

“Or du temps”

An exceptional marriage of haute couture and Sèvres porcelain

In an act of passion, bravery and folly, maison parisienne wanted to bring together designer Hubert Barrère and Sèvres-Cité de la céramique in a unique union of haute couture and porcelain.

The French designer, a virtuoso corsetier, has designed a superb dress specially for the “Or du temps” event, superbly embroidered with porcelain. It pays homage to the famous “nipple bowl”, an emblematic item if ever there was one, commissioned by Queen Marie-Antoinette from the Sèvres works in 1787.

Quite apart from this homage to the tradition and expertise that now inspire the 130 ceramists in the porcelain works set up at the suggestion of Madame de Pompadour in 1740, Hubert Barrère sought inspiration in a work of art in the Classical tradition, the Virgin Mary of Melun, a painting by Jean Fouquet (1450) apparently showing the Virgin’s breast as She suckles the Infant Jesus.

This evening dress, a dress straight out of a fairytale, is a daring combination of delicate porcelain and guipure lace on a Sèvres blue crepe ground. It is a “Or du temps” design that reveals the couturier’s talent and the technical prowess of the master porcelain makers.

It took more than three months for the porcelain designs and two months in the workshop and production shop at Sèvres followed by another month to make the dress and assemble the various components in Hubert Barrère’s workshop to create this superbly crafted gem, the first piece of a future collection, which will be revealed to you in advance, on 1st December in the unique surroundings of the Plaza Athénée.



Bol sein de la lâtterie de Rambouillet, 1787
© G. Jancsa/Sèvres - Cité de la céramique

Sèvres-Cité de la céramique

Sèvres - Cité de la céramique is the new publicly-owned establishment set up on 1st January 2010 after the merger of the Manufacture nationale de Sèvres (national porcelain works) and the Musée national de la céramique de Sèvres (national porcelain museum).

The conditions for the opening of a major international centre for ceramics, porcelain and pottery all came together, encouraging the joint, complementary development of production, distribution and additions to collections.

Thanks to this outstanding cultural, economic and artistic potential, the new establishment is giving priority to contemporary design, the accessibility of its collections to the widest possible public and the strengthening of public and private partnerships.

La Cité boasts some 200 people including 130 ceramists in 27 workshops specialising in 30 different trades. It devotes more than one-half of its output to modern design, preserving the combination of tradition and modernity, attracting patrons by the newness of some of its items, retaining patrons by its quality and distinguishing itself from other works by its audacity.

Each period in history has seen developments in the expertise of craftsmen and progress in the imagination and talent of the artists who came to seek new inspiration at the works. Together, they have helped to give the establishment its identity.

This same concept of future creativity provided the basis for the “Or du temps” dress commissioned by maison parisienne and designed specially for the event by Hubert Barrère.

Hubert Barrère – Corsetier

He is one of those people who enhances a woman's body without imprisoning it, working with the natural form without impeding it. It was while he was learning his craft with the costumier Vicaire, developing in-depth knowledge of historic costumes and embroidery, that Hubert Barrère discovered the item that would change his life – corsets.

This legacy from the 17th century which encompassed a female bust to display all its feminine charms fell out of fashion because it was seen as too restrictive, too rigid and too stifling. It became the couturier's obsession and, thanks to him, it enjoyed a second lease of life. Although Hubert Barrère seeks to give women a new seductiveness by rehabilitating an object of desire that had disappeared from the fashion scene, he never forgets that it has to be a garment in which a woman can live, rather than a restricting piece of armour.

He set off on his quest, mixing age-old techniques and experiments with new materials, turning the "object of torture" into an "object of pleasure".

His quest was carefully monitored by the new names in fashion from Jean Paul Gaultier to John Galliano, Alexander McQueen or Stella McCartney. All of them saw this elegant yet erotic item as a wonderful accessory that would spice up their designs. They placed orders with him season after season.

His quest also gave rise to his first collection, in 1996, for which he was rewarded with the Grand Prix de la Mode de la Ville de Paris (the leading fashion award from the City of Paris).

Although the corset remains his favourite garment and the basis of his work, Hubert Barrère does not want to limit himself to corsets alone. He became the Artistic Director of Maison Hurel and designed embroidery for leading couturiers in Paris, Rome and Milan.

Since 2001, within the calendar drawn up by the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture, he has also presented his own collection of clothes which allow him to express his artistry in corsetry while exploring new horizons with designs in tulle and muslin held in place solely by bones. His reputation very quickly travelled beyond the borders of France and he became particularly popular in China where he has been invited on several occasions since 2003 to stage a fashion parade as part of Fashion Week.

He is an inveterate traveller and the first man to be elected President of the Fashion Group International in Paris. Hubert Barrère has proven that he is as capable of playing with softness and lightness in his designs as he is of rejecting predefined "rules". Corsets are free; so is the corsetier.

- 1996 launch of the Hubert Barrère corset range. Awarded the Grand Prix de la Mode de la Ville de Paris
- 1997 became Artistic Director of Maison Hurel
- 2000 made the corset for Madonna's wedding dress
- 2002 made corsets for Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior
- 2003 Elie Saab asked Hubert Barrère to produce his off-the-peg range
- 2004 presented the third Hubert Barrère Haute Couture collection
- 2008 became President of the Fashion Group International in Paris
- 2008 winner in the competition for luxury and creative talent, awarded the prix de l'Audace
- 2009 Ambassador and Sponsor of the International Lace Centre in Calais
- 2010 January, presentation of the Conversation collection in the Jacques Barrère Gallery;
July, Conversation exhibition at Bund 18 in Shanghai.

maison parisienne

From talent comes the exceptional

There can be nothing exceptional without talent and French craftsmen are unique in this respect, combining culture and tradition, knowledge and expertise.

Beyond the manual skill, there is a work of art; and beyond the work of art, there are the men and women whose everyday life is steeped in the outstanding art of rare objects and luxury materials.

Imagine a company without a catalogue, a company that does not discuss products or ranges, a company in which every item is unique because it is made by the hand and heart of Man.

maison parisienne is that company, offering a collection of rare objects created from the passion and expertise of a handful of craftsmen who design and make the most outstanding and most beautiful items possible, each in his or her own craft form.

maison parisienne is that company, discovering and rediscovering a French lifestyle, showing audacity and contemporary design, working to pass it on and share it with enthusiasts, the initiated, collectors of emotions and lovers of the unusual and curious.

maison parisienne is showing a special, appealing collection of unique pieces or items in very small limited editions, unusual objects for the house or for people, nourished by the talent of French craftsmen and their love of beauty and luxurious materials.

Every delight has its own object.

Every desire has its own integral emotion.

"Or du temps"

An exhibition in partnership with the Plaza Athénée Sèvres-Cité de la céramique and Hubert Barrère

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Dorchester Collection - Le style de l'individualité

Idéalement situés dans les plus belles villes du monde, les hôtels de la Dorchester Collection – The Dorchester à Londres, The Beverly Hills Hotel et l'Hotel Bel Air à Beverly Hills, Le Meurice et l'Hôtel Plaza Athénée à Paris, l'Hotel Principe di Savoia à Milan, The New York Palace à Manhattan -, sont synonymes d'exclusivité et de luxe extrême. Chambres et suites alliant charme, modernité et confort, restaurants et bars de renom, spas luxueux,...les hôtels de la Dorchester Collection, avec un style et une personnalité qui leur sont propres, accueillent une clientèle prestigieuse et offrent à leurs hôtes une expérience exceptionnelle : le sentiment unique d'être chez soi.

Pour plus d'informations sur la Dorchester Collection, veuillez contacter Julia Record /Directrice de la Communication au +44 20 7319 7524 ou par email jrecord@dorchestercollection.com www.dorchestercollection.com



One of the Dorchester *Collection*