

REPOSSI

REPOSSI UNVEILS AN ARTISTIC COLLABORATION INSPIRED BY ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE'S JEWELRY

Repossi continues its artistic dialogue today unveiling a jewelry tribute collection in collaboration with the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation inspired by the artist's works with a high jewelry approach.

After three-years of research and development, Repossi reveals Gaia Repossi's jewelry inspired by Robert Mapplethorpe's jewelry on May 6, 2021. The eight-piece collection will be presented in a first act exclusively through the Dover Street Market stores starting in New York in May, followed by the Los Angeles store in July, and the London store in August before reaching Paris at the Repossi flagship store at Place Vendôme. This collaboration will be extended with seven pieces in a second act in 2022.

"The Mapplethorpe Foundation invited me to create jewelry influenced by the jewelry pieces Robert Mapplethorpe made with beads and found objects early in his career. I was able to access his entire archive of jewelry and jewelry materials at the Getty Research Institute. This collection is a tribute to his genius aesthetic and the beautiful items he assembled." - Gaia Repossi, Creative Director REPOSSI

Robert Mapplethorpe is an artist longtime admired by Gaia, due to his talent and creativity as seen in his jewelry pieces based on "ready-mades and found objects". Mapplethorpe's photograph *Puerto Rico*, 1981 that hangs in her studio was the first piece of art she acquired and started her photography collection.

Just like Gaia, Mapplethorpe was drawn to create jewelry, first in his childhood, and then later for himself and close friends. Both had the aim to break from traditional jewelry codes by honing their own particular aesthetic. Gaia's inspirations and perceptiveness to art and architecture extends into contemporary photography which she uses as a communication tool to reinvigorate the image of the brand, having used several of Mapplethorpe's photos for invitations and cards in the past.



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Repossi / Robert Mapplethorpe

Gaia reinvents his works with the excellence, know-how and craftsmanship of Place Vendôme, but with a new twist. It was important to Gaia to remain as faithful as possible to the spirit of Mapplethorpe's original creations, including the use of patinated rather than polished gold, creating the most daring collection Gaia Repossi has ever wanted to create.

The intensive research and creative process was informed by Mapplethorpe's entire body of work where Gaia found inspiration in both New York at the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation and in Los Angeles at the Getty Research Institute's Mapplethorpe Archive.

Repossi found inspiration not only in his photographs, but also in his collages, unique artworks, and jewelry in which Mapplethorpe used found objects early in his career. For the Repossi / Robert Mapplethorpe collection Gaia preserved Mapplethorpe's style and aesthetic, characterized by what she calls "side symmetry": accumulation and balance of volumes, the play of contrast, as well as key themes Americana, Hardware, the Sacred and Love which can be found in both his early and mature works.

This capsule collection required several exchanges between the ateliers and the studio to solidify and to perfect the pieces for this tribute collection. The collection sums all the facets of the brand's core lines and applies the techniques they are known for such as repetitive stacking to one of a kind Parisian "maitres d'arts" high-jewelry handmade pieces.

In May 2021, the first phase of the collection will be launched with eight styles divided into six themes, whose names refer directly to the key element of each design: Relic Claw, Triptych Heart, Americana Flag, Chain and Mechanic. The name Jetty, according to Gaia, symbolizes freedom, escape, and abandonment, evoked by its volume and organic shape, which are unique among Repossi designs.



© Jeremy Everett

Mapplethorpe Works © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

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Mapplethorpe and the Place Vendome excellence

Gaia's strong artistic vision for this collaboration was supported by the know-how of Repossi's workshops. Months of study and exchange were necessary to develop 15 designs of which only eight will be presented this year, each with a high level of detail and real technical complexity. All the elements were shaped, assembled, set, and polished by hand, in France or in Italy, respecting the codes of the jewelry tradition and Place Vendôme excellence.

The experience and technical expertise of the workshops have enabled them to incorporate all the signatures of the Repossi House: assembly systems, unconventional wearing, setting of hundreds of diamonds – more than 1000 on the Chain necklace! -, singular gold colors such as a champagne gold color, the most precise polishing so as not to alter the angles, and black rhodium coating, unconventional in the jewelry world, mastered mainly by a handful of Italian workshops. Particular attention has also been paid to the various finishes, with varying degrees of patina for a very authentic effect, yet precisely matched to the brushing.

The Mechanic ring, resembling a motor, is a technical construction with several hinges allowing the ring to move. This mobility is inspired by one of the necklaces created by Mapplethorpe. This creation is the epitome of craftsmanship and authentic to Repossi.



Puerto Rico, 1981 © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation

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JETTY

Inspired by a picture of Robert Mapplethorpe's friend, these three pieces are unique in their polishing, which is both mirror-polished and brushed to reach this particular "patina" effect. Diving into the Repossi universe, the overexposed bar from the Berbere collection is recognizable in the triple ring and the sharp angles from the Antifer collection is seen in all three creations.



Ring in pink gold, engraved
"REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"



Triple ring in pink gold, engraved
"REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"

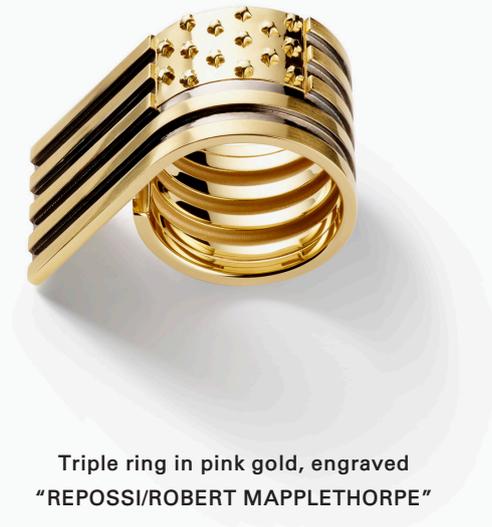


Bracelet in pink gold, engraved
"REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"

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AMERICANA FLAG

An interpretation of Robert Mapplethorpe's photograph of Lisa Lyon, 1982, the American flag wraps around the finger just like it wraps around her arm. A mixture of yellow and black gold is used to recreate the flag where each star is placed one by one.



Triple ring in pink gold, engraved
"REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"

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MECHANIC

Inspired by hardware used by Mapplethorpe in one of his necklaces that resembles a motor, this technical construction with several hinges allows the ring to move.



Ring in white gold, paved with 80 diamonds for 0.26ct,
engraved "REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"

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TRIPTYCH HEART

Inspired by Mapplethorpe's collage and the theme of Love often present in the photographer's work, this necklace offers a double sided, reversible option. The plain gold surface features the rough side of Mapplethorpe while the diamond paved one presents the high jewelry interpretation.



Pendant in yellow, pink, and white gold, with a black ruthenium coating and 51 diamonds for 0.18ct set on the middle heart, engraved
"REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"

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RELIC CLAW

Transformed into high jewelry, this creation embodies five different gold alloys evoking the spontaneous and disparate assemblages of Mapplethorpe. The crab claw, the key element in Mapplethorpe's necklace, was crafted in white gold with Repposi signature bar along its length.



Necklace in yellow and white gold, with a ruthenium coating on some pearls including one paved with 190 diamonds for 0.54ct, and one cultured pearl, engraved "REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"

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CHAIN

A tribute to Mapplethorpe's style, this high jewelry necklace encompasses five different chain link diameters, ten diameter of diamonds and four shades of diamond colors, from white to grey, to give the impression of several pieces of jewelry united into one.



Necklace in white gold, paved with 1026 white and 221 grey diamonds for 9.47cts, engraved "REPOSSI/ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE"