

POPTART'S PICKS

Kambriel brings us another stunning silhouette with the introduction of one of her latest designs, the Eleanor Jacket. It comes as no surprise to you dear reader I'm sure, how much I admire drama in fashion and what thrills me so much about the myriad of fashionable offerings from Kambriel is not just the visual impact of her strong lines but of how wearable everything is. She's consistently blended comfort with her work, without making it look like you're slumming it in sweat pants on laundry day. It's one of the many reasons I went to her to design my wedding ensemble.

The Eleanor jacket has that versatility to be somewhat whimsical in nature (though I despise it when they use that word in decorating shows) but also have that fashionable edge that seems reminiscent of the Paris fashion scene. It's a fitted mid-length jacket with a large shawl collar and modified leg o' mutton sleeves trimmed in absolute decadent Fortuny pleated organza. It's perfect for midnight romps on horseback through a cemetery to meet your lover of ill repute, of course the last time I attempted this, it didn't end well.

It's rare to find fine jewelry that appeals to the darker inclined, without it looking like it was made for Harley Davidson bikers, no offense to all you lovely leather clad daredevils. I've been looking for something a bit more sublime I suppose and found it within the range of intoxicating wares from the House of Wittelsbach. Of course I have a fondness for skulls but it does seem slapped onto just about everything and not very well done, but T.S. Wittelsbach, designer, takes his jewelry to a whole new art form and has reawaken my passion for needing more skulls in my life! By far, what appeals to my lusty heart the most is his incredible version of a sugar skull made into a ring. Something that was actually designed on a lark at first. He tells me, "The sugar skull was actually created as a joke, my friend's favorite day is 'Cinco de Mayo', so I made one for him to wear. I added it to my line and it blew up, I had no idea that it was such a big design motif in the tattoo world."

A popular motif yes, but Wittelsbach's creation is an exquisitely detailed and elaborate piece highlighted in sterling silver. It almost appears as some treasured artifact. His site is full of other equally amazing designs that should not be overlooked, such as his rendition of two skulls, somewhat intertwined in bone, in his design "Torque" nor his sophisticated take on the Irish Claddagh with skeletal hands embracing the heart



Kambriel wearing her Eleanor Jacket. Photo by Matt Frederick.

and topped with a skull. He frequently also works in platinum and gold.

Wittelsbach takes his inspiration from such art nouveau master jewelers like Lalique and the architect Hector Guimard. "I try to put tradition aesthetic and design forms in to the esoteric subject matter." And he's in good company I'd say. All of his works are produced in wax and sent to a foundry, where raw pieces are returned back where he hand finishes each piece to meticulous detail.

Retro A-Go-Go, my favorite purveyors of kitschy horror have delivered two sweet new picture frames for showing off your favorite monster. One harkens back to the vintage lure of the black and white fright fests accented in blood red of course. While another is a Technicolor scream of our favorite ghouls. A monstrous good choice for perhaps that last minute gift or wedding present for the couple that seems to have everything for their coffin. While there, check out all of Retro A-Go-Go's new items, they have the best in pulpy pin up images from the campy to the sinful. ♦

kambriel.com
tswittelsbach.com
retroagogo.com