

V I C T O R I A B E C K H A M

Emily Young Jewellery and Sculpture on Display at Victoria Beckham's London Store

This autumn, Victoria Beckham's flagship Mayfair store will host an installation of work by Emily Young - hailed as Britain's greatest living stone sculptor.

The latest in a series of artist collaborations at the store, the installation picks up the conversation between Victoria Beckham's apparel and Young's jewellery, first sparked at the Victoria Beckham Autumn Winter 17 Ready-to-Wear show in February. A selection of Young's small sculptures - skilfully adapted into jewellery and exclusively represented by the Louisa Guinness Gallery - decorated looks worn on Victoria Beckham's New York catwalk. This jewellery, as well as the clothing it adorned, will be for sale at the brand's 36 Dover Street store and showcased alongside a curated edit of Young's larger works, represented by Bowman Sculpture.

Carved by hand using traditional techniques, each work accentuates the natural energy and beauty of the stone. Elaborating on the process of creating wearable sculpture, Young explains:

"I started to make the jewellery because I had little tiny offcuts from larger pieces of very beautiful stones which I didn't want to waste. They often already had beautiful accidental shapes: little torsos, or heads, and I thought - if I just tidy these up a bit, refine them, they could be tiny portable sculptures. The large pieces that I make and these small pieces all come from the same place: from the detritus of the natural world, often formed over hundreds of millions of years ago. To wear one of these pieces on your body seems a particularly easy way of being in touch with the beauty of the earth, it's geology, its delicacy, its strength."

Whilst Young's sculptures mediate on the memory and the history of our planet, Victoria Beckham's AW17 Ready-to-Wear collection considers her own heritage in the context of a changing landscape. Using quintessentially British fabrics such as tartan and houndstooth in classic menswear tailoring, the collection evokes a sense of comfort and familiarity.

'When the world seems uncertain and complicated, you want clothes that make you feel secure and strong. My Autumn Winter collection was about beautifully crafted clothes made for reality, and a real woman's life. Emily Young's jewellery fitted perfectly with this idea. The pieces we used in the show are almost like found objects - they blur the line between sculpture and adornment. I'm really thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase them, and other works by Emily, at my Dover Street store.' -Victoria Beckham

Emily Young's work is on display at 36 Dover Street from 15th September - 13th October 2017, coinciding with Frieze London over 5th - 8th October. All works on display will be available for purchase.

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V I C T O R I A B E C K H A M

About Emily Young:

Emily Young was born in London into a family of writers, artists, politicians and adventurers. Her grandmother was the sculptor Kathleen Scott, a colleague of Auguste Rodin and widow of the explorer Captain Scott of the Antarctic.

As a young woman, Emily Young worked primarily as a painter, having studied briefly at Chelsea School of Art, Central Saint Martins London, and Stonybrook University, New York. She left London in the late 60s, and spent the next years living and /or travelling in the USA, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, South America and China. It was during these travels, whilst encountering an extensive range of cultures, that she developed her broad view of art and it's history.

In the early 1980s Emily Young started carving in stone, raiding quarries and stone yards for stone from all around the world. The primary objective of her stone sculpture is to bring the natural beauty and energy of stone, including its capacity to embody human consciousness, to the fore. Her sculptures have unique characters due to each individual stone's geological history and it's geographical source.

Her approach allows the viewer to comprehend a commonality across time, land and cultures. Her constant preoccupation is our troubled relationship with the planet, which underscores her studio practice. In her combination of traditional carving skills with technology, she produces work that marries the contemporary with the ancient, manifesting a unique, serious and poetic presence.

Emily Young currently divides her time between London and Italy. She is represented exclusively, worldwide, by Bowman Sculpture.

About Louisa Guinness Gallery:

Louisa Guinness Gallery works with today's leading sculptors and painters to create jewellery as well as collecting and dealing in works by master artists.

The gallery opened in May 2003 with its inaugural exhibition 'Past and Present; Jewellery by 20th Century Artists'. With this show Louisa Guinness departed from her original focus on artist-made furniture into the world of artists' jewels. The exhibition placed specially commissioned works by contemporary artists Ron Arad, Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Ettore Sottsass and Sam Taylor Wood beside the creations of Alexander Calder, Georges Braque, Lucio Fontana and Niki de Saint Phalle.

Since then the gallery has collaborated with 25 contemporary artists including Mariko Mori, Ed Ruscha, Gavin Turk, Yinka Shonibare and Tim Noble & Sue Webster to create artist-made jewellery. Concurrently the Louisa Guinness Gallery has built-up an impressive collection of historic jewellery, including pieces by Pol Bury, Max Ernst, Lucio Fontana, Pablo Picasso and Man Ray.

In 2013 the gallery moved to a new space in Mayfair, London. This space remains the first ever to be dedicated exclusively to exhibiting artists' jewels. It houses a rotating exhibition programme, presenting works by 20th Century and 21st Century artists.

Each new work is published in a small edition to the highest standard. Most are handmade in London's famous Hatton Garden district or the artist's studio. The ethos behind the jewellery is that it should be treated as wearable sculpture: whilst it is not being worn it is a piece of art independent of function, at home on a coffee table or in a dressing room.

V I C T O R I A B E C K H A M

About the Victoria Beckham Brand:

Since launching in 2008 the Victoria Beckham fashion brand has developed a distinctive and modern language of clothing. Bold, intuitive and refined, its wardrobe of apparel and accessories is now stocked in over 400 stores in over 50 countries internationally. Starting from a small studio in Battersea, the company now employs over 160 people, with two London offices and a third in New York. With each collection Victoria adapts her own personal style to the needs and desires of the international women who swear by the label's luxurious and flattering garments.

As the Victoria Beckham collections become ever more progressive, so this passion for innovation extends to the brand's communications and creative projects. In 2013 it launched victoriabeckham.com, a website offering both e-commerce and interactive content curated to provide a more intimate view of Victoria's design approach and working processes. In September 2014 Victoria Beckham opened its first store at 36 Dover Street in London – a collaboration with architect Farshid Moussavi to transform a neglected Mayfair townhouse into a shopping destination echoing the dynamism and modernity at the heart of the brand and housing all four categories. In 2016 the brand opened its first bricks and mortar store in Asia with an impressive second global retail location at the Landmark in the centre of Hong Kong.

In autumn 2016, Victoria Beckham partnered with esteemed beauty brand Estee Lauder to create a limited edition make up collection. A second Victoria Beckham Estee Lauder make up collection, twice the size of the first, will debut in September 2017.