

# SHE&SHE ARCHIVE ABOUT INK JEWELS

Article 06.01.23

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I WROTE THIS ARTICLE BECAUSE  
LATELY I AM MORE AND MORE  
CONVINCED THAT WHEN YOU  
DARE TO TRY SOMETHING NEW,  
CONDITIONING DISAPPEARS AND  
THE WORLD SURPRISES YOU.  
FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE  
THOSE WHO PLUCK FLOWERS TO  
USE THEM AS DECORATION...  
AND THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL  
NOT TO STEP ON THEM WHEN  
WALKING, THERE ARE PEOPLE  
WHO MARVEL AT SOMETHING  
SIMPLE LIKE A BEAN AND

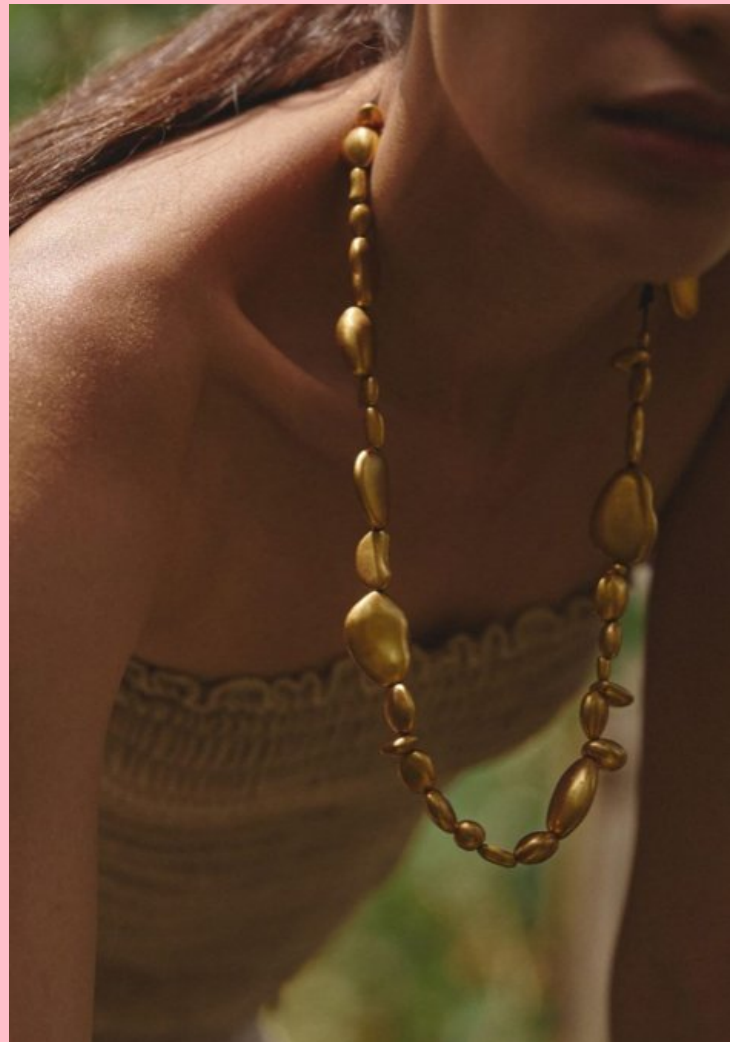
OTHERS WHO DO NOT SEE BEAUTY EVEN IN A RAINBOW, AND  
SO ON DIFFERENCES THAT MAKE SOME PEOPLE WANT CLOSE  
AND OTHERS NOT SO MUCH. I, WHO WORK IN THE FASHION  
INDUSTRY, AM FASCINATED BY THESE SEEDS, FOR THEIR  
BEAUTY AND HISTORY, FOR BEING A PLANT THAT IS FULL OF  
MYSTICISM AND FEMININITY.

ALSO, I MUST MENTION, IT HAS BEEN A  
PLEASURE TO MEET XANDRA FOR THIS  
ARTICLE, WHO THANKS TO HER CURIOSITY AND  
HER VISION TO SEE THE BEAUTY IN THESE  
LITTLE BIG SEEDS, TURNS BEAN VARIETIES  
INTO JEWELRY THAT HAVE BEEN PROUDLY  
WORN ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK,  
LONDON AND PARIS. THEY HAVE DEBUTED IN  
EDITIONS OF VOGUE IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

INCLUDING GREECE, THE UNITED STATES,  
PARIS, MEXICO AND LATIN AMERICA. AND THEY  
WERE RECOGNIZED AT THE BIENAL  
IBEROAMERICANA DE DISEÑO DE MADRID 2020.

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WABI SABI “APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF  
IMPERFECTION, ACCEPT THE VALUE OF  
THE IMPERMANENT AND CULTIVATE  
SIMPLICITY



## XANDRA

This story begins in Portugal in 2016 when Xandra Uribe was visiting a friend's farm, *"I was first seduced by the mystical aura of these wonderful seeds. His collection captivated me in*

*such a way that as soon as I got home in Colombia I began to plant my own garden, in addition to investigating every detail of these ephemeral and living jewels. I discovered eye-opening insights, each one more wonderful than the last.” –Xandra.*

With about 38,000 different varieties, beans are a staple food for some 400 million people in the tropics. They are affordable and easy to grow, require little water, and fix nitrogen in the soil. In addition to all these benefits, they have another quality that is overlooked: they are beautiful. Beans are the only first-time domesticated food that is not eaten, but used as body adornment or in ritual ceremonies. Throughout history, men and women have carefully selected the most attractive seeds, those with the most striking shapes, patterns, and colors, planting them again and again. The rainbow of types that exist today, from emerald-green *Jade beans* to ruby-red *Scarlett beans*, from pearl-white *Corona beans* to sapphire-colored *Sacred Blue beans*, are living proof of the role that beauty has played in conservation.

*“There are 400,000 plants that live on sunlight, 50,000 serve as sustenance and only 15 are essential for our survival. Of these essential foods only one was originally domesticated as an ornament for its beauty, Before rubies and diamonds, sapphires and emeralds, man already worshiped beans as jewelry, using them as central pieces in games and rituals. –Xandra*





## LA SHAMANA, CAO

What I liked the most about the history of beans is that for thousands of years women and beans have been intrinsically closely related, so I was surprised that until recently it was believed that all shamans or priests of Pre-Inca cultures were men, but in 2006 they discovered the tomb of a Shamana on the north coast of Peru called Señora de Cao, a healer from the Mochica culture. The presence of tattoos on this woman's body, with figures of snakes and spiders and jaguars and bees (all animals that I love and that refer to the fertility of the earth and water) and other elements such as beans linked to magic-religious, suggest that the Lady of Cao was a shamana, considered an «almost divine» spiritual being dedicated to very deep spiritual activities associated with quackery...so if you are lucky and have a very open heart, you can get to know a real shamana.

When I read and keep coming across stories



about this plant, I realize that beans are resistance, resilience, diversity, femininity...it have helped us learn to count, to decorate our bodies, to connect with divinity in rituals, it is an essential ingredient to nourish the soil, it is food for the body and the soul...in short, it is a magical plant.

I cannot fail to mention the environmental, social, and famine crisis that exists in the world and that makes me think that thanks to this plant we can reconnect with nature, with food that is more generous with the soil, the environment and people, it is a cheap food, full of nutrients, that is available and affordable for the majority, and not for a few and above all it is natural... and natural is always good for the heart .



### THE SHAPE

If you pay close attention to the shape of a bean, you will see that it has the shape of an embryo, it is a plant that does not need much to grow, it is strong, it nourishes the soil, it gives life... it is like a woman, pure life. And with 38,000 different types of beans grown and eaten in every

country in the world except the North Pole, beans show us how diversity is a natural part of humanity, of the earth and the Earth we all share.



WABI SABI

The Japanese believe that imperfection, impermanence and incompleteness are three natural qualities part of every living entity. ByXan bean gems embody this *Wabi Sabi* way of being: *"The graceful beauty of humble simplicity"*.



"Nature is pleased with simplicity. And nature is no dummy."

Isaac Newton

## CONCLUSION

For me, magic and myth are the first interpretation of the universe, and science the second, although they have always existed together in contradiction... but then, ¿who doesn't have contradictions? That a woman has exalted this legume because she followed her heart...that a female Shamana had been found in the 20th century...that a seed can feed the body and soul...that a bean is the protagonist of fairy tales... all this reminds me once again to go for love, to focus more on what I am for and not against. ¡Beautiful world!

## CREDITS

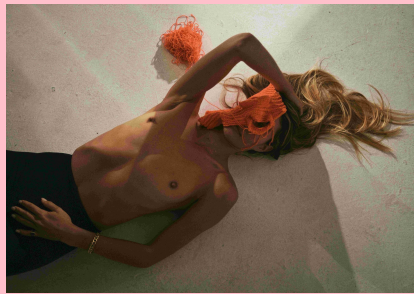
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MASKS COME  
OFF, SOME  
DON'T.»



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