

BETONY VERNON



BIOGRAPHY

*Nothing reveals the functionality of the objects Betony Vernon designs. Yet, her works are at the service of the body, exacerbated, loved. The tassel attached to her iconic Sado-Chic bracelet caresses, the balls on her favorite Double Sphere ring massage. 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 9 languages and the design of sublime objects — jewels, sculpture, furniture, objets d'art — as well as happenings. The most recent public exhibition is in Paris at the Museum of Modern Art running until February 2022. Through this wide fan of mediums, non 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*

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 metal-smithing from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Masters degree in Industrial Design from Domus Academy in Milan, Italy.

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 collaborated with several brands including Maison Valentino, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Missoni, Gianfranco Ferré, Swarovski, Pampaloni, Karl Lagerfeld, Alexander Wang and Fornasetti. In 2002 her Paradise Found Fine Erotic Jewelry collection, composed today of over 400 jewels and jewel tools, became the interface for what she describes as her mission, to empower women and men to enjoy and share greater pleasure.

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 Monte Altissima was unveiled in December 2012 at The Triennale Museum of Design and has since traveled to MUDAC, Museum of Design and Contemporary Art, Lausanne. In November 2015 the work was also exhibited in Vernon's carte blanche for the Gewerbemuseum, Winterthur. She also participated to the group exhibition *Federn* in the same museum in-between 2019 and 2020.

In 2017, Vernon unveiled the Boudoir Box for the first time to the general public as part of the Medusa exhibition at the City of Paris Museum of Modern Art. The transportable work was created in 1999 to present her erotic jewelry to collectors around the world.

Vernon's ultimate goal both as a sculptor and a designer is to create durable designs that defy the hands of time and intimately empower her collectors.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2021-22 *Les Flammes – L'Âge de la Céramique*, Museum of Modern Art, Paris, France
- 2020 *Boudoir Box Event*, Saint Josephs Art Society, San Francisco, USA
- 2019 *Federn*, Gewerbemuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2017 *Medusa*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France
- 2016 *BODY*, Wroclaw, Poland
- 2015 *Strange Forms of Pleasure*, carte blanche, Gewerbemuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2015 *Sado-Chic jewelry on Cara Delevigne wax sculpture*, Grévin Musée, Paris, France
- 2014 *Nirvana, Strange forms of pleasure*, MUDAC Museum of Design and Contemporary Art, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2013 *Soul-less shoes*, GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts in Leipzig, Germany
- 2013 *KAMA Sex and Design*, carte blanche, Triennale Design Museum-Milan, Italy
- 2012 *Selling Sex*, SHOWStudio, London, UK
- 2011 *Limited/Unlimited*, Casanatense Library, Rome, Italy
- 2009 *The Fashion Body*, curated by Nick Knight, Somerset House, London, UK
- 2009 *Red Light Design*, Salone del Mobile, Milan, Italy
- 2008 *Sex in Design, Design in Sex*, Museum of Sex, New York, USA
- 2005 *Touch Me*, Victoria and Albert Museum, Contemporary Gallery, London, UK
- 2003 *Body Craze*, curated by Rankin, Selfridges, London, UK
- 2002 *Science of Love*, Permanent Collection, Fukui Prefecture Museum of Design, Japan

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2021 *Women in Tech*, podcast with Bishi
- 2019 *I am Heretic – "Dismantling the pleasure taboo"*, podcast with Douglas Little
- 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 Grand 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 Boudoir*, March 23/2011
- 2011 Karl Lagerfeld Pirelli Calendar 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 Despentes
- 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
- 2008 *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

- 2021 *How To Be A TasteMaker* by Semaine, gestalten éditions, Paris
- 2020 *Still Here – Moments in Isolation*, Distanz, Berlin
- 2018 *Sex Issues* by Goop press, Grand Central Life & Style, New-York – Boston
- 2017 *Medusa-Jewellery & Taboos*, Musée D'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris / Paris Musées
- 2016 *Your Beauty Mark*, The Ultimate Guide to Eccentric Glamour by Dita Von Teese, Dey St./ William Morrow Publishers
- 2016 *Night Mood, Soft Interruptions In A Private Place* by Kris Dewitte& Galerie Jan Dhaese
- 2016 *Sex in the Museum* by Sarah Forbes, St. Martin's Press
- 2016 *A Night on the Town in Paris*, SNEL-Grafics, Belgium
- 2016 *Katerina Jebb Musée Réattu*, éditions Skira Paris
- 2014 *Nirvana*, Infolio éditions, MUDAC museum, Switzerland
- 2013 *Rock Star Chic: The Dark Side of High Fashion-Fameh Media*, The Curated Collection
- 2013 *Fetishism in Fashion* by Lidewij Edelkoort, FRAME
- 2013 *The Boudoir Bible*, The Uninhibited Sex Guide for Today, Rizzoli
- 2012 *KAMA Sesso e Design*, Triennale Design Museum, Corraini Edizioni
- 2011 *High Heels: Fashion, Femininity & Seduction* by Valerie Steele, Thames & Hudson
- 2011 *Design Behind Desire* by Lisa Z. Morgan, Faramah Media, New York, USA
- 2011 *Francesco Clemente – The Tarots*, Hirmerverlag, Germany
- 2008 *Style File: The World's Most Elegantly Dressed* by Iké Udé, Collins Design, UK
- 2006 *Bordello*, Edel Classics GmbH, Hamburg / Germany
- 2005 *Dizionario del Gioiello italiano del XIX e XX Secolo*, Umberto Allemandi & C.
- 1998 *Dictionnaire International du Bijou*, Editions du Regard, Paris
- 1995 *Anni'90 Arte a Milano*, AIM Associazione Interessi Metropolitani, Milano