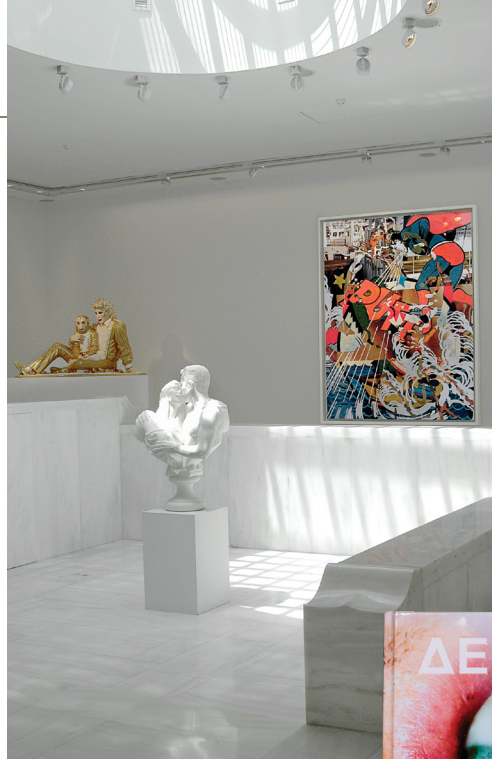




HAPPY FEET

Velvet slippers of the kind once worn by Venetian gondoliers are getting a stylish update, thanks to the new London brand Le Monde Beryl. Launching this month, the label was founded by friends and fine-jewelry experts Lily Hanbury and Katya Tyumentseva. (The name refers to the beryl family of gemstones as well as pioneering aviator Beryl Markham.) Handcrafted in Florence, the flats feature a refined silhouette, with a slightly higher heel and pointed toe. The debut collection comes in six jewel-tone velvets, and a suede version in four colorways will follow this summer. “We wanted an androgynous shoe that you could wear with anything from jean shorts to couture,” says Hanbury. \$395; alexeagle.co.uk; lemondeberyl.com. —Laura Stoloff



MUSEUM QUALITY

From top: Dakis Joannou’s collection includes pieces by Jeff Koons; his foundation’s new book, *DESTE 33 Years: 1983–2015*; a spread showing works by Matthew Ritchie (left) and Andreas Slominski.



ART TALK

GREEK MODERN

Known for a collection rich in work by artists such as Maurizio Cattelan, Paul McCarthy and Charles Ray, the Greek industrialist Dakis Joannou, 76, is an art-world fixture. To celebrate the 33rd anniversary of his DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art, which has exhibition spaces in Athens and Hydra, Greece, he has released *DESTE 33 Years: 1983–2015*, an 868-page volume that’s part archive,

part oral history of his influential trajectory. Starting with his university years at Cornell and Columbia, during pop art’s heyday, *DESTE* reveals Joannou’s origins as a collector, including the moment in the 1980s when, as a hotelier, he presented performance art in the lobby of his first Athens property. The book also highlights his collaborations with Jeff Koons, including the megayacht *Guilty*. “For me it’s not about acting as an institution,” Joannou says. “It’s a personal approach.” He is also marking the anniversary by supporting *The Equilibrists* (June 17–October 9), at Athens’s Benaki Museum, a show of 35 up-and-coming Greek artists, curated by a team from New York’s New Museum overseen by artistic director Massimiliano Gioni. “This is the whole spirit of the foundation,” Joannou says. “It’s about the relationships, the exchange of ideas, being engaged in the dialogue about art.” \$85; deste.gr. —Carol Kino

STOREFRONT

NEW ROOST

At PIRCH, the luxury-appliance retailer expanding to Manhattan in May, customers can shower in private, just like at home. They have 30 showerheads to choose from in the private bathing suite (at left); the floor above holds 16 working kitchens; and a simulated patio features an open-flame hearth. The fast-growing brand, founded in 2010 in San Diego, and now with nine U.S. locations, takes the concept of “try before you buy” to new extremes, allowing visitors to test top-of-the-line products—from steam ovens and restaurant-grade wine storage to Mongolian grills—right in the store. “We’re driving sales off inspired moments, not spaces in your house where you need to drop in equipment,” says CEO Jeffery Sears, echoing the company’s “Live Joyfully” tagline. The new 32,000-square-foot SoHo location, in a restored 1893 metalworks building, is the brand’s biggest yet. Bathing aside, the interactive shopping experience is a game-changer. “Everyone will view this store as a category of one,” says Sears. “That’s the intention.” pirch.com. —S.M.

