

Dressed to Kill: Portraits of Bullfighters by French Painter Christian Gaillard

Art and Culture

Regardless of one's feelings about the traditional spectacle of bullfighting, one cannot but admire the extravagant costumes worn by toreros, which echo the flamboyant style of 19th-century dandies and are meticulously embroidered using shiny golden and silver thread — thus earning them the name 'suit of lights' (or 'traje de luces' in Spanish). **Ever since the 1980's, French painter Christian Gaillard has been creating portraits of bullfighters** - his subjects include the greatest living bullfighters (some of whom are his personal friends) - in a detailed, almost photorealistic style. Influenced by the style of Spanish master **Diego Velázquez**, Gaillard's subjects are placed against a dark background with their backs turned to the viewer, thus making their dazzling costumes the centre of attention. The paintings also seek to capture the emotional state of the bullfighter, either before he enters the arena, or after facing the bull, covered in blood and being carried by the rest of his company.



'Matador in Emerald and Violet' by Christian Gaillard.
Photo Courtesy of the artist and Connoisseur Art Gallery.



'The Silver Cup (II)' by Christian Gaillard.
Photo Courtesy of the artist and Connoisseur Art Gallery.



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by of the artist and Connoisseur Art Gallery.



'White and Silver Suit' by Christian Gaillard.
Photo Courtesy of the artist and Connoisseur Art Gallery.



'Ivory and Gold Suit' by Christian Gaillard.
Photo Courtesy of the artist and Connoisseur Art Gallery.



Photo © Christian Gaillard.



Christian Gaillard's impressive paintings are currently on display at the Connoisseur Art Gallery in Hong Kong, as part of the artist's third solo exhibition in the city titled 'De Luz' (16-28 October, 2014).

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Photo © Christian Gaillard.

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'Veronese Green Cape' by Christian Gaillard.
Photo Courtesy of the artist and Connoisseur Art Gallery.



'Maria Vargas VII' by Christian Gaillard.
Photo Courtesy of the artist and Connoisseur Art Gallery.

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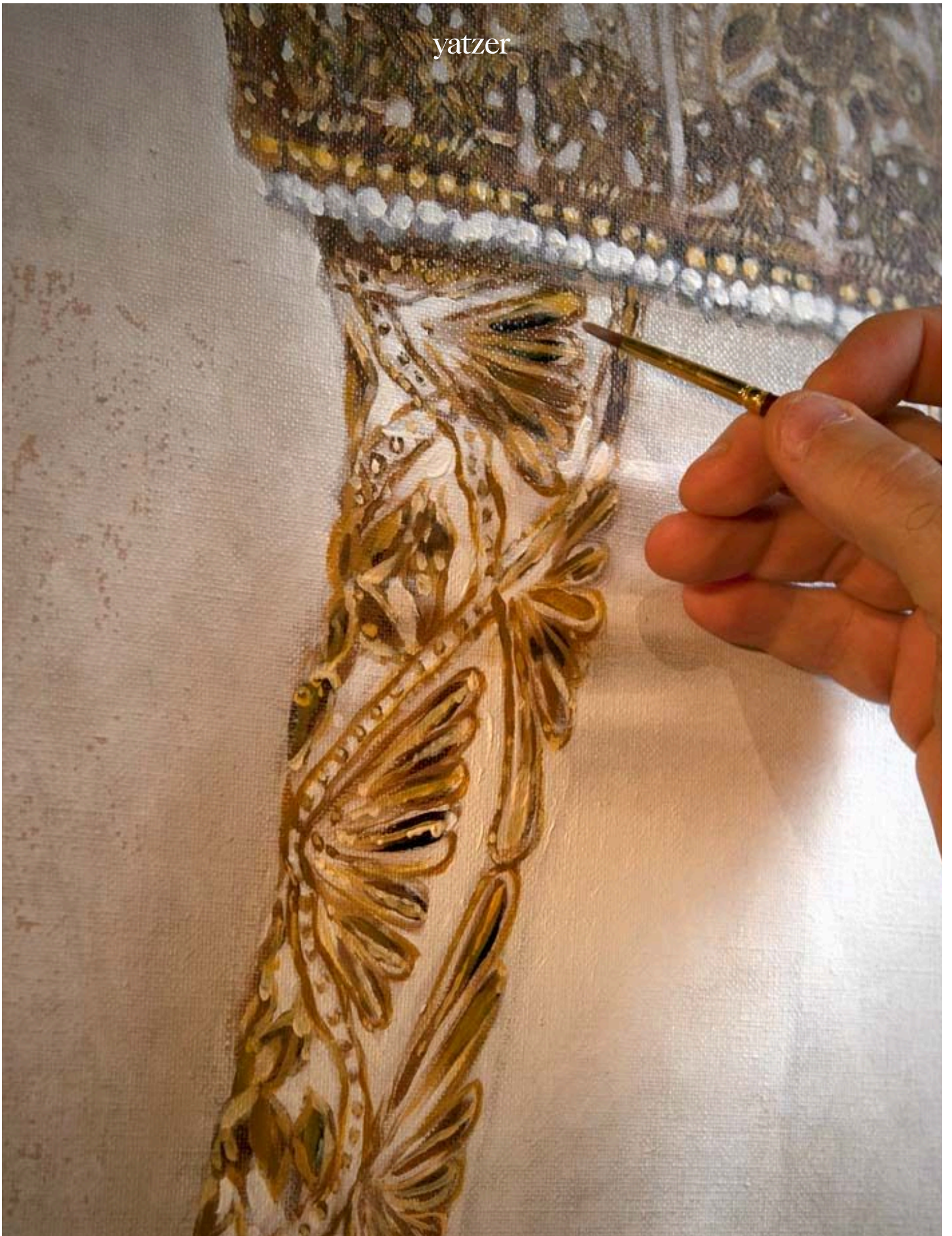




Photo © Christian Gaillard.

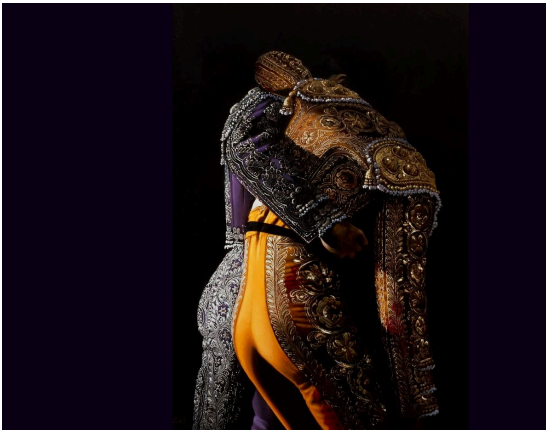


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Christian Gaillard (1951-2018)



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Born in Avignon, France in 1951, Christian Gaillard earned diplomas in art from the Ecole Nationale des Arts Decoratifs and Chambre de Commerce de la Ville de Paris. In 1973, Gaillard began his career as an illustrator, working for some of France's most prestigious advertising agencies. He also worked for several magazines. He drew the covers for such important publications as Telerama, Le Point, L'Express, and Le Monde de la Musique. His early work as an illustrator is clearly influenced by Norman Rockwell, whose technique has remained palpable in his work throughout his career as an artist. His mentors in painting are the great Spanish painters Zurbaran and Velazquez. Christian Gaillard has won many prestigious awards for his work, the most notable being First Prize, Real Maestranza de Caballer'a de Sevilla, Grand Prix de Peinture which was presented to him by the grandfather of the King of Spain, Don Juan de Bourbon. His work is in collections in France, Spain and the USA and his

exhibitions have been as widespread as Hong Kong, Singapore, USA, Mexico, Madagascar and Europe.

Gaillard amazed his collectors and admirers with his extraordinary technique. He resided in France and continued to impress the art world with his incredible work until the day of his death, on the 9th of August in 2018.



El Burtadero

SOLD



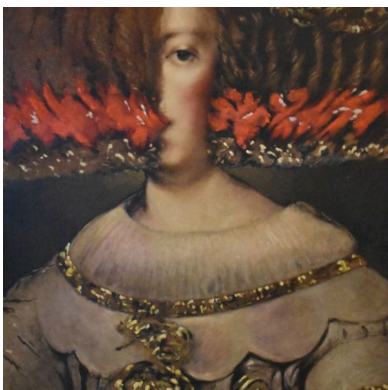
Que Dios Comparta La Suerte

Call for Price



Marie Sara II

SOLD



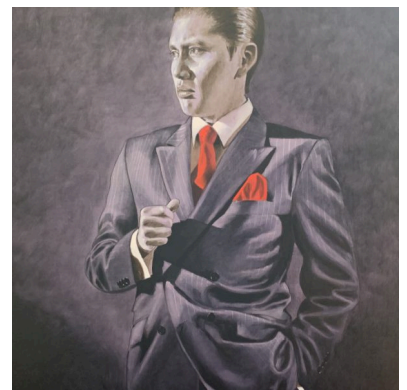
Mariana II

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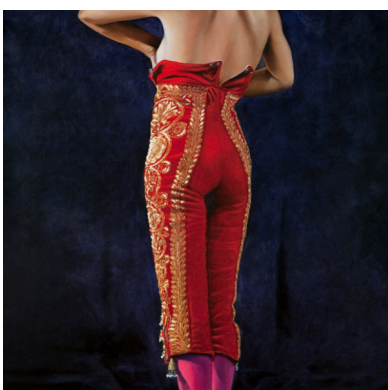
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Pimenton y Oro

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Maria Vargas

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Rioja

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Un Estilo Aparte (Tango I)

SOLD

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