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## LAST MINUTE FESTIVAL: THE VOLCANO EXTRAVAGANZA IN STROMBOLI, ITALY

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by Caroline Roux / 19 August 2013 / [add comments](#)

LADY GAGA'S MOST  
OUTRAGEOUS  
FASHION MOMENTS



Caroline Roux reports from the Volcano Extravaganza festival in Stromboli

Visitors to Stromboli, the stunning island with glittering black sand beaches and a rumbling live volcano at its core, are used to processions – theatrical religious events happen throughout the year. But recently, the only holy aspect of a mass of brilliantly coloured parasols parading through its narrow alleys is a devotion to day-glo colours. Design supremo Peter Saville (he of the ground-breaking Factory Records cover art, and currently the Creative Director of the City of Manchester) and his partner, the artist Anna Blessman (both pictured above) had sprayed the paper umbrellas in dazzling hues as part of the Volcano Extravaganza, a series of artistic events on the island that's now in its fourth summer.

Supported by The Fiorucci Art Trust, that was set up a few years ago by the glamorous and art-savvy Nicoletta Fiorucci (the family's fortune is based on prosciutto, not denim), this year's extravaganza is being led by Lucy McKenzie, the queen of trompe l'oeil and one of the UK's hottest young artists (her work was in *A Bigger Splash*, the painting show at Tate Modern, earlier this year, and is showing at Tate Britain in October, and at the Artist's Institute in New York next year). McKenzie's own contribution was to produce a page-turning beach-reading potboiler and assemble a cast of names to visit the island including Saville, artist Enrico David and writer Michael Bracewell. She's named the event *Evil Under the Sun*, after the Agatha Christie whodunit, set on an un-named but exclusive island. Nicoletta Fiorucci's intervention was to devise a perfume for the occasion (created by Comme des Garçons collaborators, Creative Perfumers), mingling the scent of lava and smoke, with wild fennel and heavily scented night flowers. As if that's not enough, it all takes place in a house that Marina Abramovic sold to Signora Fiorucci in 2007.

Cindy Sherman, Anselm Kiefer, Nan Goldin and Nick Mauss are all Stromboli addicts. Should you spot one of them this summer under the shade of a candy coloured parasol, now you'll know why.

*The Volcano Extravaganza runs from 29 July - 24 August. Visit [fiorucciatrust.com](http://fiorucciatrust.com) for more information*