

UMA WANG + RIGARDS Collaboration: UW2 Le Wood


From artisanal designer Uma Wang and handmade eyewear specialist RIGARDS come a fresh installment to their collaborative project, debuting with the Fall/Winter 2019-2020 season.

Wang's spotlight on the Incan period and pared-down aesthetics inspired a reflection on the ancient home of the Incas—where the Andes meets the Amazon, and today earth's last refuge for biodiversity—and the relevance of sustainability in high fashion.

In line with Wang's more measured approach, the new release is conceived on simple Bauhaus lines—representing also our own small homage to the movement as it celebrates its centennial this year.

Embracing a deceptively unfussy shape, the frame juxtaposes two natural materials of opposite properties, and also two different worlds of traditions, skills, and associations.

The perfectly round rims are crafted of aluminum-magnesium—minimalist and strong at the same time, besides being lightweight and green. New proprietary anodizing processes further strengthen the material, while a unique vintage treatment imparts elegantly nuanced patina.

The twist is the pairing with solid blackwood—production offcuts of premium furniture timber that are too small or unevenly-shaped for larger projects but too precious and wasteful not to be repurposed. Rich in natural oils and possessing a dense grain structure (which make it both warmly beautiful and hard-wearing), the wood sees new life as the frame's thick bridge and sturdy temples, with hand-filed, tapered bevels on the edges that add exceptional detail and definition.

Connecting the parts is executed with clever recessed spring hinges (custom designed and made from the ground up), leading to a neat clean modular structure.

Just as work on the frame was in the final stage, word came that Le Wood, the beloved restobar in Le Marais, was closing its doors. It was the place where we spent many pleasant times enjoying the central bar, classic croque monsieurs, great playlist, and fabulous decor of naked plywood and polished brass. Bidding a bittersweet send-off to a favorite haunt, we nicknamed the frame Le Wood.

UMA WANG  **RIGARDS**

UMA WANG + RIGARDS Collaboration: UW2 Le Wood



Uma Wang + RIGARDS Collaboration: UW2 Le Wood
Blackwood with Aluminum-Magnesium anodized in Bronze, Olive, and Pewter finish (top to bottom)

UMA WANG + RIGARDS Collaboration: UW2 Le Wood



Uma Wang + RIGARDS Collaboration: UW2 Le Wood at Uma Wang Fall/Winter 2019-2020 Runway
Photo credit (top left): Nowfashion/Guillaume Rojas

UMA WANG + RIGARDS Collaboration: UW2 Le Wood



About UMA WANG

Fresh from her first show in the official schedule of Paris fashion week calendar, Uma Wang can be defined one of the China's first global labels. Since the launch of her label in 2009 she showcased catwalk collections in London, Shanghai and Milan fashion weeks and she has garnered critical acclaim from industry insiders. Wang trained at the Chinese Textile University in Shanghai and at Central Saint Martins in London. She launched her own label in 2009 and Italian Vogue proclaimed her an "up and coming talent". In 2012, the Council of Fashion Designers of America picked Uma Wang for its inaugural China Exchange. Uma Wang's signature technique fuses knits with fabric, balancing sophistication with a timeless design. A continuous research in transforming materials and images into precious fabrics and shapes brings the designer on a constant travel around the world, where different cultures and fascinating stories are the best inspiration for the collections. Uma Wang realization can be founded in her flagship boutique in Shanghai and her label stocked in most global cities.
<http://www.umawang.com>

About RIGARDS

From the enigmatic to the avant-garde, the nostalgic to the seductive, natural horn to sterling silver, award-winning atelier RIGARDS has forged an unmistakable style that intersects offbeat aesthetics and quiet elegance, underpinned by its clever use of natural materials and transformative craftsmanship. No less compelling are the signature finishes, imparting nuance and character to the frames and creating a distinctive bespoke element. If you love expressive, nonconformist eyewear, you will be gladdened by RIGARDS. <https://rigards.com/>

For press and inquiries, please contact: press@umawang.com / info@rigards.com