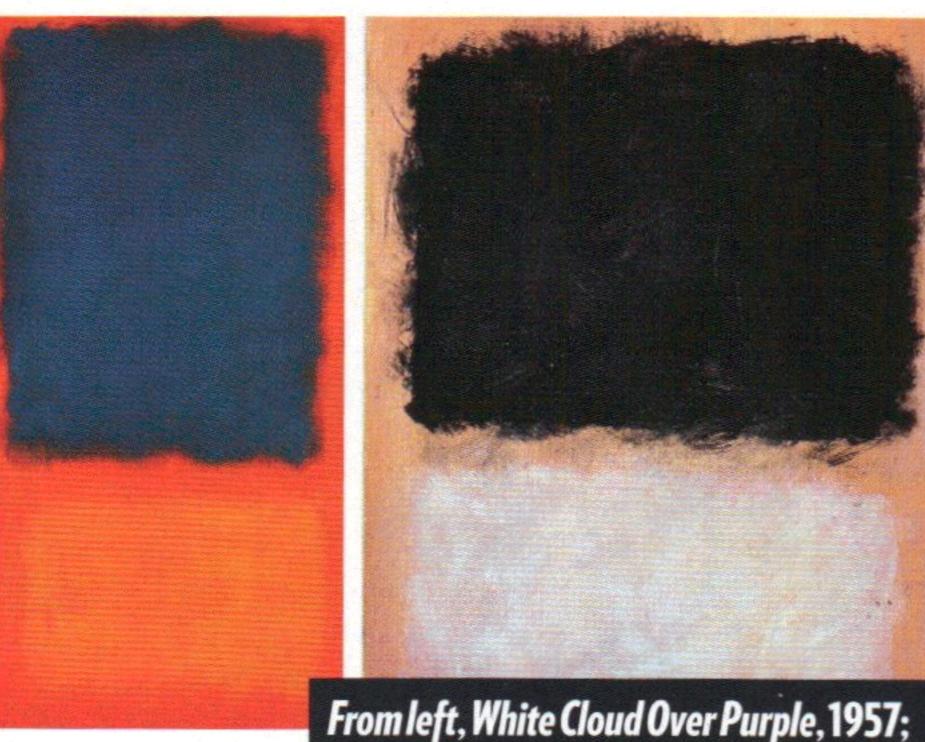


The accessory The ornamental ashtray is out. Instead, invest in this chic matchstick holder from Nina Campbell. Colours range from amber to aqua in jewel-like patterned glass. From £199 each.



Untitled, 1955 and Untitled, 1966-7, all

by Mark Rothko. Below, Stefan Merrill

Block's tale of troubled memories

The mood

The arts turn inward to focus on moods and madness this year. Mark Rothko is the subject of a retrospective at Tate Modern, where the artist's melancholic Colour Field paintings will be displayed en masse (September). Psychoanalyst Darian Leader writes on depression in The New Black (Hamish Hamilton, January). The lament finds fictional form in novels: in Atmospheric Disturbances by Rivka Galchen (Fourth Estate, June), a man comes home to find his wife replaced – in his fragile

June), a man comes home to find his wife replaced – in his fragile mind – by her doppelgänger; while in Salvage by Jane F Kotapish (Faber & Faber, April) a woman sees her mother's imaginary friends turn up for dinner. The Story of Forgetting by Stefan Merrill Block (Faber & Faber, May) deals with a 15-year-old diagnosed with Alzheimer's and The Days of Judy B by Rose Heiney (Short, May) is about a chatty, glamorous newspaper columnist, Judy, who in reality is overweight and close to breakdown. Naomie Harris stars in Channel 4's drama Poppy Shakespeare as a woman admitted to a psychiatric hospital who declares that she isn't really crazy. No such protestations are made by Lars in the film Lars and the Real Girl, where Ryan Gosling plays an outcast who introduces his family to his new girlfriend: a life-size doll called Bianca.

Theicon Audrey Tautou is to play the ne plus ultra of French designers, Coco Chanel, last played by Katharine Hepburn in 1969 on stage in Coco. The film, Coco avant Chanel. adapted by Christopher Hampton from Edmonde Charles-Roux's biography L'Irrégulière, will focus on Chanel's youth, including her early career as a cabaret singer (where she picked up the moniker Coco) and her racy affairs with a horse breeder and an English polo player. It's all a revelation for those familiar only with her later image as a frosty fashion originator.

Coco Chanel photographed by Cecil Beaton for Vogue in 1937

The rock progeny

Prepare for the next generation as enviably pretty, quirky and well-connected sons and daughters take to the stage.

Sting's offspring, Joe and Coco Sumner, both lead their own indie bands, while Nat Weller, son of Paul, is raising the goth-glam stakes with an EP and club night, "Dangerous to Know", at Camouflage; and the funk-infused Odd Squad are fronted by 21-year-old Rosie Oddie (daughter of *Spring Watch's* Bill).

The gallerist

Design continues to be the big story in art for 2008. Libby Sellers (*below*) established Gallery Libby Sellers, a guerrilla exhibition concept, during Frieze Art Fair last year. The 35-year-old's show, *Grandmateria*, used a former frame shop to present commissions from emerging designers such as Stuart Haygarth (chandeliers made from lorry lights) and Moritz Waldemeyer (interactive LED chairs). A permanent space is planned, as well as another show in spring. Watch this space. (Libbysellers.com.)



The new names

One-name wonders – Editors, Annuals, Keane – are déclassé for 2008. Long, retro band names, preferably with alliteration, are the only way to play: witness Joe Lean and the Jing Jang Jong (*right*), Emily Haines and the Soft Skeleton, and Pete and the Pirates.

