

VIEW

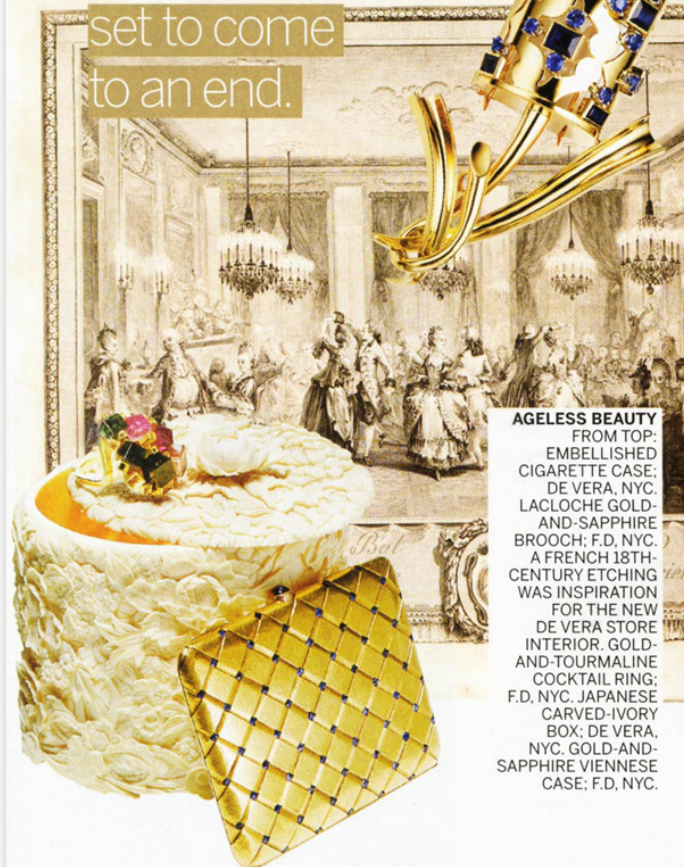


**ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF THE
EXQUISITE**
An Anecdotal History of Elegant Delights

OBJETS D'ART
FROM LEFT:
GEMSTONE-AND-
ENAMEL PEACOCK
EARRINGS; F.D. NYC.
JESSICA KERWIN
JENKINS'S BOOK,
\$28; AMAZON
.COM. JADE-AND-
CITRINE BROOCH;
DE VERA, NYC.

Seek and Find

The age-old hunt for the exquisite is set to come to an end.



AGELESS BEAUTY
FROM TOP:
EMBELLISHED
CIGARETTE CASE;
DE VERA, NYC.
LACLOCHE GOLD-
AND-SAPPHIRE
BROOCH; F.D. NYC.
A FRENCH 18TH-
CENTURY ETCHING
WAS INSPIRATION
FOR THE NEW
DE VERA STORE
INTERIOR. GOLD-
AND-TOURMALINE
COCKTAIL RING;
F.D. NYC. JAPANESE
CARVED-IVORY
BOX; DE VERA,
NYC. GOLD-AND-
SAPPHIRE VIENNESE
CASE; F.D. NYC.

References to the exquisite—the word comes from the Latin verb *exquirere*, or “to seek”—can be found everywhere this fall, and what perfect timing: we cannot live by digital revolution alone. There is still a deep-rooted yearning for impossibly beautiful objects whose vintage, handcrafted provenance can spin fantastical narratives in our mind’s eye. Writer Jessica Kerwin Jenkins documents plenty of esoteric examples in her book *Encyclopedia of the Exquisite: An Anecdotal History of Elegant Delights* (Nan A. Talese), which describes how past figures—Marchesa Luisa Casati; Emperor Ferdinand I—curated what they bought. (No, the phenomenon didn’t start with the Colette boutique in Paris.) And it’s also quite possible to conduct empirical research in the quest for the exquisite, thanks to two new store launches.

This month, Federico de Vera opens a treasure-box De Vera on New York’s East Eighty-first Street, filling the space—the interior is inspired by a litho of an eighteenth-century masked ball—with antique ivory figurines, Japanese lacquered boxes, and his own unique jewelry, including bracelets made from Georgian paste buckles that once adorned gentlemen’s dancing shoes. Also in the neighborhood is F.D., philanthropist Fiona Druckenmiller’s first store, showcasing vintage Cartier and Bulgari jewels, as well as Art Deco furniture and rare books. For Druckenmiller, the pull of an exquisite object goes beyond its surface appearance. “There is a meaning behind it,” she says. “One that transports you somewhere.”—M.H.

SPELL IT OUT

“These are precious words to say to someone,” says Stella McCartney of the sweet nothings encoded on her new collection of fine jewelry. There are five pendants in total, including these engraved 14K disks—nods to the current crush on all things romantic and seventies. For the most part, McCartney’s heartfelt missives are a paramour’s secret; the I LOVE YOU or BE MINE could pass for sophisticated hieroglyphic markings. “It’s only when you spin them that they reveal the message,” she says, laughing, of the *mots d’amour* clearly designed to be seen by a few eyes only.—CHIOMA NNADI view >210



SPIN ME ROUND
STELLA MCCARTNEY
PENDANT NECKLACES
(FROM LEFT), \$2,265
AND \$3,745; STELLA
MCCARTNEY, NYC.

Still life and store inspiration photographed by LIAM GOODMAN. Details, see in This Issue.

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