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Guide to What's
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with Painter
Firelei Báez**

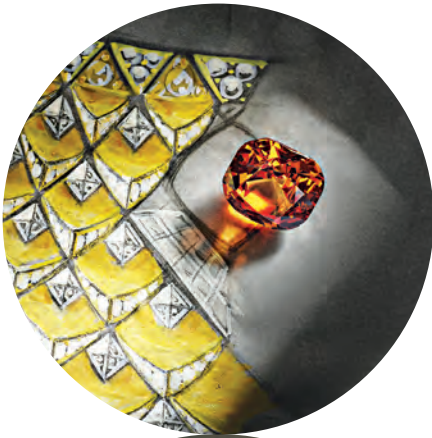
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**CREATIVE
MINDS**

**The Most Electrifying Talents from the
Worlds of Art, Architecture, Design, and More**

Creative Spotlight

When it comes to dreaming the impossible and imagining the unbelievable, each talent on our 2024 list has a limitless capacity to do not just that—but to make it happen as well. These 24 innovators excel in a variety of endeavors and have applied their extraordinary skills in inconceivable ways to bring more beauty, culture, and even hope into the world.





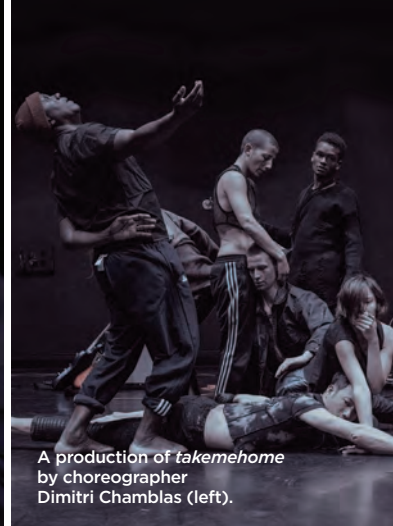
Creative Minds

CHOREOGRAPHY

DIMITRI CHAMBLAS

The strumming of electric guitars by dancers standing on amplifiers contrasted with the complete absence of sound as the troupe moves around the stage—these powerful moments define *takemehome*, a collaboration between choreographer Dimitri Chamblas and musician Kim Gordon that captivated a New York audience during Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels in late 2023. For Chamblas, this marked another milestone in his wildly innovative career, which uses dance and choreography as the catalyst for even bigger ideas. Starting at age ten as a dancer at the Paris Opera ballet school, he has since gone on to work with designer Karl Lagerfeld, artist Alex Prager, and choreographer Benjamin Millepied. Chamblas, who inspires the next generation of creatives as the dean of dance at CalArts, has touched the lives of prisoners in California with his movement classes, as seen in the documentary *Dancing in A-Yard*, and teamed up with artists such as Claire Tabouret, Xavier Veilhan, and Dan Colen on special performances.

FROM THE BEGINNING: “I first wanted to be an artist and live the artist’s life before I even knew that it would be dance that would offer me that. I now like that dance is my vehicle that takes me on a journey through different practices, meeting other artists, and creating with different disciplines. Dance is the art that invites other arts.” dimitrichamblas.com —J.T.



A production of *takemehome* by choreographer Dimitri Chamblas (left).

“As a designer, I seek to interpret and abstract the essence and beauty of nature to create wearable art” ADAM NEELEY

JEWELRY ADAM NEELEY

Driven by a sense of profound curiosity and experimentation, Adam Neeley believes in taking risks and investing time in the discovery process, including searching for rare stones and inventing new techniques. “As a designer, I seek to interpret and abstract the essence and beauty of nature to create unique, wearable art,” says the Laguna Beach, California, talent, whose pieces are on view in his first museum retrospective, at the Laguna Art Museum, through July 29. “To me, there’s nothing more thrilling than pushing my own boundaries and finding innovative new ways to express myself through jewelry.”

MODERN ALCHEMIST: Learning from Native American silversmiths early in his career and then later studying metallurgy with European masters in Florence, Neeley has a deep passion for metalsmithing. Through hundreds of experiments, he has developed a special alloy called SpectraGold, which comes in seven gradients of gold and is featured in his recent high-jewelry collection.

CREATIVE PROCESS: “My process isn’t always singular in focus or precisely linear; sometimes this means devoting years to a piece before it’s complete,” says Neeley. “A remarkable gem pushes me to showcase it in a way that best celebrates the stone’s special character.”

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION: “I’m constantly inspired by the natural world: the curve and proportions of a shell, the gradient colors of the twilight sky, or an extraordinary gemstone—any of these might be the spark that lights a design vision.” adamneeley.com —L.R.



Bijoux by Adam Neeley (from top): Pearl and pavé-set diamond Nautilus earrings and Oriana ring made with an orange sapphire and diamonds.

