

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sotheby's spotlights Black jewelers with new exhibit

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Sotheby's will highlight Black jewelers in upcoming exhibition. Image credit: Sotheby's

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Auction house Sotheby's is staging a selling exhibition dedicated to the creativity and craftsmanship of Black jewelry designers.

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The first of its kind, "Brilliant and Black: A Jewelry Renaissance" will feature approximately 60 pieces from 21 of the world's leading Black jewelry designers. Curated in partnership with writer, author and stylist Melanie Grant, the selling exhibition presents a selection of jewels with prices ranging from \$1,500 to \$1 million.

"This show represents a shift in thinking from African inspired' to Black talent being the inspiration," Ms. Grant said. "I think we'll look back at this moment as a game-changer, amplifying the often overlooked and sometimes under-appreciated talents and stories of Black jewelry designers."

Brilliant and Black

The "Brilliant and Black" exhibition will include custom-made jewels and signature designs spanning a range of periods and styles from the 1950s to the present day.



Harwell Godfrey is one of the "Brilliant and Black" featured designers. Image credit: Harwell Godfrey

Among the artists represented are Art Smith and Winifred Mason Chenet, as well as critically acclaimed creatives Harwell Godfrey, Jacqueline Rabun, Johnny Nelson, Lorraine West, Rashid Johnson, Thelma West, VANLELES, Castro NYC, ALMASIKA, Marei New York, MATEO New York, Matturi Fine Jewellery, Melanie Eddy Jewellery, Sheryl Jones Jewels, Ten Thousand Things, Lola Fenhirst, Jarriet Oloy, Maggi Simpkins and Shola Branson.

The pieces will be on view at Sotheby's New York galleries from Sept. 17-26, 2021, and will be available for purchase online from Sept. 17-Oct. 10, 2021.

In June, Sotheby's celebrated the 25th anniversary of rapper and entrepreneur Shawn Jay-Z Carter's "Reasonable Doubt" album with a commemorative NFT.

Jay-Z has commissioned artist Derrick Adams to create a one-of-one animated digital artwork that comments on and recontextualizes the album's cover, which will be sold by NFT in a single-lot auction. This was the first NFT-based collaboration for both the rapper and artist and the auction is the only official event authorized by Jay-Z to commemorate the album's anniversary ([see story](#)).

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