

Fashion News

Big diamonds, Calvin couture, women on top in Paris, and a surprising name in handbags



Old Future, by DEPARTURES contributing photographer Erik Madigan Heck, arrives in stores in April.



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HAIL TO THE DIRECTRICE

With women at the top of Dior and Lanvin, we review the history of women at the head of Paris fashion houses.



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When **Maria Grazia Chiuri** (1) made her debut as Dior's creative director in September, she sent a model on the runway in a white T-shirt that read: We Should All Be Feminists. Chiuri, formerly at Valentino, had good reasons for raising the banner of feminism in her first Dior show. Her appointment was a milestone for the fashion house, which had never had a woman at its helm during its 70-year history. Nevertheless, Chiuri stands on the shoulders of many women who led Parisian haute couture ateliers over the last century.

Before **Madame Grès** (2) relinquished control of her

troubled fashion house in the mid-'80s, she had been the last of the great female couturiers. In the first half of the 20th century, women such as **Madeleine Vionnet** (3), **Elsa Schiaparelli** (4), and **Coco Chanel** (5) helped to reframe French fashion as *French* fashion. As soon as Germaine Krebs—Coco's real name—opened her atelier in the 1930s, her flattering dresses based on drapes and pleats garnered the patronage of high-profile clients like the Duchess of Windsor, Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, and, later, Grace Kelly and Jackie Kennedy. She died in 1993, the year her rival **Madame Carven** (6) retired from her namesake

couture house. That year also marked the exit from haute couture for Lanvin, France's oldest fashion house in continuous existence, which **Jeanne Lanvin** (7) founded in 1889 at the corner of 22 Rue du Faubourg St.-Honoré in Paris, a few steps away from the current headquarters. Lanvin's appointment in 2016 of artistic director **Bouchra Jarrar** (8) (she designs ready-to-wear but is one of the rare female designers to hold official haute couture certification in France) continues the return of a female force in French fashion—at a time when most major fashion brands are still run by men. —*Elena Berton*



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THE LOAFER IS BACK



Paul Stuart
suede, \$550



Ermenegildo Zegna
woven leather, \$895



Galet
cotton twill, \$175



John Lobb
saddle suede, \$1,175



Giuseppe Zanotti
suede, \$810

IS THAT A NEW BERGEN?

"It started when my daughter asked me to paint on her Louis Vuitton bag," says actress, author, and now handbag artist Candice Bergen. "I've painted a few dogs, horses, some tacos. I've had the most fun. But I have gone a bit overboard at times and had to replace some bags. I've only painted one Hermès, and I was a wreck. At this point, this whole thing is costing me money." Artwork takes four to six weeks; prices start at \$700—all of which goes to the ASPCA or the Natural Resources Defense Council. bergenbags.com



Hard Currency

Is your ring finger a safe place to keep your money?

Investment value has become an important term this year. And jewelers along Madison Avenue in New York report clients are arriving with the term in mind—and going straight for pieces priced above \$100,000. Should you be looking to buy and/or invest, Tom Burstein, senior international jewelry director at Christie's New York, suggests shopping for large, important, and rare diamonds and colored gemstones. These continue to achieve record prices at auction houses like Christie's—compared with signed vintage and antique jewelry, which can be more subjective in the secondhand market. The diamond industry is projected to have steady if cautious growth in 2017, with demand outpacing supply growth, Bain & Company reports. And the overall jewelry industry is expected to grow about 5 percent each year through 2020, says another industry study. "We continue to see an extremely strong demand for large, high-quality white diamonds and rare colored diamonds, coupled with a scarcity of exceptional examples," says François Graff, CEO of Graff Diamonds, who adds that there can be only so many big diamond discoveries left out there. (Such as Chopard's recent find; see page 124.) "Which will inevitably lead to an increase in the value of these diamonds over time." —*Shannon Adducci*

FRUITS DE LA MER

When **La Mer** first hit beauty counters in 1995, using sea-born ingredients in skincare was practically unheard of. Today, sea-born botanicals are everywhere. The original, La Mer's Revitalizing Hydrating Serum, blends green, brown, and red algae for a profoundly healing hydration. **Decorté** uses the rejuvenating aspects of oyster extract in its Moisture Liposome Eye Cream.

Restorsea PRO's LipMagic promises plumper-looking lips with its patented salmon egg enzymes. **Zelens**'s Marine Complex stars a bio-fermented sugar molecule, claiming to bring about "more youthful skin." —*Codie Steensma*



La Mer
\$195



Decorté
\$62



Restorsea PRO
\$35



Zelens
\$190



TIMELESS

As it's created almost entirely out of black ceramic, **Audemars Piguet**'s latest Royal Oak Perpetual Calendar is resistant to shock, extreme temperatures, and even aging. Making it in ceramic (supply is limited) takes five times longer than the classic steel version. \$93,900



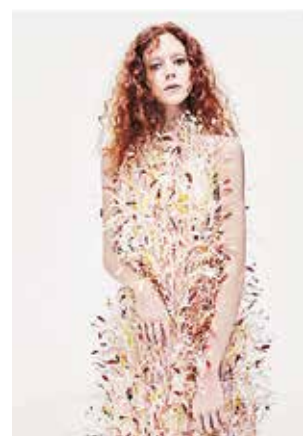
Diana's Victor Edelstein dress—worn in 1985, when she danced with John Travolta at the White House

When in London...

Marking 20 years since her death, "Diana: Her Fashion Story" showcases the Princess of Wales's royal wardrobe. The exhibition, through summer, is at Kensington Palace. Yes, that's right: her former home.

THE NEW CALVIN KLEIN

Raf Simons's first collection as chief creative officer of Calvin Klein is made-to-order. The launch of Calvin Klein By Appointment—a 14-piece women's collection—was announced online in late January, without notice, and immediately had the fashion world exclaiming, "Calvin Klein haute couture." Appointed in August, the Belgian-born Simons (previously the creative director for women's at Dior) has total creative control of the brand, putting him in charge of men's, women's, jeans, and tighty-whities. The last leader with such control? Calvin himself. *Appointments start April 1.* —*Erin Kelly*



COURTESY ABRAMS (CHECK); PHOTO12/UG VIA GETTY IMAGES (1); WILLY RIZZO/PARIS MATCH VIA GETTY IMAGES (2); VENTURELLI/GETTY IMAGES (3); ADOX-PHOTOS/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES (4); IAN SHOWELL/KEystone/HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES (5); ROGER VOLLET/GETTY IMAGES (6); COURTSEY KACPER KASPRZYK (7); APIC/GETTY IMAGES (8); JENS MORTENSEN (LOAFERS); ROBERT TRACHTENBERG (BERGEN); FRESHDRACULA (BAG)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TOMI UMI; LA MER; DECORTE; RESTORSEA; ZELENS; TIM GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES; CALVIN KLEIN (2); AUDEMARS PIGUET