

VOGUE

APRIL

THE
DIVINE

9

WHAT
TO WEAR
TO WORK

VINTAGE
HUNTER

Discover
this season's
key pieces

The new
BEAUTY
HIT
LIST

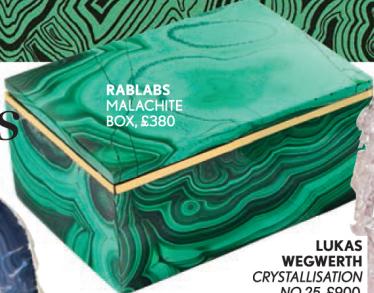
STYLE CRUSH

MATCH
POINTS
Fashion
couples

CROSSING
CONTINENTS
CHIMAMANDA
NGOZI
ADICHIE

GEORGIA MAY JAGGER, CARA DELEVINGNE AND SUKI WATERHOUSE

Vogue
arts



RABLABS
MALACHITE
BOX, £380



DALE ROGERS
AMMONITE
MOUNTED AGATE
SLICE, £8,500



NOOR FARES
LABRADORITE
RING, £1,450



LUKAS
WEGWERTH
CRYSTALLISATION
NO 25, £900,
GALLERY FUMI



BACKGROUND:
COLE & SON
FORNASETTI
MALACHITE
WALLPAPER, £76

ARIK LEVY FOR
LASVIT PENDANT
LIGHT, £2,759
FOR THREE,
AT HARRODS



L'OBJET
PORCELAIN, LAPIS
AND GOLD DISH, £30



VENUSROX.COM
NATURAL PYRITES,
£6,250

Rock LEGENDS

The magic of crystals is having a revitalising effect on design, says *Aimée Farrell*

In the popular consciousness, crystals are traditionally relegated to the exclusive property of tree-hugging hippies. But no longer: in art, fashion and interior design, they're making a colourful comeback. Whether it's their decorative beauty or the creep of mysticism into the mainstream, in today's tech-obsessed times, semi-precious stones tap into a primal need to connect with nature.

Scientists have been trying, and failing, to recreate their natural beauty for centuries, and now the art world is taking its turn. Berlin-based artist Lukas Wegwerth plays with the process of crystallisation, growing crystals into the cracks of broken ceramics. This jewel-like repair system is a contemporary take on the beauty of gemstone caves and yields some surprising results: "Crystal is a living organism, so as much as I try to control the process something new and unexpected always emerges." Ayala Serfaty, an artist from Tel Aviv, creates sprawling light sculptures that look as if they've been pulled from the earth's crust.

Though meticulously made from glass, these otherworldly works mimic splintered, crystalline formations.

For the Victorians, collections of semi-precious stones were symbols of prestige. Now, Venusrox and Dale Rogers Ammonite, two London design stores, suggest that tastes are dialling back to a time when rare specimens were sought out for vast sums. "Gentlemen would carry a chisel with them on their Grand

Tours to pick up stones along the way," explains maker Bridie Hall, who creates faux-stone obelisks and mineral-embellished frames, sold at Bloomsbury boutique Ben Pentreath. "I'm fascinated by their natural colours, shapes and forms. You see their patterns constantly reproduced in decorative art." Take Cole & Son's Fornasetti Malachite wallpaper, which replicates the gemstone's concentric swirls in the most majestic living rooms.

And fashion's new psychedelic mood certainly chimes with crystals. The spring/summer collections saw rough-hewn, semi-precious pendants dangle from the necks of models at Dries Van Noten and Etro. At Chanel, Karl Lagerfeld dressed his placard-waving protesters in beaded strings of jade, considered the most divine of natural materials by the Chinese. And the crystal balls that once decorated the coffee table in Coco Chanel's atelier have been given a sleek makeover by Lebanese jeweller Noor Fares, who sets spheres of rock crystal, rose quartz and moonstone in diamond-studded pendants inspired by primal talismans. (She even served cocktails with frozen quartz crystals floating in them at the collection's Dover Street Market launch.)

Whether you choose to cheer up a dreary corner of your sitting room with Gilles Caffier's tubular quartz table lamp or perform a soothing pink quartz and black tourmaline crystal "ritual" (as Victoria Beckham does before her catwalk shows), right now, crystals rock. ■



THE RUBY TREE
AMAZONITE TABLE,
£36,000, AT
HARRODS

THEODORA
WARRE
CRYSTAL
EARRINGS,
£80



EDDIE BORGIO
CRYSTAL CUFF, £720, AT
MATCHESFASHION.COM



TOM DIXON
FOSSIL
BOOKENDS,
£200, AT
LIBERTY



BRIDIE HALL
GRANITE
OBELISK,
FROM £175
AT BEN
PENTREATH