

# tlmag

# #15

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EN

# new territories

duo design

sublime

marble

south american

australian

african

Mathieu Lehanneur

Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance

Studio BricchetZiegler

Campana brothers

Bouroullec brothers



ISSN 2031-8316

BUREAU DE DÉPÔT BRUXELLES X P 402021  
NUMBER 15 - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2012 QUARTERLY  
Benelux: France: € 9,50, Europe: € 11,  
GB: £10, US: US\$ 16, Canada: CA\$ 20,  
Hong Kong: HKD 110, China: CNY 110,  
Singapore: SGD 18



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# collectors

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN ESTHER DE BEAUCÉ AND DIANE VENET

*Passionate about artists' jewellery for over twenty five years, Diane Venet lends her prestigious collection to museums around the world. Esther de Beaucé, Venet's daughter, who owns a gallery in Paris specialising in these portable sculptures, looks back on their extraordinary artistic adventure.*



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# sentiment

conversation about artists' jewellery

- *Esther de Beaucé*: The idea for your collection started unexpectedly in 1987 when Bernar Venet wound a piece of silver wire around your ring finger. This sculptural gesture was also a sign of love, which is also what drove many famous artists from the early twentieth century to create jewellery for their muses. Marie-Thérèse and Dora Maar were both muses of Picasso. He engraved pieces of bone for one and painted shells that he found on the beach for the other...

- *Diane Venet*: As for Calder, he made his first pieces of jewellery for his sister's dolls when he was eight years old. The first piece of jewellery by Man Ray was an earring designed using a thermom-

eter, which he gave to a friend. The wonderful Peggy Guggenheim, herself a muse, famously wore one earring made for her by Yves Tanguy and another by Calder at the opening of her gallery in Venice in 1942. She said it was in order to show her impartiality between Surrealism and Abstract Art!

- *Esther de Beaucé*: There is one point that you insist upon, especially in your exhibitions and books: the difference between a piece of jewellery created by an artist and jewellery created by a designer. When I talk about my job as a gallerist I am also often confronted with this confusion.



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1. Loop, silver ring, Axel Kufus, edited by Biegel, 2001 © COURTESY GALLERIE WINMAESTERPIECE (PARIS)
2. Indeterminate line, silver ring, Bernar Venet, 1998, Diane Venet Collection © COURTESY GALLERIE WINMAESTERPIECE (PARIS)
3. Gran Prix, silver ring, Konstantin Grcic, edited by Biegel, 2001 © COURTESY GALLERIE WINMAESTERPIECE (PARIS)
4. Marana, white gold ring, 18 carats, Bianca Muñoz, edited by Grassy Madrid, 2010 © COURTESY GALLERIE WINMAESTERPIECE (PARIS)
5. Untitled, brass bracelet, Alexander Calder, 1945, Patricia Pastor Friedman collection © COURTESY GALLERIE WINMAESTERPIECE (PARIS)
6. Esther de Beaucé wears a gold ring by Frank Stella [2010] © COURTESY GALLERIE WINMAESTERPIECE (PARIS)
7. Diane Venet wears a combination of indeterminate lines, Bernar Venet[1992], Diane Venet collection © COURTESY GALLERIE WINMAESTERPIECE (PARIS)

- *Diane Venet:* For me, wearing artists' jewellery is akin to wearing art. I look upon my collection as a miniature museum. I lead a busy life and it's become an intimate museum that I can take with me on my travels. At first glance they look like formulaic sculptures. But their raison d'être, and their application, their size - in short their close implication with the female body - make them special objects.

- *Esther de Beaucé:* Indeed, in my small exhibitions, I always place the jewellery on pedestals or hanging from rods as if they were pieces of sculpture, distancing myself from the type of presentation that is considered the norm for 'classic jewellery.' My gallery window is designed as if it were an exhibition for contemporary art. There are the muses but there are also the goldsmiths who express the artists' desire for jewellery. 'The continuation of my hand' said Braque, when talking about the German jeweller Heger de Lowenfeld who had made countless pieces of jewellery for him in the 1950s.

- *Diane Venet:* In Italy, Gem Montebello played a key role producing work for Man Ray, Pol Bury, Nikki de Saint-Phalle, Meret Oppenheim and Lucio Fontana. His wife was the sister of brothers Arnaldo and

Gio Pomodoro. He was extremely active between 1967 and 1978. At the same time in France, François Hugo, great grandson of the writer, collaborated with Pablo Picasso, André Derain, Jean Arp, Jean Dubuffet, Max Ernst, Roberto Matta and Dorothea Tanning.

- *Esther de Beaucé:* This crucial relationship is still at the heart of most projects. While some artists create their jewellery themselves, like Takis or Miguel Chevalier who uses 3D printing, most of them collaborate with skilled goldsmiths. Both of us have a 'dream list' in our heads made up of artists that we would love to commission to create a piece of jewellery: Erwin Wurm, Matthew Barney, Maurizio Cattelan, Tatiana Trouvé... but it's a long list! One of your latest exploits was to persuade the great American artist, Frank Stella, to make a ring for you.

- *Diane Venet:* Yes, it was a long complicated process because it's not just about the artist producing what he excels at on a much smaller scale. It can be a real challenge for an artist to create a piece of jewellery! But when I received the ring designed by Stella, I was totally amazed. For me it represents the incredible conceptualisation of artistic genius and intelligent craftsmanship.