



BETONY VERNON

## BIOGRAPHY 2017

Daring, provocative and boundary-defying, Betony Vernon is an American-born designer, sexual anthropologist and author based in Paris.

She holds a Bachelors degree in Art History with a minor in Metalsmithing from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Masters degree in Industrial Design from Domus Academy, Milan.

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 designed for several brands, including Missoni, Gianfranco Ferré, Alexander Wang and Fornasetti. In 2002, her own collection "Paradise Found - Fine Erotic Jewelry" became her primary focus and the interface for what she describes as her mission - to empower women and men to enjoy and share greater pleasure. She speaks for educational institutions like The European Institute of Design and Domus Academy in Milan. She also teaches "Sexual Well-Being" and "Bettering Your Sexual Skills" Salons for individuals, couples and groups. Through the experience of private consulting and public speaking, she realized that she must reach a wider public with the intent to broaden self-esteem, health and well-being, especially around the issues of body acceptance and the pleasures of sex. In 2008 she co-produced and presented "Le Boudoir" which comprised 7 didactic cameos for MTV, Italy. In 2016 Betony trained the lead actors and featured in the French film Iris (Universal Pictures) by Jalil Lespert with Charlotte Le Bon, Romain Duris.

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 5 languages. A re-edition of the French version published by Robert Laffont was released in November 2016 after reaching bestseller status. Vernon designed the Origin Chair, a functional sculpture carved in statuary marble from Monte Altissima, Italy. It 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 exhibited in Vernon's carte blanche for the Gewerbemuseum, Winterthur. A selection of Betony's Paradise Found Fine Erotic Jewelry Collection was selected for Exhibition BODY, a curation of over 30 designers whose works revolve around the human body that opened on September 15th 2016 in Wroclaw, Poland. The exhibition was realized as part of the project Human of the Anthropocene - European Capital of Culture 2016.

In 2017, Vernon unveils her Boudoir Box (1999-2000, leather case and sterling silver objects) for the first time to the general public as part of the Medusa exhibition at the City of Paris Museum of Modern Art.

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 includes Sado-Chic jewels  
2014-2015 - Nirvana, Strange forms of pleasure MUDAC, Museum of Design and Contemporary Art, 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 - Publishes The Boudoir Bible - The Uninhibited Sex Guide For Today, with Rizzoli, NYC  
2012-2013 - KAMA-Sex and Design exhibition, presents The Origin Chair, Triennale Design Museum, Milan  
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, 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 Jewellery  
2005 - Touch Me exhibition- Victoria and Albert Museum - 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

2016 - Videofashion interview with Betony Vernon for Ovation TV  
2016 - Europe 1 Radio France with Frederic Taddei at Social Club talking sex, love, cinema and the new edition of La Bible du Boudoir published by Laffont  
2015 - Canal+ France L'Emission d'Antoine  
2013 - Canal+ France "Le Grande Journal"  
2013 - Canal+ France Thierry Ardisson - "Salut les Terriens"  
2013 - Hunger TV - Rankin, Interview  
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 Despentès  
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 - SexTV - 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

2016 - Your Beauty Mark, The Ultimate Guide to Eccentric Glamour by Dita Von Teese - DEY ST  
2016 - Night Mood, Soft Interruptions In A Private Place by photographer Kris Dewitte - Galerie Jan Dhaese  
2016 - Sex in the Museum by Sarah Forbes - St. Martin's Press  
2013 - Rock Star Chic: The Dark Side of High Fashion-Farameh 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, Farameh Media, New York, USA  
2008 - Style File: The World's Most Elegantly Dressed by Iké Udé - Collins Design, UK

2006 - Bordello by Vee Spears, earBOOKS, Germany  
2006 - Bailey's Democracy by David Bailey, Steidl, Gottingen, Germany  
2005 - Dizionario del Gioiello Italiano del XIX e XX Secolo, Umberto Allemandi & C., Italy  
2001 - Hanatsubaki Shiseido, Japan  
1998 - Dictionnaire International du Bijou by Marguerite de Cerval, Éditions du Regard, France  
1995 - Anni '90 Arte a Milano, Abitare Segesta Cataloghi Milano, Italy

Betony Vernon also appears regularly in international publications such as Vogue Italia, Vogue Russia, Vogue France, Playboy, Flair, TIME, ZINK, i-D, GQ, The Independent, Vogue Gioiello, Interview, L'Uomo Vogue, Above Magazine, DAZED, Another, Surface, Purple Fashion Magazine, Palace Costes, Harper's Bazaar, W, Berliner, Wallpaper\*, L'Officiel, Issue One Magazine, BIG, Elle, Arena UK, Arena Turkey, The New York Times, A MAGAZINE etc.

#### Selected Collaborations

2016 - trained lead actors and featured in the French film Iris (Universal Pictures) by Jalil Lespert with Charlotte Le Bon, Romain Duris  
2014 - Cash and Rocket fundraising rally and charity for women and children in Africa  
2012 - Collaboration with Mert and Marcus for Visionaire no° 60: Religion, curated by Riccardo Tisci/ Givenchy  
2011 - Designs jewels for Alexander Wang  
2010 - Designs Lipstick component for Fusion Beauty Inc.  
2009 - Catwalk for Jean Paul Gaultier, Fall/Winter 2009/2010  
2008 - L'Envol video for SHOWstudio - Political Fashion  
2007 - Elegant Bondage for Sam Taylor Wood, New York Times Style Magazine  
2007 - Elegant Bondage for Blumarine Fall/Winter campaign by Craig McDean  
2006 - 2008 - Collaboration with photographer Jeff Burton in the Museum House of Carlo Mollino, Turin  
2006 - Creates "Minerva" for Swarovski haute couture collections Runway Rocks  
2005 - Elton John's AIDS Foundation, designs be-jeweled boots in connection with film "Kinky Boots" directed by Julian Jarrold  
2003/2004 - Life Ball - Sir Elton John's AIDS Foundation, Vienna  
2002/2003 - Gianfranco Ferré, designs gold and diamond collections for collectors only, Milan  
2002 - Missoni - designs accessories for summer collection, Milan  
2001 - Alain Tondowski -collaborates to create "Venus" be-jeweled shoes, Paris  
1999 - Pampaloni - designs The Eternal Candle and a Silver Triple Vase for "Evasioni", Florence  
1994 - 2011 - Fornasetti Immaginazione s.r.l. creative consultant/design direction Milan

#### Selected Conferences/Public Speaking

2016 - Panelist speaker as part of the Object of Desire - Sex, Fashion and the Female Gaze symposium held at the Edinburgh International Fashion Festival  
2014 - Speaker at Cash and Rocket fundraising and charity event for women and children in Africa held in Geneva, Switzerland  
2013 - Speaks on fetishism and fashion with Li Edelkoort during MBA Biennale of Fashion Symposium, Arnhem.  
2012 - Sexual Skills Seminar, Lanshin Body, New York  
2011 - Sexual Skills Seminar hosted by Mr.H - The Mondrian Hotel, New York  
2010 - Bettering Your Sexual Skills Seminars for Coco de Mer and Soho House, New York  
2010 - Full Body Stimulation Seminar- Coco de Mer, Los Angeles  
2009 -The Path to Eden - Seminar in Collaboration with Marianne Costa  
2006 - 2009 - Enhance Your Sexual Skills Seminar - Soho House, London  
2005 - Paradise Found Event- Metropol Hotel, Moscow  
2005 - Enhance Your Sexual Skills Seminar - Frederick's NY, New York  
2004 - Enhance Your Sexual Skills Seminar - Soho House, London  
2004 - Domus Academy, Designing Desire Seminar, Milan  
2005 - European Institute of Design - Designing Desire seminar, Milan  
2003 - Enhance Your Sexual Skills Seminar - Coco de Mer, London