

STRICTLY BALLROOM



BALLERS From left: Socialite Gloria Guinness masked in mystery, 1966; Brigitte Bardot as a belly dancer at Baron Alexis de Rede's ball, 1969; Elizabeth Taylor draped in elegance, 1972; Gloria Vanderbilt at Truman Capote's Black and White Ball, 1966

From Louis XIV's lavish *Bals Parés* in Versailles to Truman Capote's legendarily swanky (and exclusive) 1966 Black and White Ball at New York's Plaza Hotel, the well-heeled have always relished a chance to dress up—and often mask up—to prance and people-watch at over-the-top soirees. Inspired by five of history's most extravagant costume parties—including Venice's 1951 Bal du Siècle and Paris' 1969 Far East-themed Bal Oriental—Van Cleef & Arpels has created a range of rare-gem-studded necklaces, rings, and brooches that decadently nod to the milieu of champagne and chandeliers. The vaunted jewelry house also joins Assouline to release a photo-rich tome, *Bals: Legendary Costume Balls of the Twentieth Century*, an added (attainable!) tribute to its opulent past.—**JULIE D. ANDREWS**

White gold ring set with cushion-cut sapphire, gray mother-of-pearl, onyx, turquoise, emeralds, and diamonds. **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS**, price on request, visit vancleef-arpels.com



White gold clip set with yellow sapphires, pink opal, white mother-of-pearl, red spinel, and diamonds. **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS**, price on request, call 877-VAN-CLEEF

Bals: Legendary Costume Balls of the Twentieth Century; all images courtesy of Assouline (from left to right: © Condé Nast Archive/Corbis; © Condé Nast Publications Ltd., courtesy of the Cecil Beaton Studio Archive at Sotheby's; © Bettmann/Corbis); still lifes: courtesy of Van Cleef & Arpels; for details, see Shopping Guide