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Courtesy

Jewelry That Sparks Conversations: Memento Mori By A. Codognato



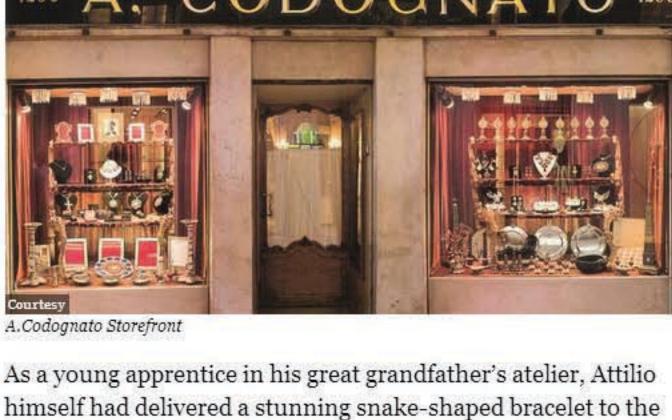
Before you could buy a skull print garment at any mall, the macabre imagery wielded as much fascination as it was taboo. In 1866, a visionary Venetian jeweler opened a workshop not far from the famed San Marco square. He began creating rings, bracelets, pendants and diadems featuring mythological snakes, skulls, skeletons and other striking visual metaphors for the brevity of life as well as the alchemic quest for eternal love.



of the most influential and relentlessly copied jewelry artists in the history of fashion. San Francisco's Serge Sorokko Gallery, 361 Sutter Street, has staged an unprecedented retrospective, a first solo exhibition of the elusive master Attilio Codognato whose own pieces are a subject of legendary stories. A. CODOGNATO

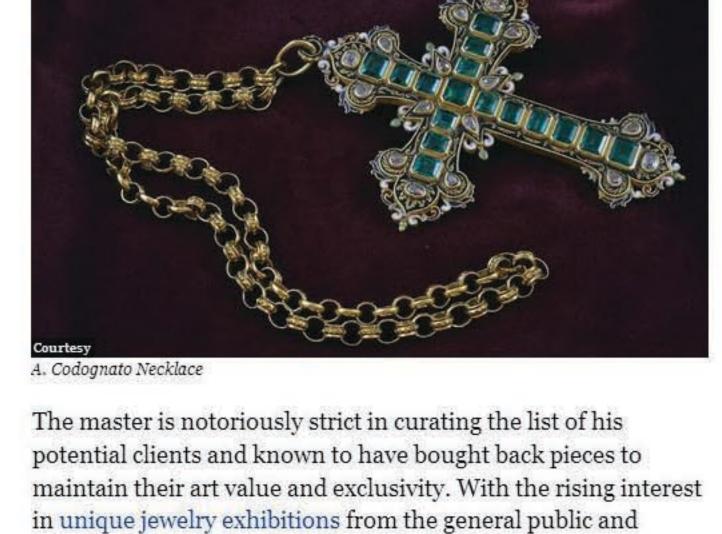
Since then, the bold imagination of Codognato has transformed

how we experience jewelry. The Codognato family became one



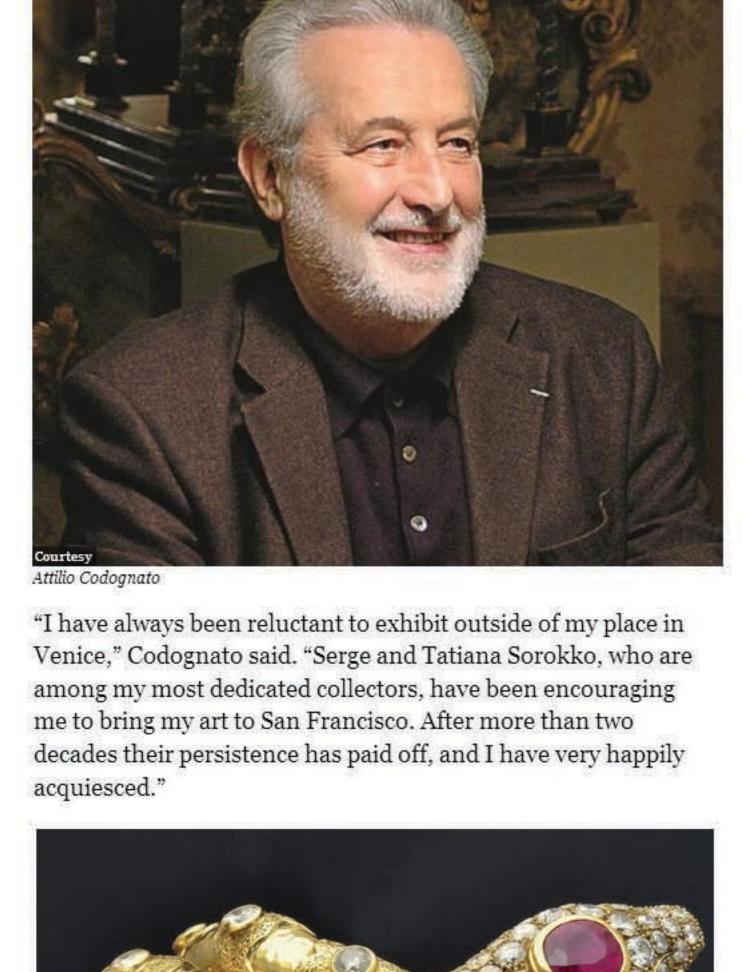
Taylor while the world's most glamorous couple of that era vacationed in Venice. Designer Anna Sui won a fierce bidding war for it at the Taylor estate auction at Christie's. Very few Codognato items have been publicly auctioned in the past twenty years.

hands of actor Richard Burton who had acquired it for Elizabeth



unconventional aesthetics and unusual craftsmanship role models, the timing of the Codognato showcase could not have been more fortunate.

younger designers seeking inspiration in the more





Courtesy A.Codognato Bracelet Recent royal British controversy over a Blackamoor brooch has added urgency to the display. Fifty iconic pieces in gold, platinum and precious stones reveal why the world's biggest style icons from Diana Vreeland to Jackie Kennedy Onassis, to the late Alexander McQueen were among the jeweler's avid fans flocking to his by-appointment only store during the Venetian Carnival, Biennale or the prestigious Venice film festival.



beads on her neck. Due to black and white photography at the time it was assumed she wore pearls. In fact, it was a jade Codognato necklace that was one of her signature accessories. Tatiana Sorokko is full of fascinating art history insights such as this. "I've known Attilio for 25 years. Look, the inscription here says, 'She will love everything I love,' in Italian. The passion is evident," Tatiana shares her admiration. "Every Codognato piece guarantees that you have a unique object d'art that sparks conversations and curiosity. Great jewelry like great art takes you on a journey of a lifetime."