

LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY

is pleased to present



Glow
CORA SHEIBANI
JEWELS WITH FLUORESCENCE

LONDON: March 6—April 30 2019

NEW YORK: May 16—May 23 2019 at Louisa Guinness Gallery c/o Colnaghi Gallery,
38 East 70th Street, NY 10021

LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY is delighted to present *Glow*, the gallery's first solo exhibition with designer Cora Sheibani who creates works of art that women love to wear.

This exhibition is a celebration of fluorescent gems: stones that have an incredible and unusual property of glowing in a different colour whilst exposed to ultra violet (UV) lighting. Part of the gallery space will be transformed into a site-specific installation, presenting viewers with a dark wonderland in which they can explore each unique piece of glowing jewellery alongside amazing fluorescent and phosphorescent minerals.

'Fluorescence and phosphorescence are a significant characteristic of certain gems, a quality that is often overlooked but I believe should be used as a design feature,' says Sheibani.

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For the past year, Sheibani has been on a hunt for fluorescent gemstones. Some of these have been used to make fluorescent versions of previous designs and others to inspire her to make new designs. Although there are many minerals that fluoresce or phosphoresce, only a small number of durable gems show these special properties. Fluorescence is the phenomenon of colour change caused by the exposure to UV light. Phosphorescence means that this change continues to be seen for a certain period beyond exposure to UV light. All pink and red spinels, rubies and pink sapphires fluoresce an intense red colour. A small number of yellow sapphires turn orange and only a few blue sapphires can turn red. Brown diamonds usually fluoresce white and most yellow and white diamonds fluoresce blue when exposed to UV light. On Instagram she discovered that the most intense pink spinels from the Mansin mine in Burma are called “Jedi” spinel by the local dealers as they exhibit such strong fluorescence it reminds them of the lightsabers in Star Wars!

When it comes to diamonds, according to the GIA, 65-75% do not exhibit any fluorescence. In the past 40 years diamond dealers in the west have increasingly viewed fluorescence as an impurity that affects the gemstone’s price. According to a GIA study in 1997, “the average person could not make the distinction between a diamond with fluorescence and a diamond without”. However, Sheibani finds fluorescence to be a positive quality that adds an interesting and hidden dimension that makes it more unique.

For our exhibition *Glow*, all of the jewellery has been designed with special consideration given to how the colours will appear in *both* normal and UV lighting. The *Glow* jewels have an extra dimension to them that can be cherished by the wearer and enjoyed at will, with the help of a light.

In true Sheibani style, the works are completely design driven and manufactured to the highest quality, mostly in Switzerland, but also in France, Germany and the United Kingdom. Her unique works are either abstract or inspired by playful objects with interesting shapes and infused with her love of colour. Upon reflection, Sheibani feels that it is perhaps her passion for colour that led her to explore and bring to the foreground the neon side of certain gemstones. She has designed brand new works for the exhibition and has also created a selection of new pieces including her cupcake rings, rain cloud brooches and flowering cacti bracelets relating to her previous collections. A section of the exhibition will resemble a mini retrospective of her works of the past 15 years, enhanced by a neon glow. A brooch inspired by skyscraper blocks will sit neatly beside another resembling a rain cloud; both of which will include glowing blue diamonds, representing windows and rain.



Left: Large Cupcake Ring, 18k Rose and White Gold set with pink Opal and pink Spinel baguettes; Berry Ring, 18k Rose Gold set with pink Sapphire beads; Decorated Gugelhupf Ring, 18k Rose Gold set with Rubies. Right: Cloud Brooch, 18k White Gold set with Daimonds; Valence Plus Ring, 18k Rose Gold set with a Pink Sapphire.

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NEW YORK

The exhibition will travel to New York in May 2019 and will be presented alongside a selection of Louisa Guinness Gallery artist jewellery in the Colnaghi Gallery from 16th May – 23rd May. The show will exhibit some new pieces by Cora Sheibani which are not included in the London exhibition. LGG will display highlights from her collection including works by Alexander Calder, Lucio Fontana, Jeff Koons and Anish Kapoor. Guinness will also be introducing her book “Art as Jewellery”. A separate press release to cover this will follow.

QUOTE FROM LOUISA GUINNESS

‘I am really thrilled to present this exhibition of Cora's work. I have long been an admirer of her style and design skills and am a collector of her work myself. The time and care she puts into the production of each piece is exemplary and the quality speaks for itself.

I love the playful designs which use vintage copper cake moulds and ice cream cones as subject matters, I adore the clouds with rain drops of diamonds sprayed across the facade. The wire cage rings and pendants which imprison bright gemstones, the pretzel gold chain, the frame brooches, all such simple subjects but depicted so elegantly in original yet timeless design.

We look forward to inviting our clients to the gallery to explore our own version of Aladdin's cave and discover the beauty of Sheibani's gems and treasures.

I have mostly worked with artists who are painters or sculptors; this solo exhibition adds a new layer to the gallery by extending its following and representation. With this exhibition we represent a young talented designer who speaks through her jewellery as an artist might otherwise do on canvas.’

—LOUISA GUINNESS

For any press enquiries or for high res images please contact LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cora Sheibani was born on March 9th, 1980 to Christina and Bruno Bischofberger, a prominent art dealer in Switzerland. From an early age, she benefited from an environment dedicated to modern and contemporary art and design. She received an Art History degree from New York University in June 2001. She lives in London with her husband and three children.

In January 2001, whilst studying at NYU, Cora Sheibani decided that she wanted to design jewellery and started her first jewellery sketchbook. In the summer of 2002 she completed a degree in gemmology from the GIA in London. In December 2002, she launched her eponymous jewellery label at an exhibition in London's Mayfair.

Cora Sheibani's pieces are almost exclusively made in Switzerland, France and Germany, by goldsmiths of the highest calibre. She started out by making small groups of work and individual pieces, each unique.

Cora Sheibani continues to make single jewels while occasionally putting together a whole collection. In 2006, she published a book of her Valence collection, with text by Ettore Sottsass, who one of her early supporters and influences. The collection was a series of unique pieces made of gold wire. Since then she has made many other pieces using wire to create voluminous pieces and often incorporating precious gems. The Copper Mould Collection was launched in New York in 2008. These pieces are inspired by the shapes and graphic designs of baked goods and copper moulds. Cora published a cookbook to accompany this collection that includes actual recipes. In September 2011, inspired by the abstract shapes of clouds, she launched a collection called Clouds with a Silver Lining. In 2012 Cora Sheibani created a group of jewels inspired by cacti and succulents with an accompanying book.

Cora Sheibani was invited to present her Colour & Contradiction collection in a Curio space at Miami Design in 2016. Her work was shown in a colouring-in booth she created to launch her colouring-in book for the collection. Visitors were given markers to fill in their own coloured versions of the jewellery. Her latest collection was inspired by a silver hollowware project. It is a collection of pieces inspired by eyes and was launched in 2017.

Aside from showing her designs in private viewings by appointment, Cora Sheibani has had jewellery exhibitions in many cities including London, Zurich, Geneva, Basel, St.Moritz, Paris, Copenhagen, Miami, Milan and New York.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Louisa Guinness Gallery works with today's leading sculptors and painters to create jewellery as well as collecting and dealing in works by The Modern Masters such as Picasso, Man Ray and Calder.

The gallery opened in May 2003 with its inaugural exhibition 'Past and Present; Jewellery by 20th Century Artists. Since then it has worked on over 18 separate projects with leading contemporary artists and published a book called 'Art as Jewellery'.

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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.'

The gallery is extending its reach to work with a few exceptional jewellers who make mostly one-off pieces. It is also proud to continue to present LG Treasures, a carefully curated selection of vintage jewellery for the collector who wishes to acquire a classic or simply to have something beautifully original, yet elegant and timeless.

'Everything you will discover in the gallery deserves a place in your collection, ready for the next generation' -
Louisa Guinness.

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