



## THE MONOCLE MINUTE

A daily bulletin of news, opinion and opportunities

✿ UBS × MONOCLE

### Planning ahead



Image: Courtesy of Apexart NYC

It's not quite preparing for the worst – but it's not far off. While traditional design typically aims to solve existing problems, a new subgenre called “speculative design” is bringing together creatives in New York who are making future-proof items. The concept is based on the idea that it's better to plan for the future before the horse has bolted so they have come up with objects such as a self-administered disease-testing kit. A new exhibition in New York called *Alternative Unknowns* runs until 19 December but its aim isn't to scaremonger, says co-organiser Elliott P Montgomery: “We may be better off as a society if we think about our long-term futures.” Perhaps it's wise that governments and think-tanks aren't the only ones prophesising our future.