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November 2014

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# PARISIAN RENDEZVOUS





The Biennale des Antiquaires in Paris was the perfect occasion for fine jewellery brands to introduce their creations to the art-loving crowd.

By **DIONNE BEL**

**C**elebrating antiquities and fine arts, 86 world-renowned art and antique dealers converged at Grand Palais in Paris from 11 to 21 September to participate in the 27th edition of the invitation-only Biennale des Antiquaires. They presented more than 5,000 unusual and beautiful objects worth approximately US\$40 billion (\$51 billion) to 90,000 visitors. Far from Europe's mood of austerity, the prestigious art fair proved it was in the pink of health, especially for modern artworks and high jewellery.



French gallery Didier Aaron (top) and Bulgari (above) at the Biennale.

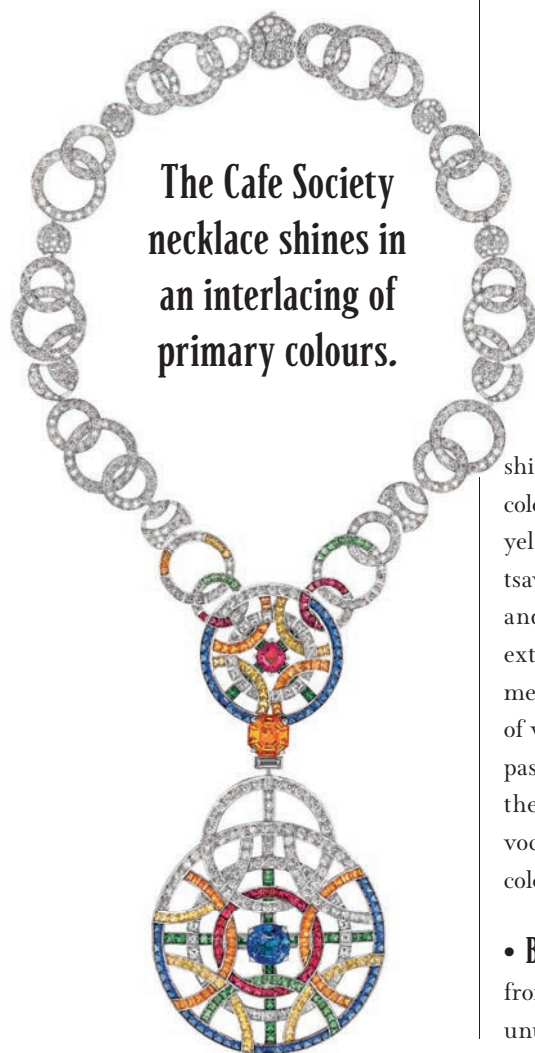
Facing page:  
Cartier's necklace with an intense red ruby from Africa.

## TOP 5 JEWELS

- **Piaget** The Swiss brand's 18-carat pink gold necklace features turquoise beads and marquise-cut diamonds set in the "palace" motif, a traditional technique used by Piaget since 1966. The upper part resembles an iridescent ribbon and the lower part is made from hundreds of interwoven links to provide suppleness.
- **Cartier** The maison's panther medallion on a platinum necklace

set with blue sapphires, onyx and diamonds illustrates the meticulous art of micro-mosaics. Here, tiny squares of agate are assembled as the spotted skin of the feline. The stones are first ground down to obtain plates less than half a millimetre thick, then cut as tesserae, assembled on the platinum structure and polished to render the surface smooth.

• **Chanel** The Cafe Society necklace



The Cafe Society necklace shines in an interlacing of primary colours.

shines in an interlacing of primary colours through the use of blue and yellow sapphires, orange garnets, tsavorites, spessartites, red spinels and diamonds. Featuring an extremely light setting so the metal disappears, as well as a lot of volume with curved lines that pass all around the central stone, the necklace represents a new vocabulary at Chanel in terms of colour and design.

• **Bulgari** The emerald earrings from this Italian brand are in an unusual flat, geometrical shape,

recalling the legendary gems set on sumptuous jewels from the Persian Empire. The earrings comprise four large emeralds of more than 140 carats set in a contemporary, clean Bulgari design.

• **Van Cleef & Arpels** A brooch in the shape of a dragonfly with thin transparent wings set with multicoloured pink sapphires illustrates Van Cleef & Arpels' innovative Mystery Setting technique, where see-through rather than opaque stones are used. The brand's global president and CEO Nicolas Bos says: "The whole purpose of Mystery Setting is to make the metal disappear and only see the stones. We wanted to be sure that it would be as light and delicate as real wings, while of course being made of precious stones."



Clockwise from left: Chanel's Cafe Society necklace; Piaget's pink gold necklace; Bulgari's emerald earrings.



## TOP 5 ANTIQUES AND ARTWORKS

### • 1760s Jean-Francois Oeben secretaire

This rare secretaire houses a secret compartment by French cabinetmaker, Jean-Francois Oeben. The desk features wood marquetry with a three-dimensional cube effect adorned with neoclassical gilt bronzes and a Breche d'Alep marble top. It was presented by the Paris-based, family-run Kraemer Gallery, which owns the world's largest privately owned collection of 18th-century French furniture and objets d'art.

### • Head of Apries

Dating to 599-570 BC, this Egyptian granodiorite



was exhibited by the Paris-based, family-run Galerie Chenel, an authority in archaeological objects with particular emphasis on Roman arts. The round face is characterised by almond eyes whose upper eyelids are highlighted by fine rims in relief.

### • La Table Rose by Nicolas de Stael

This oil on canvas was painted by de Stael's life in 1953, when he returned to classical painting, producing still lifes, nudes, landscapes and seascapes in which objects served

only as a pretext for expressing a mental image.

### • Atelier Polloni stained-glass window

The stunning 13-piece stained-glass window was created in 1968 and 1973 by the Italian glassworks Atelier Polloni after an original drawing by Sergio Papucci. Set in lead, it associates coloured glass made from different techniques that offer changing perspectives depending on the light.

### • Collection by Xavier Eeckhout

Passionate about 19th- and 20th-century animal sculptures, the established Parisian antiquarian Eeckhout displayed approximately 20 rare art objects. Among the fabulous bestiary ranging from birds to felines, *La Pomme de Ben* by Claude and Francois-Xavier Lalanne stood out.



Main image:  
original ceramic pieces  
from the 19th and 20th  
centuries on display at Paris-  
based Galerie Vauclair's booth.  
Inset:  
Head of Apries.