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Spiders & Snakes: West Coast Gallery Showing Jewels Similar to Those Worn by A-List Clients

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SPIDERS & SNAKES: WEST COAST GALLERY SHOWING JEWELS SIMILAR TO THOSE WORN BY A-LIST CLIENTS

WRITTEN BY CHIEF EDITOR.

One of Venice's most venerable jewelers is notoriously hard to find. Tucked behind silk-curtained windows on a stone-paved walkway near Piazza San Marco sits **Casa Codognato**, which has occupied the same space since **Simeone Codognato** first set up shop in 1866. His son **Attilio** inherited the store in 1897, and soon gained a reputation for creating idiosyncratic memento mori pieces, featuring skulls and snakes, from unexpected combinations of precious metals and stones. The jewels became a hallowed mark of ultra-exclusivity, worn by women like **Maria Callas** and **Coco Chanel**. But males have also been customers, most notably Sir Elton, **Ernest Hemingway**, and **Richard Burton**.

The founder's great grandson (who, like his son, is named **Attilio**) currently oversees the collection. And now for the first time ever, a selection of 50 iconic works from the house and **Codognato's** personal collection is on display in a non-museum setting. The exhibition marks the 150th anniversary of the jewelry house. The goods can be viewed at San Francisco's **Serge Sorokko Gallery** through January 7.

"Pieces similar to some worn and owned by celebrity/famous clients are on display, but none are attached to celebrities," the gallery's **David Nash** has informed Eltonjohnworld.com.