

VANITY FAIR

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Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Has a Date With Destiny

By JOY PRESS

Photographs by
ALASDAIR MCLELLAN

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Great Mosque of Djenné, Mali.



1. Aymer Maria Malian hoop earrings 2. Matturi Oval pendant
3. Almasika Veni Pavé ring 4. Vanleles Nile earrings
5. Laud Lacrimae bracelet.

Continental DRIFT

Taking inspiration from African architecture, masks and handicrafts, designers are celebrating symbolism

From traditional textiles to awe-inspiring architecture, ancient motifs are made modern in new designs by jewellers from the African diaspora. Aymer Maria's Malian collection features pyramidal rings and earrings scattered with baguette-cut diamonds, a stylised take on the architecture of west African mosques. Almasika founder Catherine Sarr is drawn to the universal significance of symbols that span cultures and generations. The hypnotic geometry of the new Veni Pavé ring was inspired by the lozenge shape, a protective symbol of feminine power often found in indigo textiles. "Drawing on my upbringing surrounded by the richness of indigo traditions, I was fascinated to discover the global presence of this pattern, from Asia to west Africa," says Sarr.

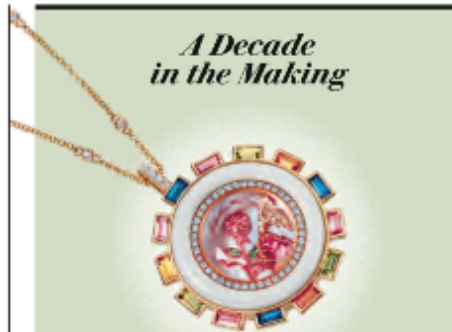
London-based Ghanaian jeweller Awah also combines global influences in his brand Laud. His signature hand-carved, faceted gold texture pays homage to *dalle de verre* stained glass as well as the handcrafted furniture and art of his childhood. "I wanted them to resemble relics that

have been discovered and restored," he says of his Oddment necklace and Torque bracelet. "Originally the texture was extremely faceted, but I wanted it to soften slightly to resemble the result of constant use over time."

Also finding inspiration in traditional African design is Matturi, with its signature Nomoli Totem echoing west African wooden masks. Eight years after launching, founder Satta Matturi, who trained as a rough-diamond grader, has reimagined the style as contemporary diamond and coloured-gemstone earrings and pendants, more abstract and stripped-back but retaining the powerful symbolism of the original.

Vania Leles of Vanleles, who was born in Guinea-Bissau, cast her mind to Mauritania and the Richat Structure, also known as the Eye of the Sahara, to develop the concentric motif of the Nile collection. Forming a lace-like openwork on the inside of hardstone bangles and hoops, it adds a symbolic dimension to the stackable summer jewels, drawing on the belief that the ancient Eye of the Sahara is what remains of the mythical city of Atlantis.

A Decade in the Making



LOQUET

Ten years after launching, Loquet has made its temporary home in Belgravia permanent. Cue a top-to-toe makeover at the hands of architect Richard Moore, with a candy-coloured palette inspired by Victorian sweet shops—only the pick'n'mix in store is far more precious. Expect plentiful new charms to mark the occasion.



REPOSSI ANTIFER

At 10 years old, Repossi's game-changing Antifer collection is as fresh as ever. The peaked, architecture-inspired motif forms the links of a chain necklace, angular hoop earrings and a 10-strong ring stack, alongside diamond-smothered high jewellery. Proof that designer Gaia Repossi remains the master of modern minimalism.



CHUPI

Irish fine jewellery brand Chupi is celebrating a decade of marking its many fans' life milestones with its meaningful and endlessly stackable designs. It's now bringing its alternative bridal styles to the UK. Look out for the signature twig-like bands inspired by the symbolic hawthorn, known as fairy trees in Celtic folklore.