

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Lalique transforms surrealist works into crystal creations

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In collaboration with Belgian artist Ren Magritte's estate, the maison is turning his works into glass. Image courtesy of Lalique/Samuel Guigues

By EMILY IRIS DEGN

French lifestyle brand Lalique's latest update makes the case for luxe, cross-sector collaborations.

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Partnering with Belgian surrealist Ren Magritte's estate, the works of the 20th century's most well-known artists have been turned into crystal creations. Lalique's reinterpreted versions of his paintings are available to purchase by inquiry only, offering collectors an exclusive chance to secure imaginative takes on an already abstract genre of art.

"Mention the name of Magritte today and the first images that spring to mind are a pipe, an apple and a bowler hat," said Silvio Denz, president and CEO of **Lalique**, in a statement.

"It is precisely because of the prominence and iconic nature of these objects in the artist's oeuvre that Lalique chose to recreate them in crystal," Mr. Denz said. "I am proud of the result, which unquestionably pays due respect to the work of Ren Magritte, a painter of immense stature, and does justice to the greatness of the artist Ren Lalique.

"Apart from sharing the same forename, they were both blessed with timeless talent."

Looking glass

Following an exhibit of the collaboration in January 2023 at Switzerland's Art Genève event, six fine glass structures are inspired by the surrealist painter's most famous pieces.

From the \$3,770 "Le Bouchon d'Epouvante" to the \$54,600 "Le Bain de Cristal," Lalique's items range is now [available](#).



Called "The Treachery of Images" in English, the famous pipe painting is another one of the visions recreated in crystal. Image courtesy of Lalique/Samuel Guigues

Surrealism as a whole remains lucrative ([see story](#)), with Mr. Magritte's paintings having fetched up to \$42.3 million with auction house Sotheby's. The final lineup aims to join together the legacies of brand founder Ren Lalique and artist.

"In creating such unique and exquisite pieces, Lalique is ensuring that the imaginative power of these original works lives on in the modern era," said Mr. Denz, in a statement.

"Although Ren Magritte and Ren Lalique never met in person, they were a perfect match," he said. "Ren Lalique was a daring innovator who felt free to express himself in the medium of glass; Magritte invented his own artistic language, which he elaborated along with fellow poets and musicians.

"It made him instantly recognizable as one of the greatest artists of the 20th century."

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