



## The silk road

Showing for the first time in France, 'The silk road' in Lille takes visitors on a journey from Asia to the Middle-East, via the work of some 30 contemporary artists, from Afghanistan, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan and Palestine.

The works, a selection from the Saatchi Gallery's contemporary art collection in Chelsea, London, include installations such as Kader Attia's 'Ghost,' paintings, sculptures and photographs. The exhibition, mounted jointly by the Saatchi Gallery and Lille3000, is a chance to see rarely shown work by renowned international names the likes of Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons, as well as unseen work by talented young artists. MCD

At the Tri Postal, Avenue Willy Brandt, 59000 Lille, from 18/10/10 to 16/01/2011, Wednesday to Sunday 10am-7pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-9pm. Closed Monday and Thursday. Special openings: 11/11/2010, 25/12/2010, 01/01/2011 Tel: 03 28 52 30 00 contact@lille3000.com



**Qiu Jie's 'Portrait of Mao', 2007. Lead on paper, 250 x 168cm. Courtesy of the Saatchi Gallery, London. © Qiu Jie, 2010**



## Bordeaux goes green for Viv'expo 2010

The third Viv'expo at Bordeaux-Lac over the weekend of October 8-10 brought together hundreds of eco-living interests under one roof. The exhibition hall was divided into a number of different zones, including an organic market to the front and a huge gardening and eco-living section to the rear. Dominating the latter was a cross-section from Domespace, a circular wooden house which can rotate on its central axis, either to make sure that the photovoltaic panels are getting enough energy-giving sunlight or so that home-owners can benefit from the brightest and warmest room lighting whatever the sun's position in the sky.

Car manufacturer Renault also had a cross-section display in the 'Ecocitoyenneté/Environnement' section. The company is about to take the plunge into the emerging electric car market with its new ZE vehicles, the four-door family Fluence and the electric version of its popular Kangoo mini-van.

Also showing off its electric scooter and golf-cart-like electric car were Bordeaux's own Vehrts Bleu and more two-wheeled electric transport solutions were on show from Roadspark. Nordic Walking looked like a fun way to get around, combining the feel of cross-country skiing with the street-friendly practicality of roller blades.

For those feeling a little stressed out or fatigued, a number of booths offered soothing massage, helpful reflexology or impromptu Tai Chi classes. Others touted the benefits of maca, ginseng, stavia and spirulina and more still featured pleasant aromatherapy or life-improving naturopathic advice.

There was a busy programme of talks and demonstrations throughout the weekend, as well as fashion shows and lots of activities for children and adults alike. One such booth invited 'shoppers' into a mock-up supermarket where the environmental impact of virtual baskets was revealed.

Other highlights included a healthy sprinkling of vegetarian perspectives, some warm and friendly amateur gardening advice from the Jardiniers de France ([www.jardiniersdefrance.com](http://www.jardiniersdefrance.com)) and a good selection of organic foods to consume in the hall or take home afterwards.

Paul Rid

[www.domespace.com/en/home](http://www.domespace.com/en/home)

[www.renault-ze.com/accueil-voitures-electriques-renault-z.e.-5.html](http://www.renault-ze.com/accueil-voitures-electriques-renault-z.e.-5.html)

[www.vehrtsbleucompany-vehiculeselectriques.fr](http://www.vehrtsbleucompany-vehiculeselectriques.fr)

The next Viv'expo is in Rennes from November 19. Information on <http://vivexpo.com>

# Spain triumphs at Pelote Basque world championships in Pau

Philip Lidgate watches France win the Cesta Punta section

France won the final of the Cesta Punta tournament at the Pelote Basque World Championships in Pau on Sunday, with Mexico second and Spain third. The overall winner was Spain who narrowly beat Mexico into second place, with France coming third.

Two players stood out, both forwards: Edgar Munié of Cuba and, particularly, Jean-Dominique Olharan for France showed a phenomenal level of anticipation, speed and accuracy.

One of the Cesta-Punta semi-finals was the closest fought and most exciting match of all. Mexico beat Spain 35-32 with the last five points coming from wonderful attacking shots rather than mis-catches. Spain were trailing 33-29 when their forward made two spectacular plays, followed immediately by another from the Mexico forward. At 34-31, a brilliant running catch by the Spanish back, hurled flat and low from way beyond the side-line was completely unreturnable – 34-32. A fast boast falling inches within the side-line won the game for Mexico. Earlier in the match, there was a rally of 24 throws before a mis-catch – an outstanding level of play.

Pelote Basque includes six other main disciplines, all of which were fiercely contested and loudly

supported at these World Championships. In the other finals on Sunday, Mexico beat France in the Main Nue Singles on Trinquet – in front of an absolutely full house with neither sitting nor standing room left anywhere and vocal support equivalent to a Six-Nations game at Stade de France. Paleta Cuir on Trinquet was won by Argentina, with Spain not quite showing the spark they had when winning their semi-final.

A feature of all the games I watched was the level of etiquette observed by the players – Latin temperament only erupted twice at points of high tension in critical matches and was quickly quelled by the umpire.

This fascinating and hugely enjoyable exhibition of racquet sports is not well understood beyond the Basque and Spanish-speaking countries but with 400 players from 21 countries taking part the tradition must now be recognised as global.

For the uninitiated, the solid wooden *pala* may seem basic compared with the strung racquets of squash, tennis and rackets. However, given the speed of the different types of ball, the size of the courts and the small striking-surface of the various *pala*, each game requires great skill.

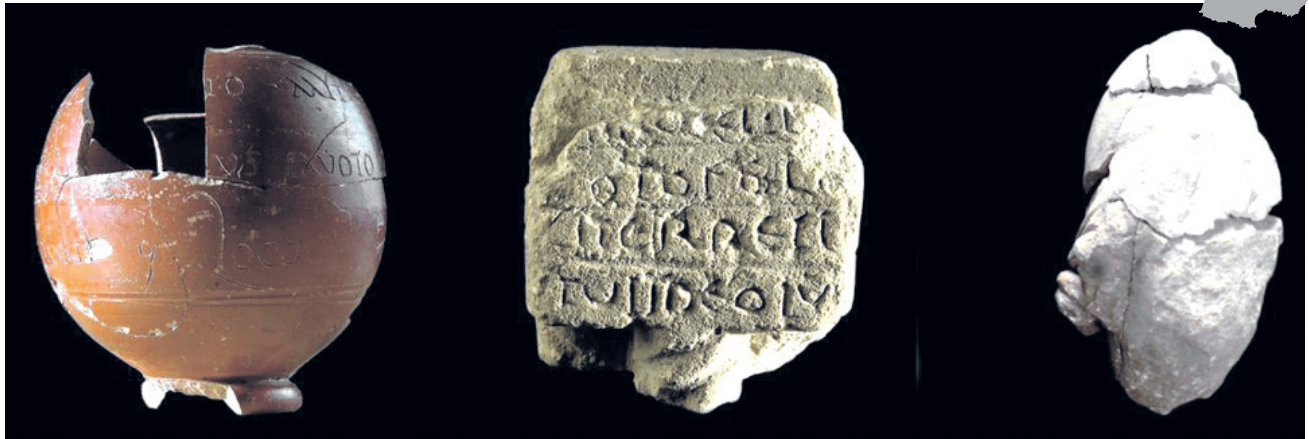


**Jean-Dominique Olharan showing a clean catch in the chistera**

Many towns and villages in the South-West have courts – usually a *trinquet* but often an interior *mur-à-gauche* with an exterior *fronton* wall. The games are enormous fun to play, extremely energetic and Paleta Gomme Creuse, for example – played with a fast rubber ball on a *trinquet* court – requires extremely quick reactions, an exceptional eye for the ball and great mobility.

All the results can be found on [www.pelota-2010.fr](http://www.pelota-2010.fr) together with an eight-minute video of match highlights – worth watching to get a flavour of the different games.

## Temple of Mithras discovered in Angers



**Artifacts found at the site which have been linked to Mithras include, left to right, a ceremonial vase, a stone bearing a Greek inscription and a carved stone head.**

A small temple dedicated to the Persian god Mithras has been found during archaeological excavations at Angers (Maine-et-Loire). The chapel, built at the end of the second century AD, would have been used by followers of the cult over a period of around 200 years.

The worship of Mithras was probably brought to Gaul by Roman soldiers returning from the East and became popular throughout male society. Mithraism was banned in 392 by Emperor Theodosius, who made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

The dig was carried out by a team of 25 archaeologists from the Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques Préventives (INRAP) during December 2009 to August this year, on the site of the town of Juliomagus, the Roman name for Angers. Marcus Williamson



## Kirsty McGee in Pénzenas

Twice nominated for BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, cult singer-songwriter

Kirsty McGee has been recording and touring since her debut in

2002. Combining folk, jazz, chanson and Americana, her diverse styles are held together by her distinctive style and astonishing voice. She will be performing live with Mat Martin next week at the Club Butel.

23/10, Club Butel, Blablalabla, 2 rue Aristide Rouzière, Pénzenas (34). Doors open between 8 - 8.45pm only. €20 for non-members; €15 for members; membership €5. Book online at [www.clubbutel.org](http://www.clubbutel.org)



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