

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 7 languages and the design of sublime objects — jewels, sculpture, furniture, objets d’art — as well as happenings. The most recent public happening was in Paris in 2017 at the Museum of Modern Art. 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, 2017.

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 Metalsmithing from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Masters degree in Industrial Design from Domus Academy in Milan, Italy. In 2017 she obtained certification for medical hypnosis in order to further her ongoing research and transformational work in sexual well being and overcoming the detrimental effects of sexual abuse and trauma.

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 designed for several brands including Missoni, Gianfranco Ferré, 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.

She teaches “Sexual Well-Being” Salons for individuals, couples and groups as well as speaking for educational institutions like The European Institute of Design and Domus Academy in Milan. It was through the experience of private consulting and public speaking that she realized she must reach a wider public in order to make a significant contribution to the dismantling of the pleasure taboo.

Rizzoli International published Vernon’s first book *The Boudoir Bible, The Uninhibited Sex Guide for Today* in February 2013. The tome is currently available in 7 languages. A re-edition of the French version published by Robert Laffont was released in November 2016 reaching bestseller status.

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.

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 author and designer is to “dismantle the pleasure taboo.”

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

- 2017 Medusa, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France
- 2016 Exhibition BODY in Wroclaw, Poland presents a selection of Paradise Found Fine Erotic Jewelry
- 2015 Betony Vernon carte blanche at the Gewerbemuseum, Winterthur presents a selection of Paradise Found Fine Erotic Jewelry and works in marble
- 2015 Grévin Musée Paris, Cara Delevigne wax sculpture wears Sado-Chic jewels
- 2014 Nirvana, Strange forms of pleasure MUDAC, Museum of Design and Contemporary Art in Lausanne presents a selection of Paradise Found Fine Erotic Jewelry and works in marble
- 2013 GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts in Leipzig, Germany, exhibits the 'Soul-less shoes' in collaboration with the Virtual Shoe Museum
- 2013 The Boudoir Bible, The Uninhibited Sex Guide For Today is published Rizzoli, NYC
- 2013 KAMA Sex and Design, Triennale Design Museum-Milan, the Origin chair is unveiled
- 2012 Selling Sex, group exhibition, SHOWstudio, London
- 2011 AltaRomAltaModa, the "Soul-less" shoes were exhibited in the Limited/Unlimited group show of one-of-a-kind objects, Casanatense Library, Rome
- 2009 The Fashion Body exhibition, Somerset House in London presents "Minerva," a video created for Nick Knight's SHOWstudio
- 2009 Red Light Design Event, Salone del Mobile, Milan, presents Paradise Found Jewellery
- 2008 Sex in Design, Design in Sex exhibition, Museum of Sex, New York, presents Paradise Found Fine Erotic Jewelry
- 2005 Touch Me exhibition in Victoria and Albert Museum a Contemporary Gallery, London
- 2003 Body Craze exhibition, Selfridges, London
- 2002 Acquisition of "Science of Love" ring for the Permanent Collection, Fukui Prefecture Museum of Design, Japan

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2018 Viceland, Luxury Sex episode with Karly Slutever
- 2017 Fashion TV interview with Vix Foster
- 2016 Ovation TV interview
- 2016 Europel, 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 Grande 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 Pouvoir," March 23/2011
- 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 Karl Lagerfeld Pirelli Calendar 2011
- 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
- 2007 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

- 2018 Sex Issues by Goop includes chapter on Bondage written by Vernon
- 2016 Your Beauty Mark, The Ultimate Guide to Eccentric Glamour by Dita Von Teese
- 2016 Night Mood, Soft Interruptions In A Private Place by photographer Kris Dewitte
- 2016 Sex in the Museum by Sarah Forbes, St. Martin's Press
- 2013 Rock Star Chic: The Dark Side of High Fashion-Faramah Media, The Curated Collection
- 2013 Fetishism in Fashion by Lidewij EdelKoort, FRAME
- 2013 The Boudoir Bible, The Uninhibited Sex Guide for Today, Rizzoli
- 2011 High Heels: Fashion, Femininity & Seduction by Valerie Steele, Thames & Hudson
- 2011 Design Behind Desire by Lisa Z. Morgan, Faramah Media, New York, USA
- 2008 Style File: The World's Most Elegantly Dressed by Iké Udé, Collins Design, UK