

TODAY IN HISTORY

1014

Pope Benedict VIII crowns Henry II Holy Roman Emperor

1076

Pope Gregory VII excommunicates Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV (for the 1st time)

1876

Alexander G. Bell & Elisha Gray apply separately for telephone patents Supreme Court eventually rules Bell rightful inventor

1971

Richard Nixon installs secret taping system in the White House



most instagrammable cafe in the world



Ground floor of Tania's Teahouse



Bou-tea-que on the upper floor of Tania's Tea House

“Social media has definitely been the catalyst to boost our reputation. I mean, being featured as the 7th most Instagrammable cafe in the world in only about a year of being open has been unreal!”

TANIA LODI



Tania Lodi, Founder of Tania's Tea House

Now, her vision has become a reality. Tania is a tea enthusiast of course. But with her experience in food allergies and auto-immune, holistic diets, she has put together a menu that caters to an array of needs, whether guests are looking for a healthy breakfast or after-school treats for their children.

pleasing. All of our food is pretty to look at, but also delicious to eat,” said Tania. Tania does not belong to a family of entrepreneurs. And so organising funds for the start-up required some effort. Her vision became a reality when her parents offered to help with the initial capital. “I am grateful for their help. After all, my parents are not part of a business family. Both work for a living. My dad is in the business of finance and my mother is a psychologist. And so it was a huge thing when they offered to part with their money and put it in my business.”

TERMATH

Notre Dame in Paris exhibition



form of an abstract painting by the French-Moroccan painter Najia Mehadji. Completed in a single broad brushstroke, the painting's dominating blue (a color associated with the Virgin Mary) swirl hints at the shape of the Madonna and Child statue that stands inside Notre Dame. Montpellier-based Mohamed Lekleti's mixed-media canvas is a conceptual work portraying “the duality of the world,” divided into two halves: good and evil. Lekleti's work reminds the viewer of life's inevitability, and to accept that events are sometimes beyond human control, but that taking action — no matter how slow or small — to heal wounds is important, as emphasized by the artist's depiction of a hand sewing a thread. Syrian figurative artist Boutros Al-Maari contributes a circular canvas illustrating fictional characters from Victor Hugo's iconic novel “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” surrounding the burning

cathedral. Inspired by his own heritage, Al-Maari depicts Hugo as a ‘hakawati’ — a storyteller in Damascus' old cafés. It is a scene of both anguish and hope; of men crying in disbelief and the Virgin Mary being consoled with the offering of a flower. According to Lemand, a second part of the exhibition will materialize in 2020, exhibiting a new roster of artists. “The goal of this exhibition is neither political nor financial,” he explained. “We just wanted to give an opportunity for Arab artists to present a brighter image of the region — far from the violence, the killing, and religious strife that have in recent years given the world a miserable image of the Arab world.”

“Notre Dame is a historical building that doesn't belong just to French and European civilization, but to all of humanity. The Arab artist — like his European counterpart — has the right to convey his feelings and admiration towards this monument”

CLAUDE LEMAND



A painting by Azzawi