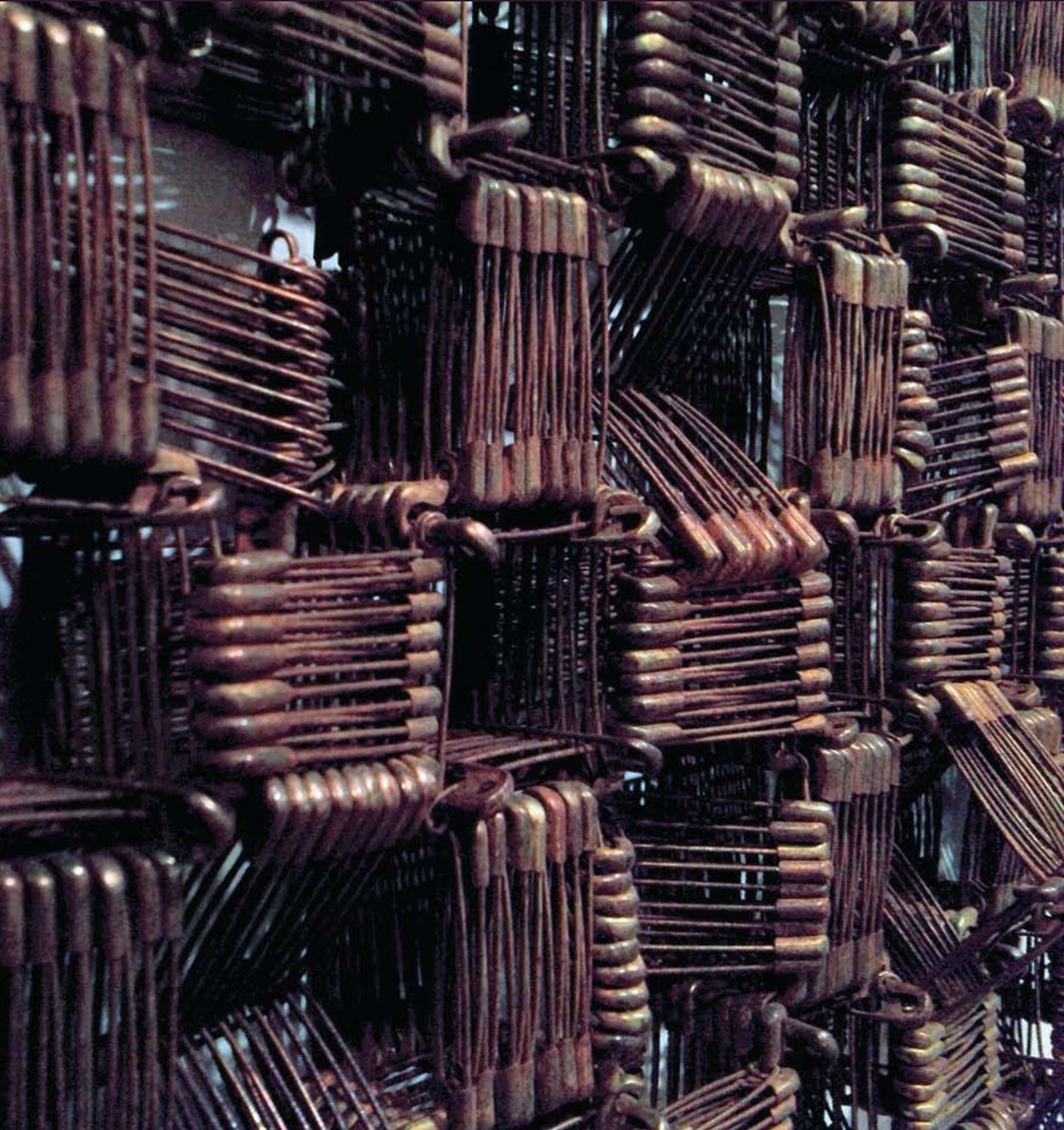


CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

24

venü

June/July/August_2014 \$8.99





Spa...ahhh

Facing The Future With Radiant Skin

by Tracey Thomas

At Venü Magazine, we make it a point to follow up on promising leads in search of a great story to share with our readers. We thrive on getting the inside scoop on the people and places making news, as well as the “unknown” newsworthy ones who should be getting public recognition. And it’s not because we want to be the first to break a fresh story. It’s more that we are genuinely interested in the unique contributions the uniquely talented are making to our contemporary lifestyle. So, before we put pen to paper, you’ll find us tasting, talking, touching and trying out the products, services and stories we report on, road-testing them to get a true sense of what they are all about. I have to admit that I hit the jackpot when I was invited to a breakfast event at the Greenwich Delamar announcing a new partnership between their spa and the new luxury skincare line Biologique Recherche. On hand at the event to introduce their oh-so-deliciously-French products were Philippe Allouche, MD, and the company’s longtime Biologique Recherche national trainer Barbara Aquino. They spoke with passion and conviction about the beauty benefits of their products and I have to admit I was more than interested in seeing what they could do for my skin. I made a mental note to check in when I had a rare moment to check it out.

I had that opportunity recently after running into Georgette Mallory, Director of the spas at

the Delamar, at a fashion show at the Southport Delamar that ended in my booking an Ultimate Facial appointment at the spa. Just thinking about spending a few gloriously blissful hours, cell phone off, in Fairfield County, Connecticut’s most sensuous of hotel spas, had the power to reveal a more radiant me. I could only imagine what the real thing could do!



With two spas bookending the gold coast from Greenwich to Southport in the Delamar hotels and one slated for their soon-to-be-constructed West Hartford property, the spas are everything you’d expect to find in a premier hotel. Treatment rooms are serene, music soul soothing. Lights dim, candles lit. Scents, soft and seductive, romance your senses. The palette is seashore sublime, evoking images ethereally tied into those places you long for in your mind, when winters, way too long, tease you into a different time and place.

That my foray at the Delamar Southport spa came at the tail end of an unrelenting cold snap that lasted for months is a good reminder of why spas and the “be-kind-to-your-body-mind-and-soul treatments” they offer are a necessary respite for today’s modern-day work warriors. As you might suspect, the menu of services at the hotels’ spas are inviting and enticing, with treatments that buff, polish, detoxify, slim, en-

ergize, lift, heal, pamper, peel, cleanse and rescue just about every part of your body that needs a little help. And as tempted as I was to melt from one treatment to the next, I was there to experience the “Ultimate Facial” that promised, simply, to make my skin the best it can be with a skin care methodology created by Biologique Recherche.

Biologique Recherche was founded by the French trio, Yvan, Josette and Philippe Allouche, a biologist, a physiotherapist and a doctor, who combined their knowledge and passion to write a unique and visionary page in the history of skin care. I was intrigued by the motivation behind their business and discovered that when the company was founded, thirty years ago, “it functioned like a research and development laboratory whose sole vocation was to develop formulations for professionals dissatisfied with existing products.”

Today, Biologique Recherche has a reputation that has intrigued a premier tier of beauty care professionals around the world, Georgette Mallory included. Georgette told me she learned of this French skincare line through a client who raved about the product and the clinician who introduced it to her. She did her homework, researched the company and their line of personalized products, and ended up hiring the company’s lead trainer, Barbara Aquino, as the new head esthetician and Spa Manager for the Delamar. She did so, she said, with the personal blessing of Dr. Philippe Allouche, son of the company’s founders and creative visionary behind the new skincare line.

“Dr. Allouche is interested in reaching the American market with his products and felt strongly that partnering Barbara’s expertise in Biologique Recherche skincare with our hotel spas would be the perfect endorsement for his work,” explained Georgette.

It helps that Barbara has the skin of an angel, strikingly youthful and unbelievably radiant. I remember thinking after meeting her at the



hotel during that celebratory breakfast event, I want to have “what she’s having.”

My facial appointment began with an honest assessment of my skin, which, due to a combination of weather, stress and too many nights of little to no sleep, was more than ready for a makeover. The Delamar’s esthetician then customized a treatment for my needs. My face was putty in her hands as she massaged it with a special lotion that blended high concentrations of botanical marine and biological extracts to recondition my skin, from tone to elasticity. She assured me that in a few short hours my skin would be “luminous, lifting, glowing and revitalized.” I was floating in the gentle waves of warm tropical ocean waters off a powder sand beach,



feeling much like I imagined a mermaid would, skin glistening with a dreamy youthful dew, when she softly nudged me back to reality when my appointment ended.

Relaxed, I felt wonderful, radiant... and much to my delight, my skin did too. Even now, a few harried weeks past my date with the Delamar spa, it continues to glow thanks to the magic potion of the lotion P50 V I purchased at the spa. I was told that it would restore my skin with “a surface for youth and radiance.”

Now that my skin is regaining that glow of youth, I am ready to try the spa’s Swiss line of anti-aging products, formulated by Valmont in a clinic on the shores of Lake Geneva. At first devoted to hydrotherapy, the Clinic was one of the very first to dedicate its activities to rejuvenation treatments. They were so successful, thanks to the experts they called and quality of ingredients they worked with, that famous clients as Charlie Chaplin or Coco Chanel came on a regular basis. Hmmm, I think I might be next... □