

BETONY VERNON

BIOGRAPHY 2020

“Nothing reveals the functionality of the objects Betony Vernon designs. Yet, her works are at the service of the body, exacerbated, loved. Betony Vernon is invested in the field of erotic and sensual doing. The development of her work is multidisciplinary, spanning sessions of practical teaching and curative sharing, the writing of her book *The Boudoir Bible* currently translated in 7 languages and the design of sublime objects — jewels, sculpture, furniture, objets d’art — as well as happenings. The most recent public happening was in 2017 at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France. Through this wide fan of mediums, none of which abstract the human body, Betony Vernon signs an aesthetic of wellness, a sophisticated interaction to the other and above all, to oneself.” — Michele Heuze, 2017

Daring, provocative and boundary-defying, Betony Vernon is an American-born designer, sexual anthropologist and author based in Paris. Her aesthetic is formed by her explorations in spirituality, sex, sensuality and the erotic body realm. She holds degrees in Art History and Metalsmithing from Virginia Commonwealth University as well as a master’s degree in Industrial Design from Domus Academy in Milan, Italy. In 2017 she certified as a clinical hypnotherapist in order to further her ongoing research and transformational work in sexual well-being, abuse and trauma.

Her design work has been included in a number of international exhibitions from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to the Triennale Design Museum in Milan. She has also designed jewelry and objects for several brands including Missoni, Gianfranco Ferré, Alexander Wang, Pampaloni and Fornasetti. Vernon was also the design director for Fornasetti from 1996-2012. In 2002 her erotic jewelry collection, composed of over 400 functional jewels and objects in sterling silver and 18 karat gold, became the interface for what she describes as her mission to empower women and men to enjoy and share greater pleasure.

Rizzoli International published Vernon’s first book *The Boudoir Bible, The Uninhibited Sex Guide for Today* in February 2013. The tome is currently available in 7 languages. A re-edition of the French version published by Robert Laffont was released in November 2016 reaching bestseller status.

Vernon’s designs are crafted in Italy using natural, durable materials such as gold, silver, marble, leather and wood. The *Origin Chair*, a functional sculpture carved in statuary marble from Italy, was unveiled in December 2012 at the Triennale Design Museum in Milan and has since traveled to MUDAC-Museum of Design and Contemporary Art in Lausanne. In November 2015 the work was also exhibited in Vernon’s *carte blanche* Installation for the Gewerbemuseum in Winterthur.

In 2017, Vernon unveiled the *Boudoir Box* for the first time to the general public during *MEDUSA*, a group exhibition at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France. The transportable work was created in 1999 to present her erotic jewelry designs to collectors around the world. A selection of her designs is currently exhibited in Winterthur at the Gewerbemuseum in the group exhibition *Federn/ Feathers 2019-2020*.

Vernon’s ultimate goal both as author and designer is to “dismantle the pleasure taboo.”

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

2020 Boudoir Box Event - Saint Josephs Art Society, San Francisco
2019 Federn, Gewerbemuseum, Winterthur
2017 Medusa, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France
2016 Exhibition BODY in Wroclaw, Poland presents a selection of Paradise Found Fine Erotic jewelry
2015 Betony Vernon carte blanche at the Gewerbemuseum, Winterthur presents a selection of Paradise Found Fine Erotic jewelry and works in marble
2015 Grévin Musée Paris, Cara Delevigne wax sculpture styled by Karl Lagerfeld with Sado-Chic jewels
2014 Nirvana, Strange forms of pleasure MUDAC, Museum of Design and Contemporary Art in Lausanne presents a selection of Paradise Found Fine Erotic jewelry and works in marble
2013 GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts in Leipzig, Germany, exhibits the 'Soul-less shoes' in collaboration with the Virtual Shoe Museum
2013 The Boudoir Bible-The Uninhibited Sex Guide for Today is published Rizzoli, NYC
2013 KAMA Sex and Design, Triennale Design Museum-Milan, the Origin chair is unveiled
2012 Selling Sex, group exhibition, SHOWstudio, London
2011 AltaRomAltaModa, the "Soul-less" shoes were exhibited in the Limited/Unlimited group show of one-of-a-kind objects, Casanatense Library, Rome
2009 The Fashion Body exhibition, Somerset House in London presents "Minerva" a video created for Nick Knight's SHOWstudio
2009 Red Light Design Event, Salone del Mobile, Milan, presents Paradise Found jewelry
2008 Sex in Design, Design in Sex exhibition, Museum of Sex, New York, presents Paradise Found Fine Erotic jewelry
2005 Touch Me exhibition in Victoria and Albert Museum a Contemporary Gallery, London
2003 Body Craze exhibition, Selfridges, London
2002 Acquisition of "Science of Love" ring for the Permanent Collection, Fukui Prefecture Museum of Design, Japan

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

2018 Viceland, Luxury Sex episode with Karly Slutever
2017 Fashion TV interview with Vix Foster
2016 Ovation TV interview
2016 Europe1, Radio France with Frederic Taddei at Social Club talking sex, love, cinema and the new augmented edition of La Bible du Boudoir
2015 Canal+ France with Antoine de Caunes
2013 Canal+ France "Le Grande Journal"
2013 Canal+ France Thierry Ardisson, "Salut les Terriens"
2013 Hunger TV Interview with Rankin
2013 Showstudio.com, Nick Knight -interview
2012 Gucci-Fiat 500, Betony Vernon stars in "Polaroid Papillon" a short advertisement/film by Olivier Zahm
2011 Canal+ France "Sex Wiz Antoine", interview with Antoine De Caunes
2011 Le Figaro, art critic Valérie Duponchelle cites Betony Vernon as one of the most influential artists in Paris, "Le Paris du Pouvoir," March 23/2011
2011 Canal+ France, interview for Frédérique Barraja's documentary film on female pleasure
2011 TV Globo Brazil, interview for "Amor e Sexo"
2010 "Mutantes" interview for pro-sex feminist documentary film by Virginie Despentès
2010 Karl Lagerfeld Pirelli Calendar 2011
2010 Vogue.it, Focus on Betony Vernon, interview
2009 En Attendant Minuit, interview by 909 TV productions, France
2008 El País, Interview for documentary film series, Contemporary Sex Workers
2008 MTV Italy, writes and hosts Le Boudoir, didactic programming
2007 Sex TV, interview for Canadian public broadcasting
2006 Pink TV, France, Interview with Mathieu Lecerf
2005 Paris Dernier television, interview with Frédéric Taddei
2004 The Banquet on-line event with Nick Knight, SHOWstudio London

SELECTED BOOK FEATURES

- 2018 Sex Issues by Goop includes chapter on Bondage written by Vernon
- 2016 Your Beauty Mark, The Ultimate Guide to Eccentric Glamour by Dita Von Teese
- 2016 Night Mood, Soft Interruptions In A Private Place by photographer Kris Dewitte
- 2016 Sex in the Museum by Sarah Forbes, St. Martin's Press
- 2013 Rock Star Chic: The Dark Side of High Fashion-Farameh Media, The Curated Collection
- 2013 Fetishism in Fashion by Lidewij EdelKoort, FRAME
- 2013 The Boudoir Bible, The Uninhibited Sex Guide for Today, Rizzoli
- 2011 High Heels: Fashion, Femininity & Seduction by Valerie Steele, Thames & Hudson
- 2011 Design Behind Desire by Lisa Z. Morgan, Farameh Media, New York, USA
- 2008 Style File: The World's Most Elegantly Dressed by Iké Udé, Collins Design, UK