

# 10 Standout Objects Discovered at London's Collect Craft Fair

The annual event, now in its 19th edition, is the leading international fair for contemporary craft

BY VICTORIA WOODCOCK ([HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/AUTHOR/VICTORIA-WOODCOCK/](https://galeriemagazine.com/author/victoria-woodcock/))

MARCH 3, 2023

**f** (<http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://galeriemagazine.com/10-standout-objects-discovered-londons-collect-craft-fair/>) **p** **t** (<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?text=%2010+Standout+Objects+Discovered+at+London%E2%80%99s+Collect+Craft+Fair%20-%20https%3A%2F%2Fgaleriemagazine.com%2F10-standout-objects-discovered-londons->

collect-craft-fair%2F) ✉ (mailto:?subject=10 Standout Objects Discovered at London's Collect Craft Fair&body=Read the article here <https://galeriemagazine.com/10-standout-objects-discovered-londons-collect-craft-fair/>)

In London's stately Somerset House, [Collect craft fair](https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/collect-art-fair) (<https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/collect-art-fair>) is currently underway (until March 5). The grand neoclassical building overlooking the Thames has been commandeered by the Crafts Council—a British non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of craft practices. Its annual event, now in its 19th edition, is “the leading international fair for contemporary craft”, says its director Isobel Dennis. “The year’s range of galleries and artistic voices is so rich in content, [involves] so much storytelling, and really pushes the boundaries of the art disciplines of making.”

At the preview event, one visitor declared: “It’s a punchy one this year.” And it’s a good summary. While craft has been making waves in art-world circles for some time now, dedicated “craft” events sometimes feel left behind. The Collect team is working to redress this balance, attracting an international roster of galleries, highlighting emerging talent, and reaching out to a new, global audience via an ongoing partnership with online marketplace [Artsy](https://www.artsy.net/fair/collect-2023)— (<https://www.artsy.net/fair/collect-2023>) which cites Collect as one of its most successful virtual fairs. Clickable craft objects (online till March 12) range from design jewelry to sculptural furniture, large textile wall-hangings to intricate pieces of glass. Most have transparent pricing, and many are relatively (and, by fine art standards, remarkably) accessible. Here are ten standouts.





Alice Kettle, *Star Flowers*, (2021).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND CANDIDA STEVENS GALLERY

## 1. Alice Kettle, *Star Flowers* (2021), at Candida Stevens Gallery

With textile art and “craft figuration” currently finding fresh appreciation, 61-year-old British artist [Alice Kettle](https://candidastevens.com/artists/33-alice-kettle/works/3292-alice-kettle-star-flowers-2021/) (<https://candidastevens.com/artists/33-alice-kettle/works/3292-alice-kettle-star-flowers-2021/>) is something of a pioneer. She’s long used free-stitched machine embroidery to create unique and painterly figurative works, and has just been announced as the winner of this year’s Brookfield Properties Craft Award. *Star Flowers* (2021) represents a transition in her practice, says Candida Stevens. “She worked with refugees for many years on a project called *Thread Bearing Witness*, creating portraits of the people she encountered. But in lockdown, her work changed completely, and she began looking at the flowers in her garden. So this piece has the first flowers, and the last portraits.”



Anthony Amoako-Attah, *Take Me Home* from the *Ghana Must Go* series, (2022).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND BULLSEYE PROJECTS

## 2. Anthony Amoako-Attah, *Take Me Home* (2022), at Bullseye Projects

It takes a while to understand that this bag-like sculpture by Ghana-born Anthony Amoako-Attah (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/anthony-amoako-attah-take-me-home-iii>) is not made of fabric but of glass. “He screenprints with glass powder onto sheet glass,” explains U.S.-based Bullseye Projects’ curator Michael Endo. “The patterns are based on Ghanaian kente fabrics as well as English textiles and Scottish tartan, to talk about his journey from Ghana to Sunderland, in the UK, where he now lives.”





Xanthe Somers, *Fruits of Our Forefathers*, (2022).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND GALERIE REVEL

### 3. Xanthe Somers, *Fruits of Our Forefathers* (2022), at Galerie Revel

A first time exhibitor at Collect, Bordeaux-based Galerie Revel is an exciting showcase of emerging talent. Unmissable in its Collect display are the large-scale ceramic vessels by Zimbabwean sculptor Xanthe Somers (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/xanthe-somers-fruits-of-our-forefathers>), whose glazed stoneware works bedecked in vibrant colors and motifs are at once pleasingly playful and thought-provokingly poignant. The 120cm-high *Fruits of Our Forefathers* (2022) combines African wax fabric with sculpted hands and cherries—a fruit Somers only saw in books when growing up in Zimbabwe, and which she uses as “a symbol of British culture in Zimbabwe,” she says. “The false dreams sold as progression and Christian emancipation by the British colonists are still prevalent – and are passed down through generations of remaining privilege, hence the title.”



Anne Laure-Cano, *Ussade-117*, (2022).

PHOTO: SARAH HOGAN PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND 155A GALLERY

#### 4. Anne Laure-Cano, *Ussade-112* (2022), at 155A Gallery

French artist Anne Laure-Cano (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/anne-laure-cano-ussade-112>) wields ceramics in an earthy and organic way. Her alluring, stickle-brick sculptures combine rough stoneware and smooth porcelain, stacking together mottled textures and messy shapes. “I love bric-à-brac and surround myself with a selection of objects, pieces I make and break, found objects, tin cans, sand, metal,” she says in her artist statement. “I pick them up, mix them with wet clay, cement, plaster, metal and organic components until strange objects emerge looking more like they have been found than made.”







Reynold Rodriguez, *GRAVITY + GRACE*, (2019).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND CHARLES BURNAND GALLERY

## 5. Reynold Rodriguez, *Gravity + Grace* (2019), at Charles Burnand Gallery

One of the fair's more design-led exhibitors, Charles Burnand Gallery's display skewed big and bold, but the work of Puerto Rican artist and designer Reynold Rodriguez (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/reynold-rodriguez-gravity-plus-grace>) still managed to make a statement. The pair of chairs poetically titled *Gravity + Grace* (2019) do indeed manage to appear both weighty and airy, hand-carved from rich, charred mahogany into simple and sinuous forms. They were also “close to being sold” within hours of the fair opening, said gallery owner Simon Stewart, whose other Rodriguez pieces are equally appealing, including a slightly space-age, plaster work, *The Table That Dreamed... (of being light)* (2021).



Verity Pulford, *In a World of One's Own I*, (2022).

PHOTO: STEPHEN HEATON; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND NORTH LANDS CREATIVE.

## **6. Verity Pulford, *In a World of One's Own I* (2022), at North Lands Creative**

“I got really obsessed with lichen and moss first,” says British glass artist Verity Pulford (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/verity-pulford-in-a-world-of-ones-own-i>). “Then I started getting into fungi... I’m just really interested in nature, but all in a magical-realism sort of way.” At Collect, a trio of glass mushroom sculptures – all made using the lost-wax casting technique, and then built-up with *pâte de verre* (powdered glass paste) – have an *Alice in Wonderland* feel to them.



Sooyeon Kim, *Her Oulu, Finland*, (2021).

PHOTO: KC STUDIO; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND SIAT GALLERY

## 7. Sooyeon Kim, *Her Oulu, Finland* (2021), Siat Gallery

With locations in Seoul and Paris, Siat Gallery was founded in 2019 by Jeannie H Lee and specializes in Korean contemporary arts and crafts. Its display was topped by Sooyeon Kim's (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/sooyeon-kim-shining-night-at-a-museum-seoul>) mesmerically swirling mash-up of photography and sculpture.



Su Blackwell, *Book of Butterflies*, (2022).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND LONG & RYLE

## 8. Su Blackwell, *Book of Butterflies* (2022), at Long & Ryle

Another glass dome, this time Victorian and filled with butterflies—all painstakingly cut from the pages of the vintage book below. British artist and Su Blackwell (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/su-blackwell-book-of-butterflies>) has book making these “book sculptures” since 2003, bringing to life flocks of birds or fairytale forests that are at turns enchanting and eerie.



Dalia James, *Untitled 1, 2 and 3*, (2022).

PHOTO: DEBRA FINN; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND CAVALIERO FINN

## 9. Dalia James, *Untitled 1, 2 and 3* (2022), at Cavaliero Finn

Working in east London, [Dalia James](https://www.artsy.net/artwork/dalia-james-untitled-i) (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/dalia-james-untitled-i>) creates softly geometric textiles that nod to women weavers of the Bauhaus. This trio of panels are hand-woven in silk and bamboo, dyed by James using natural materials such as turmeric, saffron and cochineal.



King Houndekpinkou, *Gravity: Mother Earth, Four Baby Bottles to Feed Four Souls*(2021).

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND 50 GOLBORNE

## **10. King Houndekpinkou, *Gravity: Mother Earth, Four Baby Bottles to Feed Four Souls* (2021), at 50 Golborne**

More ceramics, but the work of [King Houndekpinkou](https://www.artsy.net/artwork/king-houndekpinkou-gravity-mother-earth-four-baby-bottles-to-feed-four-souls) (<https://www.artsy.net/artwork/king-houndekpinkou-gravity-mother-earth-four-baby-bottles-to-feed-four-souls>) demands to be talked about. Inspired as much by video

games as traditional ceramics, the Paris-based artist uses vibrant hues, spiky surfaces, dripping glazes and gold accents to majestic effect.

Cover: Installation view of Dalia James', *Untitled 1, 2 and 3*, (2022).

PHOTO: DEBRA FINN; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND CAVALIERO FINN

## MORE FROM GALERIE

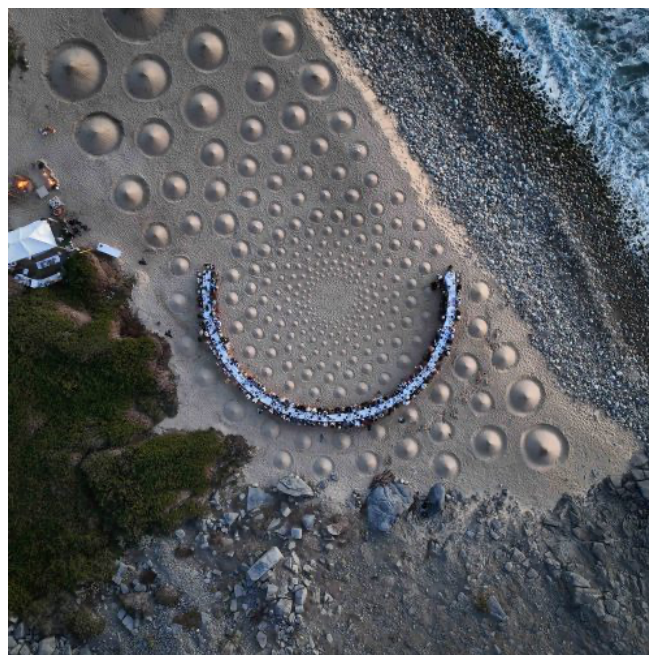


(<https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show/>)

ART + CULTURE

([HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CATEGORY/ART/](https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/))

**Artist Joana Vasconcelos Creates a Mythical Landscape for Dior Show in Paris**  
(<https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show/>)

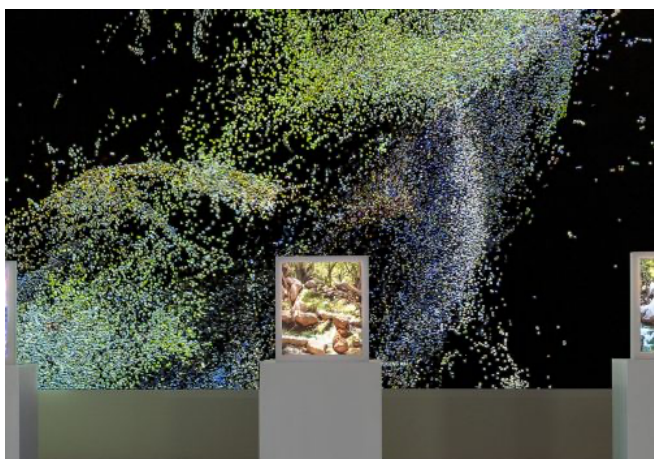


(<https://galeriemagazine.com/outstanding-in-the-field/>)

ART + CULTURE

([HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CATEGORY/ART/](https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/))

**Meet the Maker Transforming Large-Scale Dinner Events with Massive Art Installations**  
(<https://galeriemagazine.com/outstanding-in-the-field/>)







(<https://galeriemagazine.com/new-york-los-angeles-8-must-see-gallery-shows-march/>)

ART + CULTURE

([HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CATEGORY/ART/](https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/))

### From New York to Los Angeles, 8 Must-See Gallery Shows in March

(<https://galeriemagazine.com/new-york-los-angeles-8-must-see-gallery-shows-march/>)



(<https://galeriemagazine.com/s-i-newhouse-auction/>)

ART + CULTURE

([HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CATEGORY/ART/](https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/))

### Masterpieces from S.I. Newhouse's Legendary Art Collection Are Coming to Auction

(<https://galeriemagazine.com/s-i-newhouse-auction/>)

## Live artfully with curated stories straight to your inbox

Sign up for the Galerie newsletter

**SUBSCRIBE**





# Artist Joana Vasconcelos Creates a Mythical Landscape for Dior Show in Paris

Crafted with 20 of the label's signature fabrics, the museum-worthy installation set the stage for the brand's Fall/Winter 2023 collection

BY LUCY REES ([HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/AUTHOR/LUCY/](https://galeriemagazine.com/author/lucy/))

MARCH 3, 2023

**f** (<http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show/>) **p** (<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/create/button/>) **t**

([https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?text=%20Artist+Joana+Vasconcelos+Creates+a+Mythical+Landscape+for+Dior+Show+in+Paris%20https%3A%2F%2Fgaleriemagazine.com%2Fjoana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show%2F)

[text=%20Artist+Joana+Vasconcelos+Creates+a+Mythical+Landscape+for+Dior+Show+in+Paris%20https%3A%2F%2Fgaleriemagazine.com%2Fjoana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show%2F](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?text=%20Artist+Joana+Vasconcelos+Creates+a+Mythical+Landscape+for+Dior+Show+in+Paris%20https%3A%2F%2Fgaleriemagazine.com%2Fjoana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show%2F)) **e** ([mailto:?subject=Artist Joana Vasconcelos Creates a Mythical Landscape for Dior Show in Paris&body=Read the article here https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show/](mailto:?subject=Artist+Joana+Vasconcelos+Creates+a+Mythical+Landscape+for+Dior+Show+in+Paris&body=Read+the+article+here+https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show/))

**e** ([mailto:?subject=Artist Joana Vasconcelos Creates a Mythical Landscape for Dior Show in Paris&body=Read the article here https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show/](mailto:?subject=Artist+Joana+Vasconcelos+Creates+a+Mythical+Landscape+for+Dior+Show+in+Paris&body=Read+the+article+here+https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-dior-fall-2023-fashion-show/))





The artist at work.

PHOTO: LAORA QUEYRAS. COURTESY OF DIOR

**D**ior is certainly no stranger to creative collaborations, regularly tapping some of the world's leading contemporary artists to transform everything from its accessories to ready-to-wear collections. But the maison's recent Fall/Winter 2023 fashion show at the Jardín de las Tullerías in Paris upped the ante with a dazzling museum-worthy installation by artist [Joana Vasconcelos](https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-guggenheim-bilbao/) (<https://galeriemagazine.com/joana-vasconcelos-guggenheim-bilbao/>).

The brand's legendary creative director [Maria Grazia Chiuri](https://galeriemagazine.com/dior-maria-grazia-chiuri/) (<https://galeriemagazine.com/dior-maria-grazia-chiuri/>)—who is known for ardently supporting women, the arts, and the diminishing craft of savoir faire—commissioned the Portuguese artist to fill the venue with one of her monumental installations. Titled *Valkyrie Miss Dior*, the mass of organic forms were crafted with an assortment of [Dior](https://www.dior.com/en_us) ([https://www.dior.com/en\\_us](https://www.dior.com/en_us)) fabric, lace, and knitted crochet. Weighing some 20 tons, the otherworldly artwork resembled a bulbous nucleus suspended from the ceiling with tentacle-like arms stretching out.



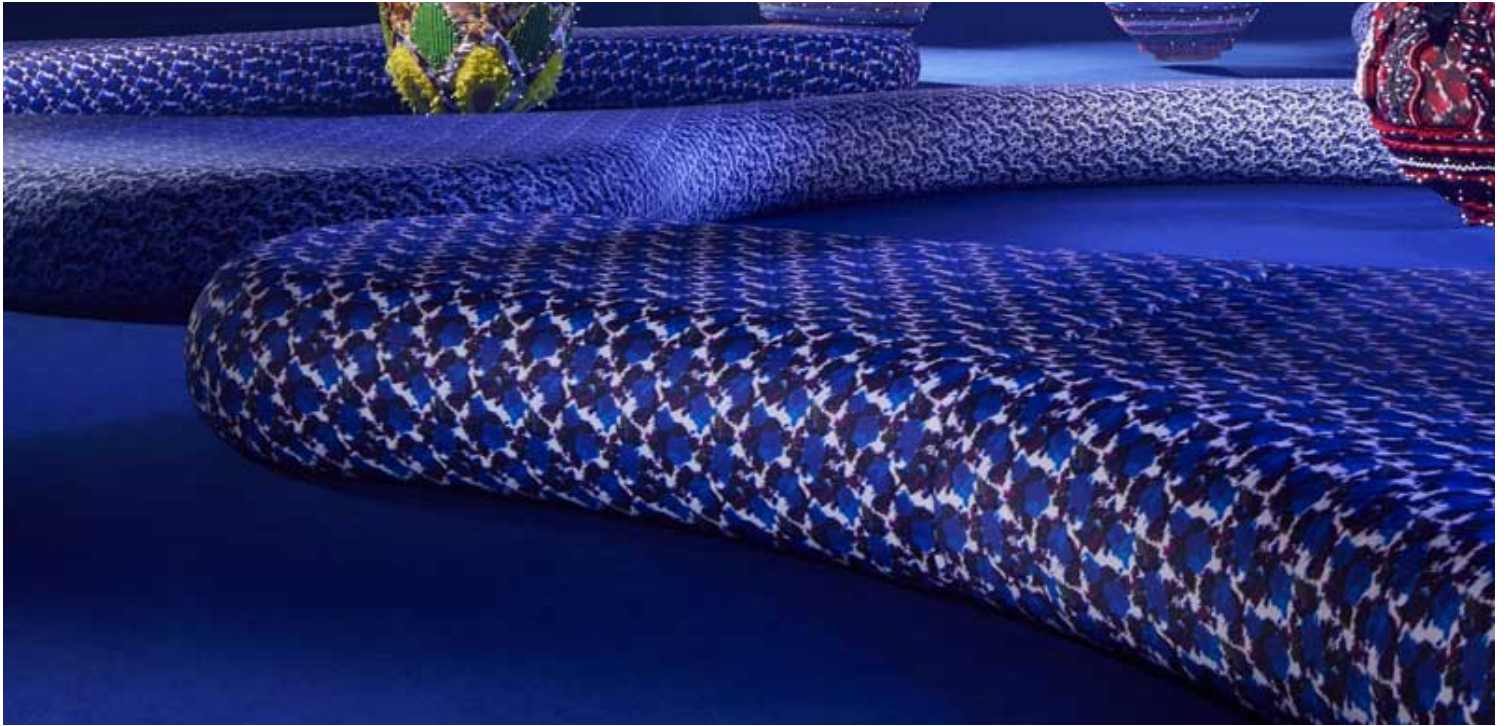
The Dior Fall/Winter 2023 finale.

PHOTO: ADRIEN DIRAND. COURTESY OF DIOR

For the collection, Maria Grazia Chiuri wanted to pay homage to three powerful female characters of French history: Christian Dior's sister Catherine Dior, singer Édith Piaf, and actress Juliette Gréco. Adding her artistic spin, Vasconcelos interpreted these women

as Valkyries, which in Norse mythology were heroines sent to the battlefield by Odin to choose those worthy of Valhalla. “I developed this installation not only to integrate the fabrics but also to fill up the space, interacting with the models and the public,” the artist said in a statement. “Exploring a triple relationship between monumental sculpture, human bodies, and inhabited clothing, almost like a kind of sculptural dance. Between visual arts and fashion.”





Detail of the Dior set.

PHOTO: ADRIEN DIRAND. COURTESY OF DIOR





Detail of the Dior set.

PHOTO: ADRIEN DIRAND. COURTESY OF DIOR

Vasconcelos also noted her love of fashion, adding, “Fashion is an important part of my life. For those, like me, who started showing their work at Lisbon’s Manobras in May 1994, this collaboration with Dior is a dream come true.” This project marks Vasconcelos’s second collaboration with Dior; in 2013, she created a giant bow using hundreds of Dior perfume bottles.

ART + CULTURE

(/CATEGORY/ART)

Dior's Maria Grazia Chiuri Celebrates the Feminist Spirit with a Striking Collection of Fashion Photography

(<https://galeriemagazine.com/dior-maria-grazia-chiuri/>)



(<https://galeriemagazine.com/dior-maria-grazia-chiuri/>)

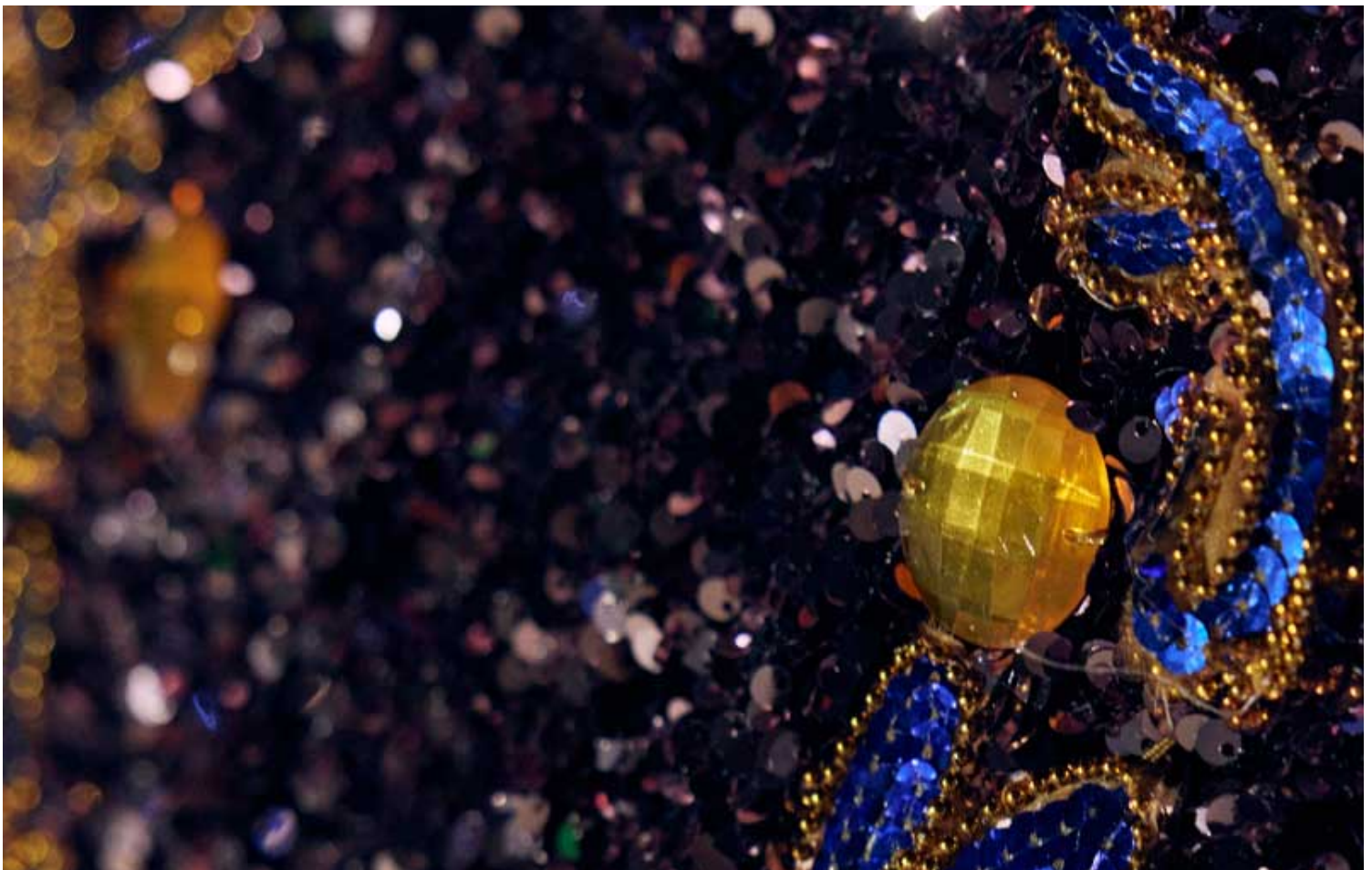






A detail of the savoir faire.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DIOR





A detail of the savoir faire.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DIOR

Against this striking backdrop, the looks from the ready-to-wear collection were a perfect contrast with their direct, austere, and powerful aesthetic, which were inspired by a re-reading of codes from the 1950s. Nods to the brand's history and archives are ever-present, too, with the floral motifs integrated into the textured fabric with a metallic thread. Splashes of primary, jewel-tone colors like ruby, emerald, topaz yellow, and sapphire are sprinkled throughout, adding to the dazzling effect of the artwork above. Ultimately, the show is an inspiring and powerful celebration of feminine creative energy on every level.



Looks at the Fall/Winter 2023 Dior show in Paris.

PHOTO: LAURA SCIACOVELLI COURTESY OF DIOR.

Cover: The set for Dior's Fall/Winter 2023 runway show created by artist Joana Vasconcelos.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DIOR

## MORE FROM GALERIE



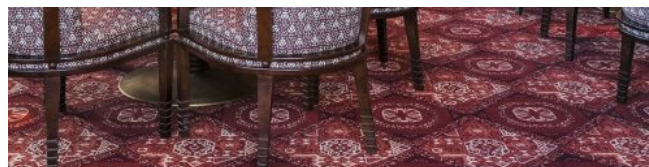


(<https://galeriemagazine.com/s-i-newhouse-auction/>)

ART + CULTURE

(<https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/>)

Masterpieces from S.I. Newhouse's Legendary Art Collection Are Coming to Auction (<https://galeriemagazine.com/s-i-newhouse-auction/>)



(<https://galeriemagazine.com/artful-life-feb-28/>)

ART + CULTURE

(<https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/>)

The Artful Life: 6 Things *Galerie* Editors Love This Week (<https://galeriemagazine.com/artful-life-feb-28/>)



(<https://galeriemagazine.com/exhibition-alula-brings-andy-warhol-arabian-desert/>)

ART + CULTURE

(<https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/>)

An Exhibition in AlUla Brings Andy Warhol to the Arabian Desert (<https://galeriemagazine.com/exhibition-alula-brings-andy-warhol-arabian-desert/>)



(<https://galeriemagazine.com/elevation-1049-gstaad/>)

ART + CULTURE

(<https://galeriemagazine.com/category/art/>)

The Swiss Alps Provide a Dramatic Backdrop for Ethereal Works of Art (<https://galeriemagazine.com/elevation-1049-gstaad/>)

Sign up to receive our newsletter

**SUBSCRIBE**

---

[SUBSCRIBE \(HTTPS://EZSUBSCRIPTION.COM/GAL/SUBSCRIBE\)](https://ezsubscription.com/gal/subscribe)

[ABOUT \(HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/ABOUT/\)](https://galeriemagazine.com/about/)

[PRESS \(HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/PRESS/\)](https://galeriemagazine.com/press/)

[ADVERTISING \(HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/ADVERTISING/\)](https://galeriemagazine.com/advertising/)

[CONTACT US \(HTTPS://GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CONTACT/\)](https://galeriemagazine.com/contact/)

---

*LiveArtfully*

 (<http://instagram.com/galeriemagazine>)   
(<http://facebook.com/galeriemagazine>)   
(<http://pinterest.com/galeriemag>)   
(<http://twitter.com/galeriemag>)

This site uses cookies to offer you a better experience. By continuing to browse our site you accept our cookie policy. (</privacy/>)

© 2023 HUDSON ONE MEDIA, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. [PRIVACY POLICY \(/PRIVACY/\)](/privacy/)

**ACCEPT**