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DISCOVERIES



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1. DESIGNERS PIERRE YOVANOVITCH (LEFT) AND CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN POSE WITH WELL-HEELED CHAIRS FROM THEIR NEW COLLABORATION. 2. SYRENA, ONE OF 10 DESIGNS FROM THE SERIES.

CREATIVE EXCHANGE

Fine Footwork

Pierre Yovanovitch keeps design lovers on their toes with the help of Christian Louboutin

When AD100 maestro Pierre Yovanovitch and footwear wizard Christian Louboutin met through their mutual friend—the landscape guru and AD100 Hall of Famer Louis Benech—15 years ago, they sensed they would one day work together on interiors projects. The duo’s first, in 2015, was Louboutin’s jewel box beauty boutique

in the Galerie Véro-Dodat, the 19th-century covered passage in Paris where his original shop is also located. “We had great fun with that little project,” Yovanovitch says of their inaugural collaboration, a surrealistic space resembling the interior of a nail polish bottle. (It closed in 2018 after Puig licensed Louboutin’s beauty line.)

Now comes their second act: a collection of 10 chairs adapted from Yovanovitch’s signature hits with little naïf shoes. “One morning, the idea came to me to go farther and give them real feet,” Yovanovitch recalls of the designs (nine of them limited-edition, one open-edition). “It was then that I thought of Christian, who said yes immediately.” For their structures, Yovanovitch modified his Clam chair, which was already in development. Louboutin then sketched slim and graceful legs, like those of burlesque star Dita Von Teese, his friend and client, with high-arched feet perched on tippy-toes. “A feminine form, with a sensuality,” Louboutin says. “We wanted elegance, yet fun.”

Each design is inspired by a cultural muse, Louboutin explains, like the Dita and the Pompadour (a nod to Louis XV’s mistress). The mermaid-esque Syrena meanwhile features sea blue upholstery embroidered with golden thread scales and wood legs sheathed in ivory fishnet stockings. Some of the feet are bare, some shod with great embellishment. All have Louboutin’s signature red soles. pierreyovanovitch.com —DANA THOMAS

1. ALESSIO BONI. 2. JEAN PIERRE VAILLANCOURT.