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## La Biennale Des Antiquaires: High End Antiques, Contemporary Art And Furniture, And High Jewelry

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La Biennale des Antiquaires opened in Paris on Tuesday with a black tie gala dinner, attracting collectors from all over the world looking for the best in antiques, art and jewelry. Now in its 27th edition, the Biennale was held in the Grand Palais, the vast museum transformed into the gardens of Versailles for the duration of the show by designer Jacques Grange. The fountains emitted a floral fragrance, and actual topiaries from the Versailles gardens were brought in for the occasion.

"I have been charged with the Biennale," said Herve Aaron, the President of the Biennale Commission and a respected antique dealer. "This is the most beautiful fair in the world. It's important for us dealers, it's important for all the participants, and it's important for Paris. Thanks to the Biennale, there are a lot of things happening in Paris this week, there is a lot of movement."

Jean Gabriel Mitterand , who sells classic contemporary artists such as Nikki de St Phalle and the Lalannes, as well as younger artists including Gary Webb and Rachel Feinstein, feels the Biennale is an opportunity for collectors to see the best of everything. A collector in the market for one of his Lalanne pieces, for example, may fall in love with a diamond necklace from Graff, or a rare Antique Chinese vase.

"The Biennale is a great opportunity for galleries, antique dealers and jewelers to show their best pieces to a unique assembly of people coming from all over the world. Contemporary Art collectors may find a piece of jewelry they like but never thought of buying, for example," says Mitterand.

High jewelry was prominent at the fair. Bulgari, Cartier, Chanel, Chaumet, Dior, Piaget and more were exhibiting. Wallace Chan showed the largest pink sapphire in the world. Alexandre Reza displayed twenty unique and creative pieces.

"I wanted viewers to take their time and enjoy every piece, and not overcrowd them," said Olivier Reza, who helms the company his father founded. "My brand is about taking the time to create something original with the best materials. When you have a piece from Reza, it will give you joy and keep its value throughout generations."

"The Biennale is important because it's the one fair where all the talent in jewelry in the world gets together in the most beautiful exhibition center to express the best they can offer," Reza continued. "Every house takes the time to develop and create its most exquisite pieces, to show clients and the world what each brand is about, with much effort and dedication."

Many Americans traveled to Paris to experience the elegant affair, including Danielle Steel, Becca Cason Thrash, Ulla Parker, Lauren and Andres Santo Domingo, and George Farias.

"We've been doing the Biennale for ten years," said **Dominique Levy**, whose Upper East Side gallery exhibits Post War and Contemporary Art. "In terms of quality and diversity it's a unique fair. For people to come here and see the best of 18th Century furniture, the best of ancient Chinese art, the best of jewelry and contemporary, it brings a challenge, a discovery, an opening to discussion that you don't have in any other fair."