



The coffee table book always knew it had something special. Like destiny flirting back in the mirror, "Hello beautiful, we're going to make you a staaaaaar." Inevitably, the encyclopedia found lonely days on the top shelf once the "L" went missing and swiftly escorted *Lanthanum hydroxide*, *Laos*, *Led Zeppelin*, *lemurs* and the entire *lymphatic system* into oblivion. Everyone, every home has at least one thick and decadent compendium—something to flaunt regularly and read on rare occasions. The provocative head-turner of splashy photography and cultural currency; we love and adore her even if we cannot remember how to pronounce her first name.

Passing Fancies are likely unfamiliar with Bernard Chauveau Éditeur and the exquisite illustrated volumes it creates. The Parisian publishing house offers editions devoted to the modern and contemporary decorative arts, fine arts and original representations of designers' work. The small studio begun six years ago by Monsieur Chauveau, whose artistic pursuits are passionate, elegant and totally far from prosaic. These renditions have some true verve, like the stylish friend who takes the time to squeeze oranges, stir in some sparkle and renames the drink to suit the mood, voila! Delirious but Impeccable in the Sunshine sipped jubilantly from a chalice on the terrace at sunset.

The house of Bernard Chauveau Éditeur is quiet, sophisticated and devoutly exclusive. For decades, icons have been celebrated, packaged, reformulated and reissued (a newer, better retrospective with the power of antioxidants), but here, the subjects are brought in close and intimate for the senses. Among the most extraordinary of its catalog are those editions featuring *pochoir* printing, a stunning and meticulous art in which individual stencils are cut from soft sheets of zinc, and illustrations are colored by hand. The company works with one of the last studios in France specializing in this technique—an atelier in Brittany with two artisans practicing the skill. Patience and *pochoir* may be nearly extinct crafts, making the publisher's series dedicated to Henri Matisse a thoroughly magnificent achievement. Mr. Chauveau collaborated with the Matisse family, who had conserved scraps of gouache-painted paper, remnants from the painter's original cutouts. With time preserved by some staggering and delicate viscosity, mementos of *Les Nus Bleus*, *La Piscine* and *Polynésie* became a vibrant and precise enchiridion for artisans to produce such intense color for these astonishing illustrations. It took three months to create one volume of *Les Nus Bleus*—the drama of which is captured on Arches vellum paper.

In a way that has the busybodies consumed with curiosity and a glass, ear pressed against the door, this collection invites the serious art connoisseur on a private tour of the artistic process with Bernard Chauveau Éditeur drawing back the shades. The book *Claude Viallat—Rencontre d'atelier* is a lush stroll with the painter, lifted from a particular place in his life, namely the view from his studio in Nîmes. The portrait of prolific French designer Christophe Pillet gorgeously reveals original sketches, notations and *pochoir* illustrations detailing close to 15 years of his career. Both works are signed by the artists and numbered. In *Gobelins Beauvais Savonnerie—Tissages contemporains*, the reader finds a tableau of contemporary tapestries and carpets—all created by international artists for these prominent, historic French manufacturers that are probably unknown in conventional circles. Of the 350 editions assembled, only 96 copies offer a remarkable original sample of tapestry for their owner, who is to become the obvious target of ruthless, endless envy. Patience, the publisher's profile on master goldsmith and metal artist Roland Daraspe arrives nestled in a beautiful vessel, accompanied by a decorative silver leaf object that is numbered and hallmarked. Sweet, sweet revenge ■ Arianne Nardo~Bernard Chauveau Éditeur, +33 (0)1 47 72 93 61 bernardchauveau-editeur.com