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Rise of the Animalics: The New Dirty Trend Part III of III

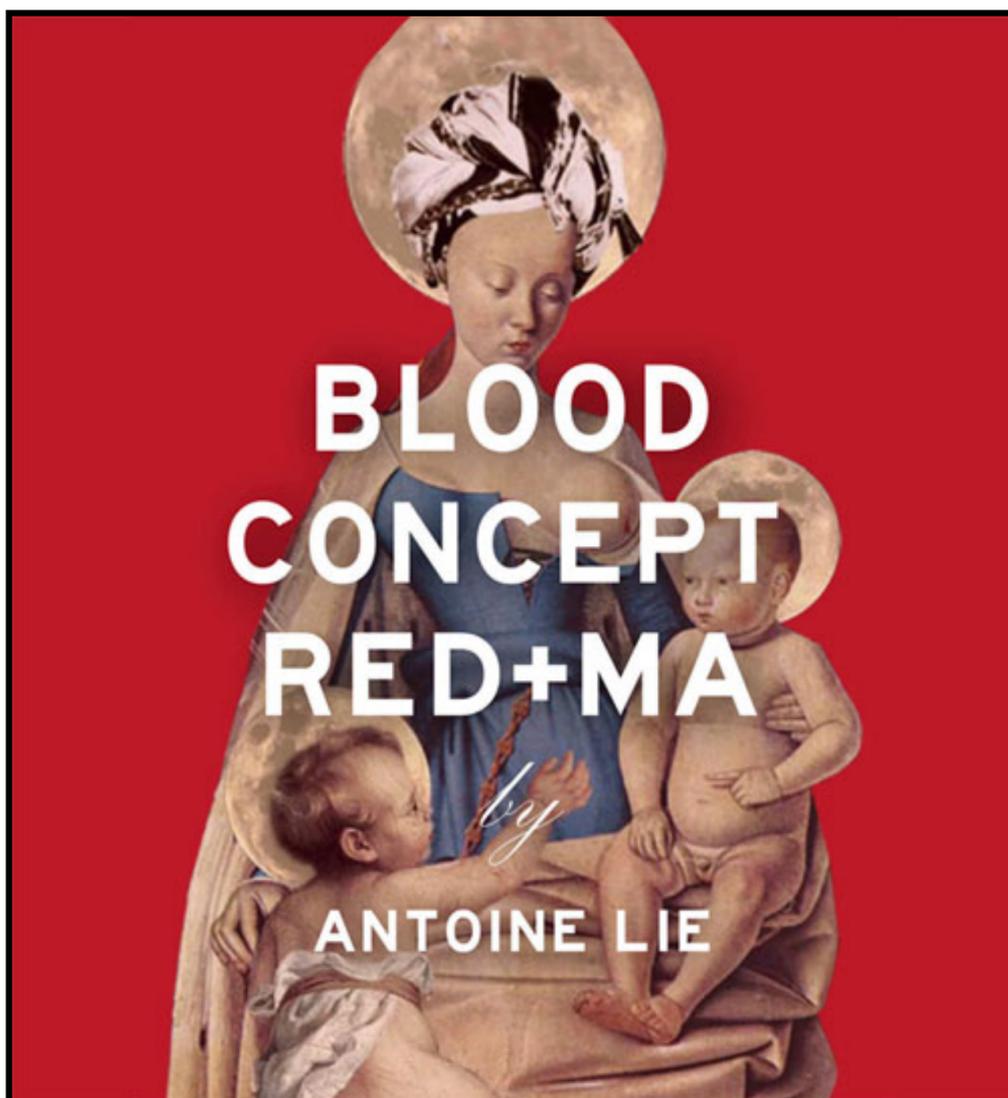
12/02/15 07:00:53 (9 comments)
by: **Miguel Matos**

PART III: In 2006, iconic rebel French brand *État Libre d'Orange* decided to disrupt the market by making a bold iconoclast affirmation. *Sécrétions Magnifiques* (signed by *Antoine Lie*) was the extreme answer to the hygienization of fragrance in the industry. Blood, milk, semen, sweat... It was too extreme and not really a perfume. Instead it was a work of conceptual art which will remain in the history of perfumery but it did nothing to bring back the dirty, sexual beauty to perfume like we had seen in vintage perfumery.

Read Part I by clicking [HERE](#), and Part II by clicking [HERE](#).



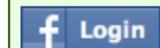
Another attempt to disrupt the dormant course of perfumery was *Blood Concept*. The Italian brand launched a collection of fragrances based on the metallic notes of blood. The genius creation of Antoine Lie's *Red+MA* included blood and milk but unfortunately it wasn't a commercial success and was discontinued. The brand is now following a different path and blood is now just a name.



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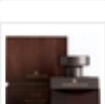
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-  **Bvlgari Aqva Pour Homme Marine** *by I_Like_Sand*
-  **Guerlain Insolence Eau de Parfum** *by Ouch!*

NEW PERFUMES

-  Hilde Soliani
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Bacio
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Buonanotte
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Leramoons
-  Hilde Soliani
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Happy In Bloom 2016
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Japanese Rituals
-  Tom Ford
Soleil Blanc
-  Yves Rocher
Apple Delight (Pomme Delice)
-  Jacadi
Bébé Eau de Soins
-  Jacadi
Mademoiselle
-  Jacadi
Toute Petite Eau de Soins
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Jeune Homme
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Tout Petite Eau de Soins
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Avon Homme
-  Marc Jacobs
Daisy Dream Blush
-  Marc Jacobs
Daisy Eau So Fresh Blush
-  Marc Jacobs
Daisy Blush
-  Hugo Boss
Hugo Extreme

Barbara Herman is a blogger (yesterdaysperfume) and author of the book *Scent and Subversion*. She was one of the first noted voices online to defend the importance of animalic elements in perfumery. Vintage perfume is her cause as she collects and writes about lost fragrant memories. "Civet. Musk. Rotten fruit. Women's underpants. Dirty ashtrays. Blood. This catalog of smells might seem out of place in a positive discussion of perfume, but all of these scents became metaphors for everything my modern, sterile office life lacked," she wrote. "In the virtual, deodorized, homogenized, and antiseptic world I felt myself dissolving into, these Things That Stink felt alive. (...) I began to see that even though perfume is thought of in the popular imagination as something to cover up our bad smells, in many ways, it can also be a meditation on the human body, if not an outright celebration of our riotous odors."



More recently, **Cartier Declaration** (Jean-Claude Ellena, 1998), Serge Lutens **Musks Koublaï Khan** (Christopher Sheldrake, 1998), L'Artisan Parfumeur **Dzing** (Olivia Giacobetti, 1999), Frederic Malle **Musc Ravageur** (Maurice Roucel, 2000), Thierry Mugler **Womanity** (Alexis Dadier, 2010) and Parfum d'Empire **Musc Tonkin** (Marc-Antoine Corticchiato, 2012) were signs that the animalics and the odors of the body were not absolutely dead. Consequently, they have become become icons of devotion for many perfume lovers.

Those of you who love the animalics like myself, stay tuned, for 2016 will still be a good year for us. I know of at least two brands (**Teo Cabanel** and **État Libre d'Orange**) which are launching animalic fragrances that could cause you to blush.



Menditorosa Sogno Reale (Amélie Bourgeois and Anne-Sophie Behagel, 2015)

One of the most original and surprising fragrances I have ever smelled. Based on a dream, it reminds me of Red Bull energy drink when I spray it, and then it gets lemony. After minutes the animalic leather comes through, accompanied by a strong marine breeze. An ambergris effect comes to play with its warm salty notes. Styrax gives a bite. But the star of the composition is a big dose of africa stone (hyrax), which brings a very sweet/salty rich skin-smelling delicious dirtyness. It's quirky, it's unusual and maybe even polarizing, but I love it.

Notes: lemon, bergamot, sea notes, tuberose, patchouli, olibanum, hyrax (africa stone), rum, sandalwood, styrax and amber.

-  Angel Schlessler
Flor de Naranjo
by concha
-  Revlon
Love Her Madly
by Daisyviolets
-  Lady Gaga
Fame
by Daisyviolets

ARTICLE COMMENTS

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Chevrefeuille
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- Jardin de France
Tendre Muguet



Pierre Guillaume Contemplation 15 Lumière Fauve (Pierre Guillaume, to be launched in 2016)

The inspiration for Lumière Fauve was undoubtedly sex and tired bodies lying on the beach after a hot steamy encounter. This is not warm, it's hot. It's sexual and enveloping in a strong and sweaty embrace. But it's also very wearable. Africa stone is present in a very large dose and it really shines in this brilliant animalic composition. During Pitti Fragranze, Pierre showed it to a selected audience and he was a bit afraid that it could be a little shocking, but I disagree.

Notes: spices, africa stone resinoid, ylang-ylang, black Moroccan honey, tobacco, cocoa, leather, animalic musks.



Tiziana Terenzi Ursa (Paolo Terenzi, 2015)

A complex composition inspired by a cave in the lake Como, Italy. Ursa fuses with my skin and awaits attention to reveal different facets. Clearly inspired by the love for Middle Eastern oud attars nourished by the perfumer Paolo Terenzi, it doesn't just try to recreate an Arabian oud perfume. It goes beyond that, but I have to warn you: it takes a bit of courage if you are not familiar with animalic scents and the real ouds outside the tamed mainstream and niche European offerings.

Top notes: nutmeg, elemi, dried fruits and rum

Middle notes: patchouli, olibanum, incense, tobacco and vetiver

Base notes: vanilla, leather and oud.



Homoelegans Quality of Flesh (Michele Marin, 2015)

The painter Francis Bacon, with his tormented sex life and his strange way of depicting bodies on canvas, was the starting point for Quality of Flesh. Imagine Aramis, boost the pineapple on top and adapt it to modern times with a dash of narcissus and juniper. It's a representation of masculine dirtyness, the smell of a sweaty man turned into art. Castoreum and leather are very prominent but the main ingredient is sensuality.

Top notes: juniper berry, pink pepper, black pepper

Middle notes: narcissus, patchouli, styrax, costus

Base notes: leather, civet, benzoin, castoreum



Pour Toujours Khamsin (Martine Denisot, 2015)

The smell of the warm wind in the desert sands was bottled by Martine Denisot and it is a comfortable blend of ambery accords, animalic bases and intoxicating flowers like narcissus. This reminds me of the feminine elegance of vintage perfumes when animalic notes (in this case africa stone) used to be married to the flowers to create a sensual experience. Refined and seductive, Khamsin is a delicate creation with heat inside.

Notes: bergamot, lemon, narcissus, jasmine, rose, agarwood (oud), saffron and sandalwood.



Santi Burgas Oud de Burgas (Santiago Burgas, 2015)

The true skanky nature of an Arabian oud is found here in the best Santi Burgas edition so far in my modest opinion. It's fecal but alluring, leathery and horsey. It is also not as thick as an attar can sometimes be and it relaxes a bit in the drydown to reveal some fresh spicy character. Civet is there and it is explicit, so beware.

Notes: clove, gurjan balsam, cypril oil or nagarmotha, cedar, orris root, guaiac wood, oud and sandalwood.



Anatole Lebreton L'Eau Scandaleuse (Anatole Lebreton, 2014)

I absolutely love this. The perfect union of erotic and sexual. Tuberose is the most carnal flower and its power is undeniable. Sultry, seductive, intoxicating. Here the flower is connected to castoreum and a very dirty accord which must contain civet. The drydown is not too far from Maai, maybe more floral in a Shocking way. Dirty underpants under a bed of petals and a fresh oakmoss. Just glorious and enticing. It's hard for me to find the words when I am sniffing it like a mad man.

The fragrance features bergamot, peach, davana (artemisia), tuberose, ylang-ylang, leather, castoreum, cypril oil or nagarmotha and oakmoss.



Miguel Matos

Miguel is a Portuguese journalist obsessed with art and perfume. Miguel likes to see himself as a fragrance curator, investigating the possibilities of perfume as contemporary art in exhibitions and other multimedia projects. He directs his own cultural magazine, Umbigo, besides contributing with texts for museums and art galleries. He is a perfume collector and specializes in vintage perfumery, organizing monthly talks called Vintage Perfume Sniffing in Lisbon. He is a Fragrantica writer, translator and editor of Fragrantica.com.br.

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Hi Miguel,
Great article. Many I have yet to explore. Another great deep animalic and somewhat recent fragrance release is Afrika Olifant by Nishane. I also can't leave out LM Parfums Hard Leather. Quite a beast.



Angela Agiannidou



Truly enjoyed this article and thank you for bringing to our attention those fantastically animalic scents! The Contemplation and Pour toujours Khamsi are at the top of my (very) long list!!



mikemuscles21



I appreciate this article. It has given me a list of fragrances to try.

I have tried Sécretions which I liked. I have also tried all the Blood Concepts. I liked the former Blood Concept line, but all the other ones listed here I have yet to try. Some fun stuff to look into! Thank you



Vixie



I would love to see these make a comeback in some well-thought-out scents and ones in which the notes are put together sensitively, so that they don't drown each other out, as it were, and of course, as long as it can stay animal friendly.



the big totoro



My "must try" list just grew. I've been craving animalic scents recently. I've already decided I'm picking up a bottle of Musc Tonkin some time this month. Thanks for the wonderful 3 part series, I loved it.



RoyalPerez516



Brilliant stuff, some of these are definitely on my sniff list! thank you for the wonderfully composed series!



ask247



Great series of articles. Would love to read and learn more, such as the true history of how animalics came to be used (one can only wonder with some of these seemingly less than desirable notes), trial and error in scents and the advent of synthetics, also why these notes can attract some of us only to repel the rest.



danieq



I've added some things to my test list. Ursula is my first name and so Ursa is a must to try. What fun it would be to have a perfume bearing my name! Thanks for writing this series. I do love me a good animalic fragrance. Musk in particular and civet grab my nose every time. So hard to find good ones though, based on the truly animalic vibe rather than the clean, laundry vibe.



I.D.Adam



Good to see so many nonsterilized offerings available. Africa stone has been underutilized and I'm glad to see some perfumers going to it not only for the note but for the performance it lends to perfumes. Nice article, thank you.



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