

the aesthete

Artist **Barnaby Barford's** wryly humorous and contemplative ceramic-based work includes commissions for the V&A and Louis Vuitton

My personal style signifier is a buttonhole [pictured] made from a gold porcelain flower. It's one of thousands that I used to make *Pride* (2013), the largest of my mirrored sculpture series exploring the seven deadly sins. davidgillgallery.com.

The last thing I bought and loved was a David Shrigley print called *Another Task For You*. It speaks about our sense of entitlement in a lighthearted way that makes me laugh – and think. *Jealous Gallery*, 53 Curtain Road, London EC2 (020-7739 4107; jealousgallery.com).

And the thing I'm eyeing next is a *White Static* drawing by Keith Harrison. These colourful, abstract pieces were inspired by the fact that one per cent of the static on our screens comes from light from the Big Bang. I really like the thought process behind them; it's like taking a peep into the workings of the artist's brain. keith-harrison.info.

The last item of clothing I added to my wardrobe was a dark-green Rapha Loopback city jacket [pictured]. It's a breathable, windproof, water-resistant cycling jacket with reflective features that fold away – so I can wear it to meetings and galleries. £130; rapha.cc.

A recent "find" is Vinoramica, a new, independent wine shop in Highams Park, east London, which specialises in smaller-production wines – and beers – from around the world. The owner, Matt Thomas, is incredibly passionate and knowledgeable. 9B The Broadway, London E4 (020-3719 7374; vinoramica.com).

An unforgettable place I've travelled to in the past year is Provence, on a cycling trip with a friend. As we reached the pass on the Col de Perty, we were treated to the most stunning view of the Alps I've ever seen – a sight I hope to have etched in my mind for years to come.

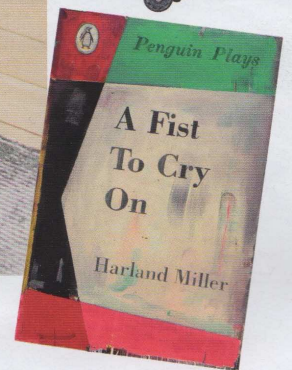
And the best souvenir I've brought home is a couple of stones my sons picked up at the Venice Biennale last year. I have a collection of rocks and pebbles from places we've been, each with a story to tell. These will always remind me of walking round the pavilions with them.

An object I would never part with is my S2L Brompton bike [pictured], which I have used every day since I bought it a year ago. It's fast and fun. From £950; brompton.com.

In my fridge you'll always find a huge piece of Parmigiano Reggiano and a salami from a delicatessen in La Ferrara, Modena, close to my wife Valeria's parents' home.



From top: the two towers, Asinelli and Garisenda, in Bologna. Barford's Rapha Loopback jacket, £130. His porcelain flower buttonhole, and S2L Brompton bike, £950. *A Fist to Cry On* (2015) by Harland Miller



"I can wear my Rapha jacket to meetings and galleries"

We eat the Parmesan in lumps with balsamic vinegar. *Salumificio Val Dragone*, Via Provinciale Sud 27, 41046 Palagiano. (+3905-3696 1567; salumificiovaldragone.it).

The artists whose work I would collect if I could are Harland Miller [*A Fist to Cry On* pictured], Jenny Saville, Clyfford Still and Joan Mitchell. If it were ever in my grasp. I'd build a collection of works by many people, starting with paintings by them. Their work invites you to look closer.

If I didn't live in London, the city I would live in is Bologna, a vibrant city steeped in

history and culture, with great food and the foothills of the Apennines just outside it for cycling. Climbing the 900-year-old Asinelli tower [pictured] is essential, as is a trip to the Parco della Montagnola to see the incredible 19th-century concrete sculptures of lions fighting with their prey. I love the covered market, Mercato delle Erbe, where I go for the fresh local pasta, and Michelemma, which has the best pizza. For a night out, I head down to the Pratello area, just outside the old city walls, where the whole neighbourhood comes alive: people move from bar to bar, talking on the streets. *Mercato delle Erbe*, Via Ugo Bassi 23 (+3905-123 0186; mercatoelleerbe.eu). *Michelemma*, Via Riva di Reno 60 (+3905-152 1154;

ristorantemichelemma.it). Parco della Montagnola, Via Imerio (+39051-1998 4190; montagnolabologna.it). Towers of Bologna, Piazza di Porta Ravegnana.

My favourite website is Mixcloud.com, a music site that streams DJ mixes.

AS TOLD TO CHARLOTTE ABRAHAMS

FOR MORE OF BARNABY BARFORD'S PERSONAL TASTE, VISIT HOWTOSPENDIT.COM