

# Notes on an Obsession

• May/June 2023 •

by Olivier Dupon



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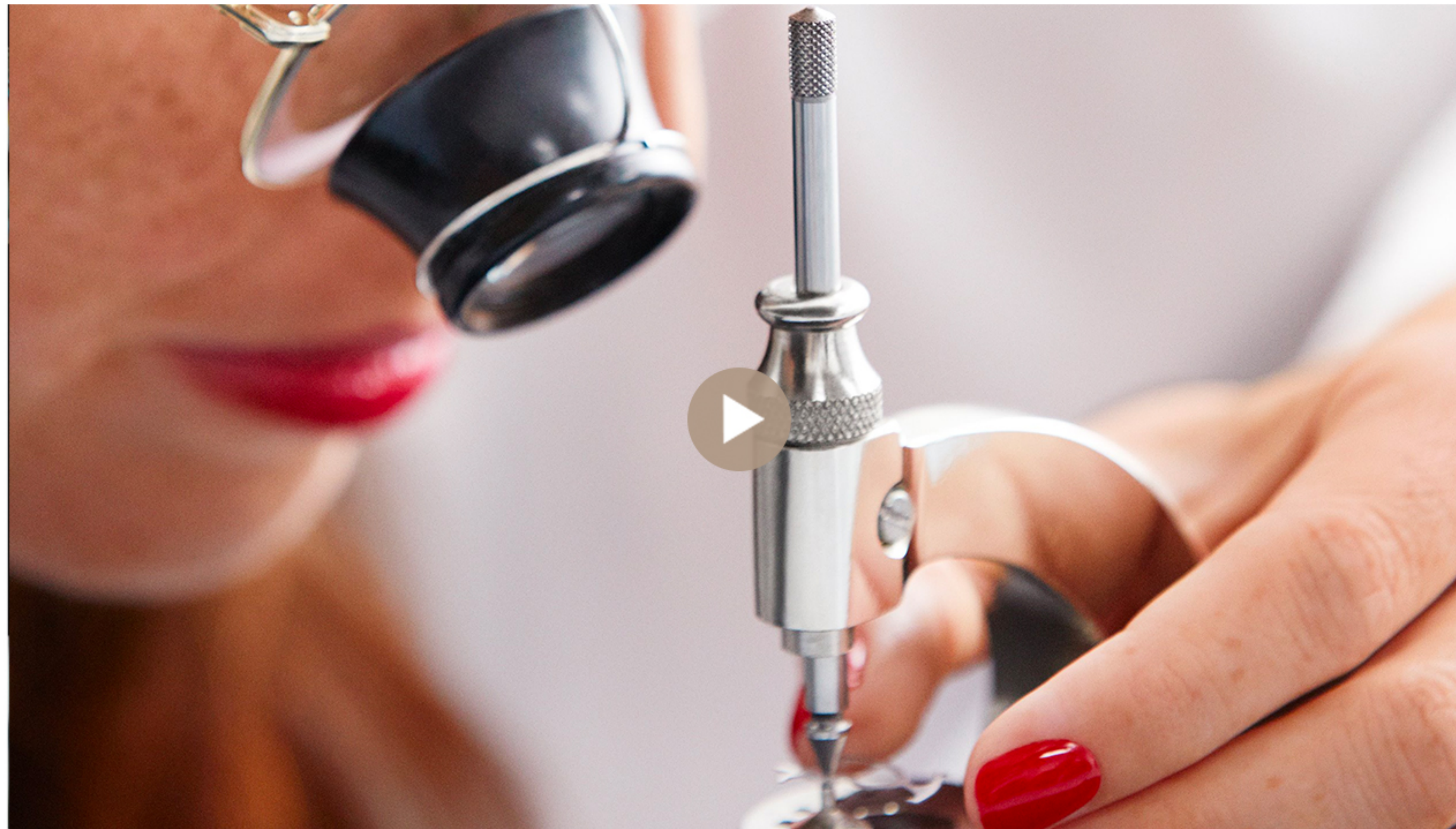


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In this issue, you will find:

- TIFFANY & CO.'s Tiffany Diamond.
- MONTBLANC's limited edition High Artistry métiers d'arts writing instruments.
- CHAUMET's new Bee My Love pieces.
- FURLA's home furniture line.
- SOTHEBY's upcoming auction of the Estrela de FURA ruby.
- SAFARI CANVAS CO. & KATE GUINNESS DESIGN luxury canvas lodge collaboration.
- DE BEERS' one-of-a-kind new tiara.
- S by SALANITRO, the new brand by Swiss horology expert SALANITRO.
- GIORGIO B by GIORGIO BULGARI.
- LOUIS VUITTON's new LV Signature Sunglasses for men.
- BULGARI's High Jewellery Watches from the Mediterraneo collection.
- BOODLES's 225th Raindance Suite designed especially for The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023.
- TRUDON's new Tuileries candle line.
- RIO TINTO's Argyle Rose™ Ring.
- VACHERON CONSTANTIN & LOUVRE MUSEUM's 2023 new partnership.

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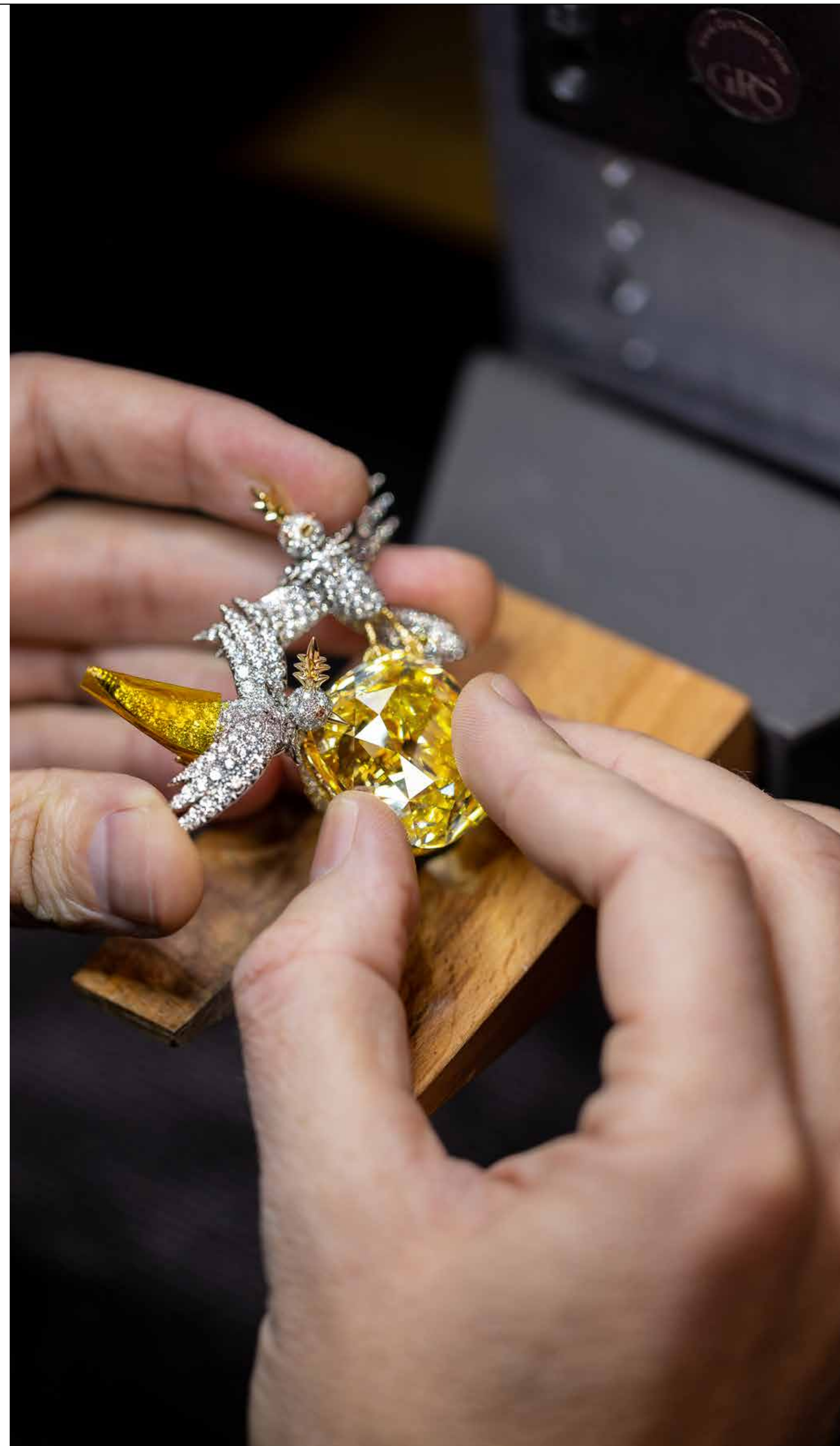


May/June 2023

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It is safe to say that the Tiffany Diamond has been one of the ‘busiest’ gemstones on earth. During its existence, the diamond’s agenda has been filled with making appearances on the neck of a carefully chosen lucky ones. It has also been set in various designs, similar to any A-listers reinventing themselves throughout their career. Uniquely presenting 82 facets, the 128.54-carat cushion-shaped Fancy Yellow diamond has consecutively been worn first by Ms Sheldon Whitehouse, then by Audrey Hepburn (it was set in Jean Schlumberger’s Ribbon Rosette necklace). *“In 1995, it was reset in the Bird on a Rock brooch for Jean Schlumberger’s retrospective at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, and in 2012, it was mounted in a necklace set with over 100 carats of diamonds to commemorate Tiffany’s 175th anniversary. This design was worn by Lady Gaga in 2019 and, most recently, Beyoncé for the House’s “About Love” campaign in 2021”,* the team explains.

And as the recipe for the best reinventions is often to look back at past successes, the Tiffany Diamond reunites with the Bird on the Rock design in 2023, under the hand of Nathalie Verdeille, Chief Artistic Officer, Jewellery & High Jewellery. This fifth reinvention is also the occasion to both celebrate the reopening of the TIFFANY & CO. Fifth Avenue flagship store, now named “The Landmark”, on April 28 and bring the work of Jean Schlumberger to the forefront.

[www.tiffany.com](http://www.tiffany.com)


Making of the new design for the Tiffany Diamond.

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SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

# Notes on an Obsession

The new design made of the Tiffany Diamond set in a transformable necklace in yellow and white gold with diamonds and rubies.

This new communion of the diamond and the bird sees a flock of the latter take flight. The birds (all but one) no longer rest on top of the gemstone, but they now swirl around the central Tiffany Diamond with their wings fully spread. The avian farandole is full of life and I cannot help but think of one of Disney's animated movies in which birds carry a flower wreath over the head of the heroine. This enchanting scenery (a detachable brooch) is held by a diamond-set chain when in a necklace form. The chain is made of a succession of two types of round-cut diamond links (one set with three diamonds followed by one set with a single diamond); it is classically luxurious to complement the medalion. With 1,384 hours to create, 407 hours to set and 190 hours to polish, the new iteration matches what Anthony Ledru, Chief Executive Officer, Tiffany & Co. calls "*one of the most important diamonds in the world. The Tiffany Diamond is the foundation of our legacy as the 'Diamond Kings'.*"

[www.tiffany.com](http://www.tiffany.com)

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HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

# Notes on an Obsession

Who has not fantasised about being a gentleman or woman writer bound on a trip to discover new civilizations? Forget ipads or digital notebooks...and re-discover the old-world pleasure of putting a pen to paper while gazing at the passing landscapes, and best for last, from the grand Art Deco comfort of an Orient Express carriage. This is the experience that MONTBLANC succeeds in conveying with a series of limited edition High Artistry *métiers d'arts* writing instruments celebrating the Orient Express. At this level of craftsmanship, we are not looking at mere pens but collectable *objets d'art* merging together High Jewellery, timepieces and luxury writing instruments. The six renditions all showcase a range of innovative techniques from stone cutting and setting, engraving and gold nib crafting and more. The one-of-a-kind piece – the Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 1 with Case – comes with a multifunctional case which adorns a secret watch. The marquetry of precious wood and gold holds a splendid bejewelled pen, which is made of a gold lattice and engraving pattern set with diamonds and two blue sapphires (a faceted round one on the tip and a smaller cabochon on the side). The level of intricacy evokes that of the Orient Express's décor (damasks, wood carving, etc).

[www.montblanc.com](http://www.montblanc.com)

The Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 1 Papillon creation has a cap that displays a delicate tapestry of ruby petals (each indented by hand) and a secret dial under a ruby-set lid. The pen itself features an oval window onto a plique-à-jour enamelled plumage detail on its flank. More rubies and diamonds delineate motifs and parts of the instrument.

If having a secret watch is not enough, the Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 5 offers a secret flap that reveals a black and white miniature painting of exotic dancer, Mata Hari. The buffed top red chalcedony stones set all along the body of the pen reinforce the sensual nature of it.



Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 1 Papillon. POA.

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JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession

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Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 5. POA.



Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 1 with Case. POA.



Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 10. POA.



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SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession

Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 83. POA.



The multi-textural approach is best represented by Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 10, a feat in having sycamore wood decorated with handcrafted gold-leaf and crystal flower inlays. *“The iconic oval window in the dining car is the inspiration behind the ‘hidden’ clip, recessed into the cap, in solid Au 750 gold embellished a hand-engraved serpent body and head is partly set with brilliant cut diamonds and two rubies as eyes. The serpent is a reference to the Montblanc Writers Edition 1993 honouring Agatha Christie that featured a clip adorned with a serpent”*, the team shares. Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 83 is made from structured black lacquer, the design of the cap and barrel is based on the iron machinery of a steam engine. The skeleton overlay in solid Au 750 signature gold, partly rhodium-coated and set with sapphires depicts the Orient Express’ wheel and side rails. As a tribute to the elegant machinery at work in the engine, the cap opens with a special snap mechanism adorned with a Montblanc emblem in mother-of-pearl. Montblanc High Artistry A Journey on the Orient Express Limited Edition 333 pairs translucent blue lacquer with gold for the fittings and an intricate solid Au 750 signature gold rhodium-coated skeleton overlay that recalls the ornate metal luggage racks inside the train. The cap top is crowned with a Montblanc emblem made of mother-of-pearl embedded in black onyx.

I encourage you to investigate further the full inspiration and details of each design, as this brief review has only touched the surface of how each piece has been constructed.

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HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

At least there is one bee family that is growing in numbers, it is CHAUMET's The Bee My Love collection, first launched in 2011. If it is any consolation, the new pieces are simply great. From the not-so-figurative Bee my love ring, stud earrings and pin, to the celebration of the honeycomb motif in supple formations, the novelties mark a grand coup. Let's just note that each hexagonal alveolus is fashioned with extreme precision – with a margin of error of just 0.05mm for angles and tips.

The first group is set in yellow gold and the hexagonal motif is astutely placed on each bee's head as well as on a facing position (it is the opposite diamond for the ring, the second diamond stud for the earrings and the bottom diamond end of the pin for the brooch). Amazingly, it is not just the setting that is hexagonally shaped, those diamonds are also hexagonal-cut. It is the Taille Impératrice, a CHAUMET innovation that confers 88 facets to the diamond.

The second category is an exercise in mastering gold work, a feat that is now a CHAUMET signature collection after collection, fine or high. Rose gold necklaces, matching bracelet and cuff, a ring and hoop earrings (the latter also come in yellow gold for the small model, white gold for the larger one) share the same suppleness. Honeycomb-shaped gold ingots (some mirror polished, some set with a round



Bee My Love Cuff in rose gold set with brilliant-cut diamonds and Bee My Love Rings (worn stacked) in rose gold set with brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.

brilliant-cut diamonds) are individually attached to each other in multiple rows, in which open-worked hexagons let skin peak through at repeated frequency.

The biggest piece comes with the highest diamond count: 60 diamonds peppered over 745 gold components for the cuff.

[www.chaumet.com](http://www.chaumet.com)

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SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

Bee My Love Ring in yellow gold set with Taille Impératrice diamonds of 0.30 and 0.23 carat and brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.



Bee My Love Pin in yellow gold set with Taille Impératrice diamonds of 0.50 and 0.23 carat and brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.



[www.chaumet.com](http://www.chaumet.com)

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Bee My Love Pendant in yellow gold set with brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.



Bee My Love Earrings in rose gold set with brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.



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FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

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Cosmo Table in marble and special metal alloy. POA.



During Milan Design Week 2023 last April, FURLA unveiled its first homeware collection. Better known for its expertise in the leather accessory market, the Bolognese brand has transposed its forte and contemporary vision to the world of furniture, a vision rooted in Italian tradition. *“Objects that communicate awareness of daily life through values such as tradition and innovation inherent in Furla’s DNA where the glamour of fashion comes together with the rigor of design”*, the team says.

There are four innovative lines – all made in Italy using high-quality materials including metals, leathers, and fabrics – making the most of subtle tones. Brighter colours only appear as highlights on the furnishings. The few pieces fit the living room and dining room in ways that help redefine spaces in a versatile and personal way. Comfort and design meet in unison; curves predominate as seen in the Venus seat, the Opportunity sofa, and the Cosmo and Charlotte seats. Original, yet timeless silhouettes guarantee a strong aesthetic presence while offering an inviting type of comfort. *“Timeless and light features give character to spaces through a sensitive and creative aesthetic language. Everything is measured, and coherent. A value of identity that goes beyond what it appears”*, the team adds.

[www.furla.com](http://www.furla.com)

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HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

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Venus Chair in leather.  
POA.



Charlotte Seat (comes in a variety of dimensions) has a dynamic profile enhanced by curvatures; the seat is padded and can be upholstered with special leathers or fine fabrics. POA.



Opportunity Sofa comes in leather or a choice of soft fabric. POA.

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HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

In September 2022, FURA Gems announced its historic unearthing of the world's largest gem-quality ruby ever discovered. From FURA's ruby mine in Montepuez, Mozambique, the gemstone weighs 101 carats and it was subsequently named Estrela de FURA (Star of FURA in Portuguese). *"Even in its rough, untouched state, Estrela de FURA was considered by experts as an exceptional treasure of nature for its fluorescence, outstanding clarity and vivid red hue, known as 'pigeon's blood', a colour traditionally associated only with Burmese rubies"*, the team explains. Now eight months after its initial debut, Estrela de FURA 55.22 is introduced to the world. Weighing 55.22 carats, this rare Mozambique gem is the largest gem-quality ruby to ever appear at auction. Its combination of rich saturation of colour, untouched by heat treatment, highly crystalline appearance and incomparable size that – with an estimate in excess of \$30 million – positions Estrela de FURA 55.22 as the most valuable and important ruby ever to come to market. Rubies of this importance are rare, with only two examples having ever broken the \$15 million barrier at auction, making the appearance of the present gem a landmark event in itself. The Gübelin Gem Lab states further that the ruby "is setting a new record not only for Mozambican rubies, but also for rubies in general." Estrela de FURA 55.22 is poised to make history as it may surpass The Sunrise Ruby, a 25.59 carat ruby of Burmese origin, which sold for \$30.3 million (\$1,185,451 per carat) at Sotheby's Geneva in 2015, and still holds the world auction record for a ruby. The stone's new journey commences today at Sotheby's Hong Kong, where it will then embark on a worldwide tour, with exhibitions scheduled in Taipei, China, Singapore, Geneva and Dubai before it stars in Sotheby's Magnificent Jewels auction in New York on 8th June.

[www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com)

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Estrela de FURA Ruby up for auction.

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HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

# Notes on an Obsession

The Safari Canvas Co. & Kate Guinness  
Design luxury canvas lodge collaboration.

There is now a word for it: Glamping. That said, the diminutive for ‘glamorous camping’ has now become a portmanteau word, in which the best, the good, the bad and the worst are all indiscriminately placed. Without a doubt, the collaboration between The SAFARI CANVAS & CO. and Kate Guinness Design belongs in a category of its own. In a surprising move, the expert in safari chic accommodation has temporarily left the African continent, to set up base in the countryside of Wiltshire, UK. By partnering with Kate Guinness Design, they have created a camp of luxury canvas lodges just outside the market town of Marlborough. The British designer and her team were tasked to design and dress a display tent. *“Primarily used by country house hotels, the open-plan safari-style tents are permanent structures built to last, available in this scheme by Kate Guinness Design who also provide a bespoke service”*, the team shares.

Standing on low stilts, the tents represent sturdy and sustainable all-year-round structures that provide additional space without the need to build. Importantly, although they can be permanent these structures are classified as semi-permanent by the planning authorities, which are consequentially becoming the go-to for listed country house hotels and residential houses that can’t be extended due to planning restrictions, plus locations that are difficult to build on. Moreover, with a three-month delivery frame, they beat any construction project.

<https://safaricanvas.com> / [www.kateguinness.co.uk](http://www.kateguinness.co.uk)



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FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023



## Notes on an Obsession

A home away from home in the vast plains of Wiltshire.

By resorting to Kate Guinness Design, the SAFARI CANVAS & CO. team knew that the tents would get a unique bohemian chic aesthetic that does not compromise on modern comfort and the meticulous use of colours. Raspberry red and mustard drapes, butter cup yellow bedding, a rattan ceiling lampshade, wood furniture with a Japandi touch.... Naturally, bespoke designs are also an option regarding the interiors and layout, *“clients can choose the fabric lining, add or remove verandas, windows, doors, or partitions and replace poles with outriggers. The aim being to create rustic but functional spaces filled with interesting design details”*. There are even versions suitable for hotter climates which feature a four-poster bed complete with mosquito nets. Style and substance: all the modern comforts are indeed available to create a home away from home. *“They can be fitted with a wood-burning stove and underfloor heating providing year-round warmth, with a generous-sized bedroom equipped with a super king-size bed and dressing room, a large wardrobe and minibar in the centre, plus a screen which separates the bathroom fitted with a free-standing bath and separate loo from South African bathroom brand Vaniti House”*, the team says.

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HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession



Important one-of-a-kind Tiara part of the **Metamorphosis** high jewellery collection. POA.

The recent creative shift of DE BEERS never ceases to amaze. This time, it is with a spectacular tiara, a quite radical interpretation of a regal emblem. Metal modern union (titanium and platinum) and unconventional colours (blue and brown hues) have been successfully thrown at it. Part of the 2023 **Metamorphosis** collection, whose first Prelude chapter left a strong impression in January, the tiara showcases four fixed headbands, with an increasing gap in height between each. The lower one is undulating brown titanium sprinkled with rough and polished diamonds; the second band is a larger aqua-blue titanium peppered with white diamonds (like ice specks melting); the third one is the diamond-paved platinum arch set with seven important diamond drops (including in its centre, one 8.49-carat diamond from Botswana and part of the De Beers Natural Works of Art Collection). The fourth higher and finer circle is set with fewer diamonds as if to evoke purity as the tiara elevates towards the heavens. *“The Tiara is the hero piece from the Winter set, symbolising the power of water as the driving force behind nature’s continual renewal”*, the team suggests.

[www.debeers.com](http://www.debeers.com)

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JETS &amp; YACHTS



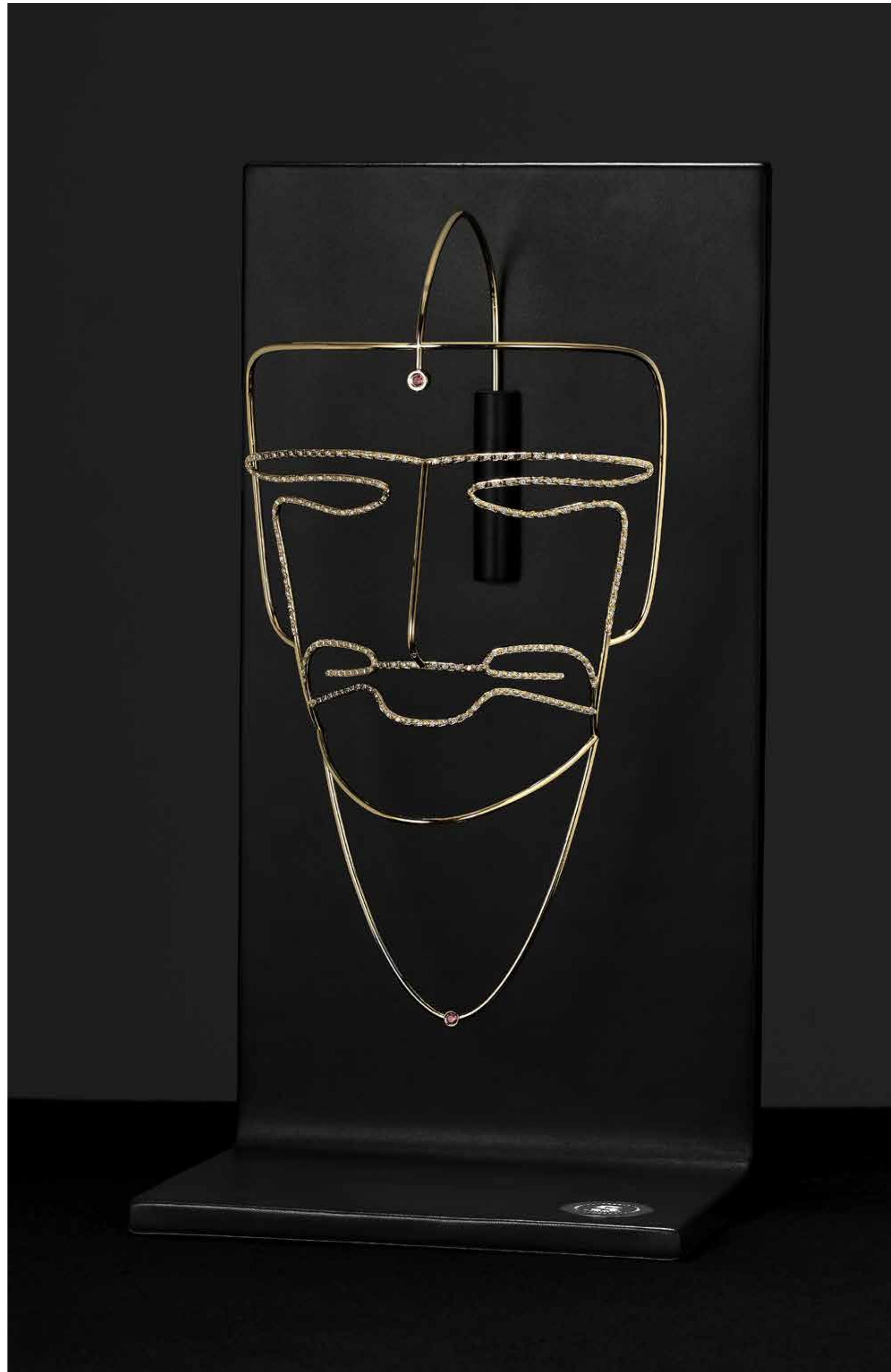
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It all began with a fish. Not any fish, but a Koi carp fit to enter and win a Japanese Beauty contest. It was indeed during a business trip to Asia that Pierre Salanitro, head of SALANITRO, the internationally recognized Swiss label of quality, trust and creativity in the field of horological gem-setting, was invited to a dinner, during which, aware of Pierre's profession, one of the guests turned to him and commissioned him to make a reproduction of his champion Koi in lacquer and precious stones. The seed to create unique artefacts outside of the field horology was planted, and soon after S by Salanitro was born with a single motto: to be 'creative and innovative'. 'S' could thus stand for 'Sky is the limit' by Salanitro. In order to secure a fresh and novel approach for his plan, Pierre Salanitro approached the ECAL, the internationally renowned art and design school located in Lausanne, and proposed a collaboration. Fourteen student-designers were mobilised around the creative idea with only one constraint: anything but watchmaking. The theme: originality with gemstones. Six projects caught Pierre Salanitro's attention, three of which are presented here. First is the Masks, each envisioned as an objet d'art, with the recognition that *"ancient masks are elevated and recognized as true artistic creations, and exhibited in the most prestigious museums around the world"*. The first creation of S by Salanitro is inspired by the emblematic mask of Malinaltepec discovered in 1921 in southwest Mexico, and the outcome, called the Warrior, is a contemporary mask silhouette made of vermeil and set with diamonds and rubies. A limited edition of 25 masks will be created each year, discounting bespoke commissions.

[www.salanitro.ch](http://www.salanitro.ch)

The Warrior Mask in yellow gold set with diamonds and rubies. POA.



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May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession



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The Mirror, a collaboration with Aline Erbeia. POA.

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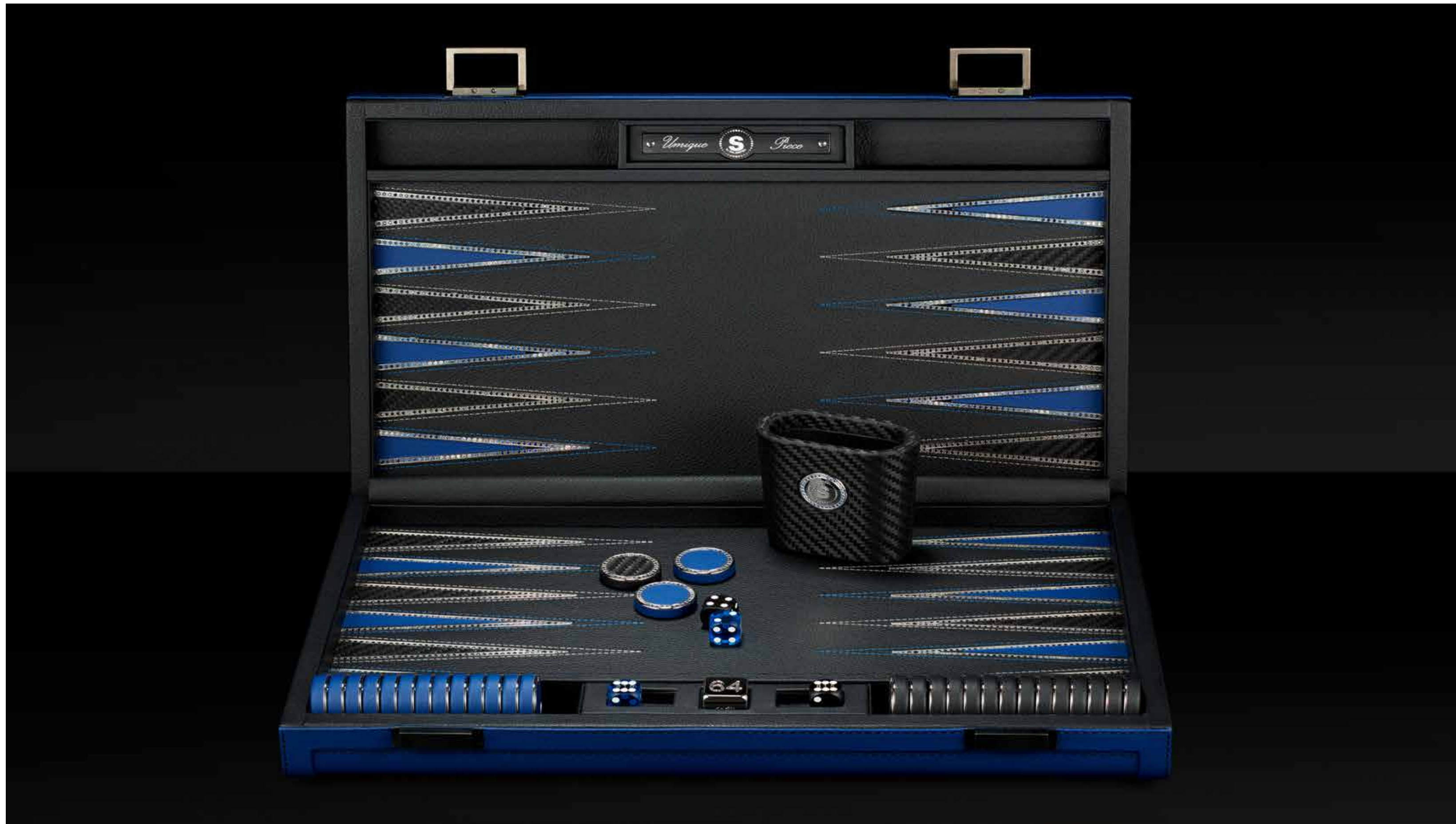


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May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession


Haute Couture  
backgammon Set. POA.

The second artwork is functional: an Haute Couture backgammon set, paved with precious gemstones. *“The brand’s signature is in the detail: the checkers are set with black diamonds or blue sapphires along their periphery, as are the 24 points (the wedges) on the board. The dice cup, entirely finished in anthracite leather, bears the S by Salanitro logo; finally, the doubling cube is set with 137 black diamonds that make up the number on each side”*. Ten new one-of-a-kind backgammon sets will be launched each year. The third item refers to vanitas. Once again a functional work of art, the mirror is round with a bejewelled skull at its centre. A collaboration with designer Aline Erbeia, one of Pierre’s dear friends, the result was to portray magic, divination, and knowledge through a skull, which is mounted on lacquered wood. The artwork is composed of 1,277 precious and semi-precious stones from twenty-four types (each with a specific meaning). 350 hours of meticulous work went into positioning each stone on the reflective surface. *“Each is bonded to the mirror with an advanced adhesive, a polymer-based agent that is stronger, more flexible and more impact resistant than any other form of adhesive”*, the team explains. Ten new mirrors (with different cultural evocations) will be presented each year.

[www.salanitro.ch](http://www.salanitro.ch)

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## Tiger's Eye

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# DUCRU-BEAUCAILLOU

THREE CENTURIES OF BEAUX CAILLOUX\* IN SAINT-JULIEN

(\*BEAUTIFUL STONES)

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JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

Large Palma Earrings  
in 18K rose gold. POA.



Unique Ring in 18K  
yellow gold set with one  
navette pink sapphire and  
diamonds. POA.



‘The apple never falls far from the tree’, they say. Giorgio Bulgari could surely attest to that. Son of Gianni Bulgari, he spent his life immersed in the world of jewellery making, learning directly from one of the most innovating forces of his time. Besides, he grew up in a house decked with modernist furniture and contemporary art. Having worked with his father in Geneva, he then joined his aunt Marina Bulgari’s brand, Marina B. This experience was decisive in igniting in him the desire to one day launch his own jewellery collections. It took two years to define the Giorgio B aesthetics, and it is clear that what makes Giorgio Bulgari’s creations so distinctive is a highly specific aesthetic: daring colour combinations, a play on convex shapes (curves, domes) and featuring solid materials (ceramic or enamel) alongside precious stones, such as diamonds, sapphires or coral. The collection itself is divided into three families. First is the ‘unique pieces’ based on exceptional gemstones (set in an avant-garde ring, a rhomboid diamond is captivating; and so is a sizeable navette pink sapphire set in a bulbous ring). Then the Palma line, for which the palm leaves of the *Livistona Jenkinsiana* plant were an inspiration. “*The pointed ridges are polished, while the insides of the fronds are vigorously brushed, etching radial lines into the surface of the gold for a natural, organic look*”, the team explains. And last is the Goccia theme, a celebration of oversized and generous shapes (cabochons). The Goccia Ring with its glistening black enamel and punctuation of coral cabochons is modernity with a twist, evoking the Renaissance and the Medicis.

**Giorgio Bulgari SA, 1 rue du Perron, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland - [info@giorgiob.com](mailto:info@giorgiob.com)**

Notes on an Obsession

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INTERNATIONAL PRES

NEWSSTAND

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION &amp; JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE &amp; TRAVEL



FINANCE &amp; MARKETS



HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession

Goccia Medium Earrings in 18K rose gold and black enamel. POA.



Unique Ring in 18K rose gold and black enamel set with one rhomboid diamond. POA.



Goccia Medium Bracelet in 18K rose gold and black enamel. POA.



Giorgio Bulgari SA, 1 rue du Perron, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland - [info@giorgiob.com](mailto:info@giorgiob.com)

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NEWSSTAND

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION & JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL



FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession



The new LV Signature Sunglasses for men. POA.

Summer is approaching (at least in the Northern hemisphere), so why not equip yourselves with the new LV Signature sunglasses for men by LOUIS VUITTON. They say ‘for men’, yet I bet they could easily pass for unisex glasses. There are two key shapes, round and square, available in either acetate or metal; and all styles feature the “LV” initials engraved in metal on the hinges. Spoiled for choice when it comes to colourways, the LV Signature acetate sunglasses come in classic black, transparent gray and honey for the round shape, or classic opaque black and two seasonal shades for the square-round shape (light blue or light pink). The round acetate frame is available in small or medium sizes for an adapted fit. As for the streamlined silver-tone metal frames, they have either a single bridge (round style) or a double bridge (squared). Enough variety for anyone to find his best fit.

[www.louisvuitton.com](http://www.louisvuitton.com)

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS the

**NEWSSTAND**

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION &amp; JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE &amp; TRAVEL



FINANCE &amp; MARKETS



HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession

I really thought that last year's High Jewellery watches from BVLGARI Garden of Wonders collection could not be surpassed. The Giardino dell'Eden Tourbillon High Jewellery Watch, Serpenti Misteriosi Riviera High Jewellery secret Watch and Blooming Beauty High Jewellery Watch indeed set the bar high for high jewels that could give the time. Well, a year later, the **Mediterranea** high jewellery collection proves me wrong. As much as last year's inspiration was botanical, the new most spectacular timepieces now celebrate the seaside. The Giardino Marino Grande secret watch is a visual feast with 4,800 multicoloured gemstones set onto inhabitants of an exalted reef. Fishes, seashells, anemones set *en tremblant*, mobile corals, and decorated beads. Heroes are a starfish featuring a central 3.96-carat cabochon rubellite, and a seashell paved with diamonds and Paraiba tourmalines. They are both detachable so they can be worn as earrings. Another sapphire-paved shell opens by pressing the round diamond revealing a pearl inside. Lastly, a treasure is hidden behind the central fish: the dial of the watch powered by the Piccolissimo micro mechanical movement. So much here to actually make one forget about the time! The Giardino Marino Piccolo secret watch is the sister timepiece, which tunes down the colourful riot of its counterpart by proposing a cerulean dégradé of emeralds, sapphires, Paraiba tourmalines, tanzanite, green tourmalines, tsavorites, topaz and peridot. A central see-through topaz reveals the dial of the watch featuring the Piccolissimo mechanical micro round movement.

[www.bulgari.com](http://www.bulgari.com)


The Giardino Marino Piccolo Secret Watch; **Mediterranea** collection. POA.

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MAGAZINE & "C", Ci  
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NEWSSTAND

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION &amp; JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE &amp; TRAVEL



FINANCE &amp; MARKETS



HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession



[www.bulgari.com](http://www.bulgari.com)

The Transformable Giardino Marino Grande Secret Watch;  
**Mediterranea** collection. POA.

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS

**NEWSSTAND**

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION & JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL



FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

# Notes on an Obsession

The three-dimensionality of the watches is captivating, especially in the third marvel, the Divas' Dream Aquarium watch, a miniature under-dome aquatic wonderland. Over a dial paved with *degradé* Paraiba tourmalines, sapphires and diamonds, two fishes, each of them enriched with two pear-shaped stones: the former with rubies and rubellites, the latter with Paraiba tourmalines and sapphires, are in motion thanks to the *en-tremblant* technique. Likewise, corals, shells and stones seem to float all around. The white gold flexible bracelet is paved with Paraiba tourmalines, sapphires and diamonds, while the case back is hand-engraved with a dedicated marine drawing.

Men have not been left out. The Octo Roma Mediterranea secret watch, although less flamboyant, is still intoxicating and precious. An octopus crafted with diamonds, sapphires, emeralds and Paraiba tourmalines gives the impression of retreating back, while its tentacles emerge out from the medallion. Showing a 44 mm rose gold case set with diamonds and a blue alligator strap, the watch reveals an ultra-thin manual movement, BVL 268 SK calibre with flying tourbillon.

[www.bulgari.com](http://www.bulgari.com)

Details of the Divas' Dream Aquarium Watch; **Mediterranea** collection. POA.



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MAGAZINE & "C", Ci  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS the  
**NEWSSTAND**

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION & JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL



FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



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WATCHES



FASHION & JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL



FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

# Notes on an Obsession

Pendant in 18K yellow gold set with white and pink diamonds from the **225th Raindance Suite** designed especially for The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. POA.

Spring is in full swing and the 2023 edition of the Chelsea Flower Show is gearing up to open soon. For the third year, British jeweller BOODLES is partnering with garden designer Tom Hoblyn to create a garden; this time, the inspiration is *“the Pre-Raphaelite’s stylised depiction of woodland; a woodland glade-like garden, filled with plants selected for their perfect forms in order to celebrate British craftsmanship”*, the team says. Notwithstanding this announcement, it is also the occasion to celebrate BOODLES’ 225th year, and for the momentous double occasion, Head Designer Rebecca Hawkins has designed a new suite to extend the **Raindance** collection. The core idea is that water and gardens are interconnected. She has thus explored rainfall, if looking directly upwards. *“Raindrops radiate out and towards you from a central point. The smaller diamonds are set further back and towards the centre, and the larger ones are set higher and further from the centre to give a sense of perspective. Pink diamond accents dance amongst the white brilliant cuts”*, she shares. Secondly, she has studied how a raindrop makes contact with water, *“concentric circles of smaller diamonds surround the larger centre stone. The suite also mirrors the movement of drops of water as they dance on the clear surface of the floating pool within the wildflower section of the Boodles garden, creating their own unexpected ‘Raindance’ for visitors to see”*. In an uncanny optical illusion, one can clearly see the references to drops of water, yet the diamond clusters could as well conjure white flowers of a paniculata hydrangea.

[www.boodles.com](http://www.boodles.com)


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INTERNATIONAL PRESS the

NEWSSTAND

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION & JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL



FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

# Notes on an Obsession

Bracelet in 18K yellow gold set with white and pink diamonds from the **225th Raindance Suite** designed especially for The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. POA.



Asymmetrical Earrings in 18K yellow gold set with white and pink diamonds from the **225th Raindance Suite** designed especially for The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. POA.



Ring in 18K yellow gold set with white and pink diamonds from the **225th Raindance Suite** designed especially for The RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023. POA.

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MAGAZINE & "C  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS  
**NEWSSTAND**

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION & JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL



FINANCE & MARKETS



HOME & STYLE



SPORTS & LUXURY CARS



JETS & YACHTS



May/June 2023

It is really a year of important anniversaries. 380 years is quite the milestone for any brand's life. It is that of the royal manufacture TRUDON which was founded in 1643. *"Royal by essence, the Trudon family crafted candles from 17th Century until the 19th century. Their manufacture provided tapers for the royal apartments under Kings Louis the XIVth, Louis the XVth and Louis the XVIth. The Madeleine candles also brightened up the Church of La Madeleine in Paris. Even the French Comedy ordered candles from the manufacture for the 'King's theatre company", the team says. Besides, the royal manufacture appears in 1762 in the French Encyclopedia of Sciences, Arts and Trades by Diderot and D'Alembert, and it is the only reference mentioned in the section dedicated to the art of candle making. It is worth noting that not only was the manufacture an expert in crafted candles, it also stands for a specialist in scented candles. It is particularly this attribute that makes TRUDON successful worldwide today. Furthermore, such a pedigree propelled the company to be named by the French government a living heritage company this century.*

Now in order to celebrate the anniversary, the house has launched a new collection, the Tuileries. *"It finds its inspiration in a rare document kept at the French National Archives: the Gazette des Atours de la Reine. In what seems like an ordinary notebook, countess Geneviève d'Ossun – a French courtier who served as lady-in-waiting and first maid of honour to Marie Antoinette – gathered many fabric samples used to tailor the sovereigns' many dresses and royal outfits", the team explains. Hence, the rose fragrance – the queen's favourite – and the rich coral hue with a hint of burned orange, which is stamped with gold signatures, evokes rich brocade fabrics.*

[www.trudon.com](http://www.trudon.com)

## Notes on an Obsession

The new Tuileries Candle Line (featured is the classic candle with box) by TRUDON. POA.



NEWSSTAND

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION &amp; JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE &amp; TRAVEL



FINANCE &amp; MARKETS



HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

Notes on an Obsession



And to conclude, last but not least, a collector's dream: the latest heirloom piece of Argyle Pink Diamonds™ jewellery, featuring one of the last diamonds to be mined from the Argyle mine in the East Kimberley, Western Australia. Exclusively designed by Western Australian jeweller Solid Gold Diamonds, the Argyle Rose™ is notable for featuring a total of 3.25 carats of rare Argyle pink and blue diamonds encrusted in a rose motif, surrounded by white diamonds and hand-set in platinum and 18K gold. At its heart is an extremely rare 1.36-carat Fancy Deep Pink radiant-cut diamond. *"It is just one of twelve radiant-cut diamonds over one carat with a colour grading, 1P, from the last 30 years of production from Argyle"*, the team adds. The surrounding petaled design of pink and blue Argyle Diamonds™ totals 1.89 carats, together with 2.80 carats of white diamonds. Besides, the Argyle Rose™ can be worn as a ring or pendant and is available for sale for A\$2 million.

[www.riotinto.com](http://www.riotinto.com)

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MAGAZINE & "Ci  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS the

NEWSSTAND

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION &amp; JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE &amp; TRAVEL



FINANCE &amp; MARKETS



HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS



May/June 2023

# Notes on an Obsession

There are partnerships made in artworld heaven. The VACHERON CONSTANTIN & LOUVRE MUSEUM is one of them. Initiated in 2019, it has been renewed ever since each year, and in 2023, collectors can select a favourite artwork from the museum to be reproduced in enamel on the dial of a Les Cabinotiers watch. The scheme is called ‘A Masterpiece on the Wrist’.

This follows the auction of December 2020 in support of a vast project of educational workshops at the Louvre, with 100% of the proceeds going to support Le Studio, *“a place of discovery and sharing open to all in order to help people familiarise themselves with the museum, its collections and its crafts, including an introduction to the techniques of the plastic arts”*.

For the occasion, Vacheron Constantin offered a unique experience, embodied by a single-piece edition bespoke Les Cabinotiers watch whose dial was to be personalised with a miniature or grisaille enamel reproduction of an artwork kept in the Louvre and chosen by the buyer. *“Guided by the museum’s experts, the successful bidder also had the privilege of a private tour of the museum and the Cabinet des Dessins, a place accessible to the public by reservation only, in order to determine the work to be reproduced”*, the team says. This is where the original drawing finally chosen – La lutte pour l’étendard de la Bataille d’Anghiari, by Pierre Paul Rubens – is kept.

This pick-and-choose model elevates the versatility of high end watches up a notch; or how to keep delivering exciting opportunities and experiences in a competitive market.

[www.vacheron-constantin.com](http://www.vacheron-constantin.com)

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MAGAZINE & “C  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS the

NEWSSTAND

press reader



WATCHES



FASHION &amp; JEWELLERY



LIFESTYLE &amp; TRAVEL



FINANCE &amp; MARKETS



HOME &amp; STYLE



SPORTS &amp; LUXURY CARS



JETS &amp; YACHTS