

FRENCH ART DE VIVRE

CONNAISSANCE DES
arts

#6

PORTRAITS



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JACQUELINE DE RIBES TRIBUTE TO A FASHION ICON

Some call her “The Last Queen of Paris”... Born in 1929, the Countess de Ribes’ name was associated with haute couture when photographers such as Irving Penn, Richard Avedon, David Bailey, Jean-Baptiste Mondino and Juergen Teller began immortalizing her style. The icon, muse and friend of fashion designers, Jacqueline de Ribes is also a major benefactor of several museums, for example the Musée d’Orsay and the Orangerie, and supports Venetian Heritage, an American not-for-profit organization working to safeguard the Most Serene Republic. But style alone is the theme of this exhibition that presents 60 haute couture and prêt-à-porter outfits from her personal archives. Encouraged by Yves Saint Laurent, from 1983 to 1995, she even ran her own couture house with a clientele including Joan Collins, Raquel Welch and Farrah Fawcett. Oscar de la Renta once said: “No one knew like Jacqueline the power of an entrance,” and she is still a fascinating personality. She often reminds people that since she was born on July 14, she was destined to stir up a small revolution... **M.M.**

■ “Jacqueline de Ribes, The Art of Style”, Nov. 19, 2015–Feb. 21, 2016, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028. www.metmuseum.org

CHRISTIAN BERST FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN NEW YORK

When he launched his gallery in the Marais district of Paris in 2005, he was told there was no market for Art Brut... which explains how proud Christian Berst now is to be celebrating his tenth anniversary in Paris and his first in New York: “This city seemed a natural choice to me, given the interest the United States has always taken in Art Brut, even if it has been incorporated into folk art and outsider art.” Aware of the risks, the gallery owner teamed up with Daniel Klein and signed Phillip March Jones as director of the two-storey, 2,150-square-foot space in Lower East Side. Which is more than enough room for the work of a contemporary “art brut” artist to be shown on the upper level. To quote Christian Berst: “In addition to a rapidly changing market (70 per cent of my turnover comes from collectors of contemporary art), formal, geographical and cultural frontiers have really opened up.” **M.M.**

■ www.christianberst.com



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JULIEN LOMBRAIL AND LOÏC LE GAILLARD OPEN ON FIFTH AVENUE

And that makes four! After London, Paris and Roissy, Carpenters Workshop Gallery opens on New York’s elegant Fifth Avenue in early November. Nearly 5,400 square feet on the top two floors of the Takashimaya Building are reserved for the gallery’s designers, with a ceiling reaching almost 45 feet high at the summit. Obviously this is a huge challenge for Julien Lombrail and Loïc le Gaillard. “Nine years ago, we delivered pieces on a scooter... So this is both a dream and a very big step, which, all the same, is a logical development since 40 per cent of our clientele is already American.” They say they owe their success not only to the choice of artists, but also to the quality of their production. Today, the two associates don’t get much sleep but are eagerly awaiting their inaugural exhibition in midtown Manhattan to show the very best of what they have put together since they opened in London. **M.M.**

■ www.carpentersworkshopgallery.com