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WILLER GALLERY LAUNCHES EXQUISITE NEW COLLECTION BY SILVERSMITHS PUIFORCAT



Exhibition: Willer, 12-14 Holland Street, Kensington, London W8 4LT

Willer Gallery launches an exhibition of exceptional French silverware by Puiforcat in June. A collection that highlights an extraordinary level of craftsmanship and exceptional use of materials.

True to the atelier's tradition of blending materials, the House of Puiforcat, established in 1820, will be showing limited editions of its "Cannes" and "Élysée" collections of sterling silver cutlery. These special models, named the Precieux Collections, skillfully incorporate semi-precious stones - onyx, jade, lapis lazuli or red jasper - on the handle of each piece.

"We are one of a handful of exclusive representatives of the Puiforcat range in the UK, and these pieces were brought back into production at our request," says Rebecca Willer. "I discovered the prototypes of the 'Cannes' cutlery with stone handles tucked away in an archive drawer in the Puiforcat atelier in 2006 and ever since have harboured the hope that the design could be put into production. I am very proud of the role Willer have played in realizing this shared goal with the superb team of craftsmen at Puiforcat, and very grateful to everyone at Puiforcat for acknowledging our part by showing these new pieces for the first time in the UK at Willer."



Cannes, silver and onyx



Elysee, silver and jade

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Both collections are steeped in a rich history of French style and tradition. Jean Puiforcat, the fourth generation of the family, designed the “Cannes” service in 1928. Dubbed “Cannes” in honour of the French seaside resort, the service has a definitive Art Deco aesthetic and is said to have been inspired by the famous Martinez Hotel on the Croisette.



The “Élysée” flatware collection sits on the table of the French presidential palace and has done so since 1945. Styled in a Regency fashion, the finely chiselled handles and scalloped shapes require meticulous work, by hand.

Hermès acquired Puiforcat in 1993 and now continues the tradition of excellence in a spirit of absolute respect, particularly in its Haute Orfèvrerie workshop. The sterling silver used by the craftsmen in the workshop is of the finest quality and each piece is stamped with the hallmark representing the head of the goddess Minerva, as well as another hallmark specific to the House of Puiforcat, to certify its authenticity.

The techniques used to create each piece remain true to those used by the great silversmiths of past centuries: hammering, planishing, spinning, chasing, engraving and more.

Jasper, Jade, Lapis Lazuli, Black Onyx

