



Bare Metal

An against-the-odds success story

Abdulrahman Katanani is a Palestinian artist who was born and raised in Beirut in the Sabra refugee camp that has sheltered thousands of Palestinian refugee families since 1948. There, on the sixth floor of a dilapidated, former hospital, is where you'll find him, at work, in his studio, in the corner of an apartment he shares with his parents, brothers, and sisters. The workspace might be small and modest but his dreams and aspirations are anything but, and Katanani has already managed to put himself on the global art map.

His scrap-metal sculptures and picture composites now sell for upwards of 20,000 USD at Christie's in Dubai, he won the prestigious Sursock Museum Prize twice, completed an MFA at the Lebanese University, took part in an exhibition organised by art consultant Laurence Dreyfus in Paris, did a three-month residency at the Cité des Arts and more recently held solo and group shows in George Town (Penang) Doha, Munich and Abu Dhabi.

End in View

Novel headset with dual 2.5K displays

Cinera is a project that began on Kickstarter looking to raise 50,000 USD and got 250,000 USD. Its popularity is predominantly down to the fact it's a cinema headset that offers an IMAX-like theatre experience. Equipped with two 2560 x 1440 displays and a wide 66-degree field of view, its 'pixels per degree', which is the number of pixels dedicated to each degree of human vision, is 39, and that trounces the Vive (9.8) and Oculus Rift (11.5).

We're told that the early-bird investors are expecting to receive their products some time before March.



The Hots

A drug for women seeking to boost their flagging libido

Just to show not all Eureka moments turn out rosy, it's now near three years since the United States' Food and Drug Administration approved Addyi, the brand name for flibanserin, a pill that was dubbed the "female Viagra". So how has the drug fared since then? Not too well. Unlike Viagra, which men take on an as-needed basis for erectile dysfunction, Addyi treats hypoactive sexual desire disorder (the most commonly reported form of female sexual dysfunction) but women have to take it every day, regardless of whether they're planning to have sex or not. It's also

not as simple in its efficacy as Viagra (which just increases blood flow to the penis), as it works on brain chemistry. So where Viagra sold almost 600,000 prescriptions in its first two months, Addyi sold just 227. Sure, numbers have improved since then but not enough, and the drugmaker that bought the rights to Addyi for 1 billion USD (just two days after it won FDA approval) has just decided to give it back to its original owners, along with an additional 25 million USD loan facility, and all they want in return is 6 per cent of future sales. Now, that can't be a good sign, can it?



Bot Your Friend

Adorable robot that adds value to your life



You probably haven't heard of Blue Frog Robotics, a French tech company founded four years ago by Rodolphe Hasselvanderin, but their flagship product – Buddy – was awarded a 2018 CES Best Innovation Award and is the world's first true companion robot.

Far from a mere gimmick, Buddy costs a serious amount of money (1,500 USD) and promises to add lasting value by being a cute, mobile, sociable and emotionally intelligent member of the household, capable of holding a conversation with anyone and being given tasks such as waking up members of the family, reminding them of events, controlling smart appliances, even patrolling the home and capturing incriminating footage.

Deliveries are expected to begin later this year.