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**FASHION
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**THE SAUDI
ISSUE**

القوة والأناقة

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TALAL BIN ABDULAZIZ AL SAUD**



LEFT Christian Louboutin with Pierre Yovanovitch **BELOW** The Nefertari chair, which features an embroidered and laser-engraved pattern that evokes papyrus and lotus flowers



TAKE A SEAT

Chairs with high heels for legs feature in a new Louboutin collaboration

Not just a footwear designer, Christian Louboutin's empire also includes a self-named cosmetics line, the 13-room Vermelho Hotel outside Lisbon, the creative direction of Paris cabarets, and now, furniture design. Collaborating with French friend Pierre Yovanovitch, who imagined the clam-style silhouette, Louboutin's latest oeuvre is a leggy limited edition of chairs – all decked out in stilettos.

Inspired by film, historical muses, and mythology, nine chairs reference the likes of Queen Nefertari, the wife of Pharaoh Ramses II. Her namesake chair features an embroidered and laser-engraved pattern that evokes papyrus and lotus flowers; it is made in patinated oak and features bronze heels at the feet. Among the women-inspired seats, there is also one dedicated to Zenobia, who attracted artists and philosophers to the Palmyrene Empire of Syria.

Meanwhile, Louboutin's iconic Nude shoes influence a series of five female-inspired silhouettes in an array of woody hues ranging from bleached oak to dark-stained mahogany, with the feet of the chairs painted red. "Pierre also drew inspiration from my work around the Nudes – shoes that take on the different skin tones, from the lightest to the darkest," offers Louboutin.

Designer Yovanovitch founded his practice over 20 years ago, following a career in fashion. It was none other than Pierre Cardin who incited him to explore his interest in interior architecture. The 1920s Swedish Grace design movement, early 20th century American design, contemporary art, and his own home – the 17th century Château de Fabrègues de Provence featuring several on-site art commissions – all helped form his whimsical design narrative.

Meanwhile, his reverence for superior craftsmanship cements his haute couture aesthetic. Particularly for this Louboutin collaboration, world-class artisans including Maisons Vermont, Lesage Intérieurs, and Atelier Montex embroidery; Atelier Jouffre and Hugo Delavelle for their furniture artisanry; leatherwork by Audrey Ludwig; and fabric painter Christophe Martin all contributed to this masterful work. □

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