

WHAT TO SEE, READ, AND DO RIGHT NOW

# P O V

SHOP TALK

## Trunk SHOW

AS LOUIS VUITTON UNVEILS AN ART-THEMED EXHIBITION ON RODEO DRIVE IN BEVERLY HILLS, ED'S **INGRID ABRAMOVITCH** IS THERE, IPHONE IN HAND.

**W**HEN THE LEGENDARY FRENCH fashion house Louis Vuitton tapped six contemporary artists to design special-edition handbags for its latest collection, Artycapucines, the label searched as far away as South Africa to find the perfect collaborators. But at the recent global launch of the collection in Beverly Hills—and the debut of Louis Vuitton X, a 22,000-square-foot exhibition of the brand's history on Rodeo Drive—one person in particular seemed to embody the spirit of the occasion: Alex Israel, the Los Angeles artist whose pop-culture tropes and Malibu-sunset palette epitomizes ▷



Monogram-embossed panels in sunset colors adorn the facade of the Louis Vuitton exhibition on Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive.

# POINT OF VIEW



An exhibition space is patterned with Vuitton's classic Damier checkerboard.

California cool. In true Hollywood fashion, Israel proved elusive.

I had arrived from New York for a few nights of festivities to launch Artycapucines, which also includes limited-edition handbags by Urs Fischer, Tschabalala Self, Nicholas Hlobo, Jonas Wood, and Sam Falls. Fashion and lifestyle journalists, influencers such as Emma Chamberlain, top Vuitton clients, and celebrities including Millie Bobby Brown, Alicia Vikander, and Jaden Smith all descended on Beverly Hills for a first look at the exhibition, which runs through September 15. The building—formerly a Brooks Brothers, it will eventually become a Cheval Blanc hotel operated by Vuitton's parent firm, LVMH—opens onto a fuchsia chamber, where a portrait by Alex Katz of the label's 19th-century namesake and founder is on view. As the rooms unfold, the brand's long relationship with artists and cultural figures—from Sol LeWitt to Yayoi Kusama—is chronicled. (Who knew Damien Hirst designed a Vuitton-encased surgical cabinet for the Red Cross?) Another room had wall codes for custom Instagram effects. I tried the Technicolor filter, inspired by Vuitton men's artistic director Virgil Abloh's first collection; a second one turned me into an X-ray nurse—a riff on Marc Jacobs's 2008 Vuitton collection based on Richard Prince's paintings.

Up a candy-pink staircase and into a domed space painted lemon yellow, Sarah Andelman, cofounder of the now-defunct concept store Colette, was tweaking details on the pop-up shop, which Vuitton hired her to curate. "The point was to bring together all the categories—fashion, Objets Nomades, books—in a very colorful space conceived especially for L.A.," says Andelman, wearing a puffy silk wave scarf designed by Israel for Vuitton. Meanwhile,



A pink staircase leads to a yellow atrium. **BELOW:** Alex Israel and his Artycapucines bag.



The pop-up shop includes Vuitton accessories, furniture, art and travel books, and games.

# POINT OF VIEW



Walls emblazoned with Stephen Sprouse's Vuitton logo display artist-designed scarves.

some of the Artycapucines artists were on hand to show off their creations. "I'd never done a design collaboration before," says Self, the young artist whose hand-sewn figurative canvases depicting black female figures have been breaking auction records. She told me that her appliquéd bag—"a deconstruction and reconstruction of the LV logo"—was "a fun exercise that felt liberating." Plus, she was looking forward to wearing it.

Israel's influence was all around: in his bag, with its fin-shaped accessories (a mirror and a comb), and his jumbo scarves, which double as throws. But the artist, glimpsed briefly at the opening party, proved slippery. I finally caught up with him at the after-party, which was held at the iconic Sheats-Goldstein residence, the 1960s hillside home by John Lautner. By that point, Israel, wearing his signature sunglasses, was standing under



Pink palm trees in the atrium.



Abramovitch tries the Technicolor Instagram filter.

the stars beside the entrance to the property's underground discotheque. "I went to tennis camp with your editor, Whitney," he said to me. "Tell him I said hi." [louisvuitton.com](http://louisvuitton.com)

For Ingrid Abramovitch's exclusive interviews with the artists, go to [elledecor.com](http://elledecor.com).



## DATEBOOK

### THE MUST-SEE EXHIBITIONS THAT ARE ON OUR FALL CALENDAR.

#### Vera Paints a Scarf

At the Museum of Arts and Design in **Manhattan**, this exhibit of the work of artist turned textile designer Vera Neumann (*above*) shows why her printed scarves and boldly colored floral textiles for home and fashion made her an American design icon in the 1950s and '60s.

Through January 26, 2020.

[madmuseum.org](http://madmuseum.org)

#### Venice Glass Week

A festival celebrating the art of glass-making, Venice Glass Week encompasses more than 180 events—from exhibitions and guided tours to film screenings and receptions—across **Venice, Murano, and Mestre** in Italy's Veneto region. The festival features local artisans, including Amy West, who will be performing live glass-printing demonstrations and offering hands-on workshops.

September 7–15. [theveniceglassweek.com](http://theveniceglassweek.com)

#### Correspondences by François Halard

A look through interiors photographer François Halard's lens (*below*) at Christian Liaigre's **Paris** showroom.

Through October 4. [liaigre.com](http://liaigre.com)

—Samantha Swenson



# POINT OF VIEW



## RENOVATION When in Dome

ED'S NEW SERIES  
FOLLOWS THE  
RENOVATION OF A  
1970S GEODESIC  
HOUSE BY LOS  
ANGELES MILLINER  
TO THE STARS  
**NICK FOUQUET.**

BY SAMANTHA SWENSON  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
TREVOR TONDRO

**W**HEN HATMAKER Nick Fouquet acquired his Buckminster Fuller-esque geodesic-dome home, he had a fleeting moment of buyer's remorse. But this modern milliner—whose celebrity clientele includes Pharrell Williams and Lady Gaga—has always been drawn to the unexpected. He grew up in Palm Beach, but after attending high school in Connecticut, he spent several years as a nomad, moving from Patagonia to Australia to New York before settling in Los Angeles. “I’ve led an unconventional life,” he says. “I like things that are different.” So it came as no surprise when he bought his hillside pad nestled on a one-acre plot on the western edge of Topanga Canyon, California. He calls it “an architectural gem”—an apt description, since its gemlike facade consists of dozens of perfectly fitted triangles.

In the 1940s, Fuller, the utopian architect, popularized the idea of the prefabricated geodesic-dome kit as a solution to the postwar housing shortage. Copycat versions abounded in the 1970s, when Fouquet’s three-floor version was built. Fouquet bought the house three years ago and recently embarked on a gut renovation helmed by contractor Timothy McCarthy. The pair plan to free up



“When I look at the **dome**, my mind just fires off.”

NICK FOUQUET

space by moving the circular staircase away from the center; installing a new kitchen; and replacing the wraparound decks. (ED will follow the project, both in print and online, as it progresses.)

Meanwhile, Fouquet also designed the interiors for his boutique, which recently moved to

a new location on Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice Beach (see below). There, beaver-felt hats hang on custom wall mounts by Foxwood, and mannequins are draped in leather goods such as bags and belts. With 25 core hat styles and a constant stream of custom projects, Fouquet is endlessly called upon for his headgear savvy. While in the past he has derived inspiration from his travels to places like Tokyo and Ibiza, perhaps now he’ll find a source closer to home: “When I look at the dome, my mind just fires off,” he says. “It sparks my creativity.” ■

The view from a wraparound deck. **ABOVE AND RIGHT:** The renovation is under way.

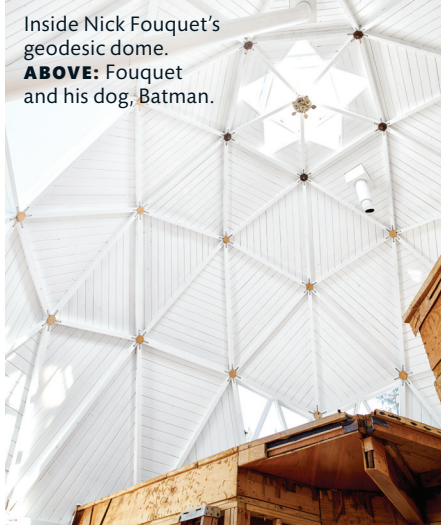


## HATS IN STORE

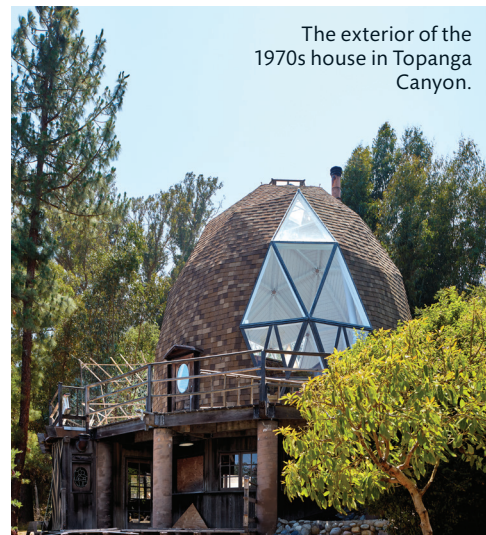
When Fouquet launched his brand, his store was situated in the basement of an underground garage. It recently moved to a 2,000-square-foot retail space in Venice, California, where customers can purchase ready-to-wear clothing, leather accessories, and his signature beaver-felt hats, from \$1,225 each. [nickfouquet.com](http://nickfouquet.com)



Fouquet’s new shop on Venice’s Abbot Kinney Boulevard. **RIGHT:** The Fouquet-designed store interior.



Inside Nick Fouquet’s geodesic dome. **ABOVE:** Fouquet and his dog, Batman.



The exterior of the 1970s house in Topanga Canyon.