aesthetic, philosophy... Plus, it's close to lots of National Parks.
- Song that has left a lasting impression? Listening to "Laughing" by David Crosby a lot. It's my and my son's favorite song together at the moment.
- Most recent Google search? 3D printing sterling silver.
- Place in the world that you'd love to visit, but haven't been yet? Tonga or Socotra.
- Piece of advice you've received and took to heart? My mom once told me that artists pour their guts out in front of people to inspire them and make them feel like they could do something like that, too. "Your audience is rooting for you." I always remember the audience is a friend and is as much a part of the work as the person making it.