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## En Route to Brooklyn, a Stop at Dior

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In case you're already putting your shopping list together for the fall, you might want to think about adding to it the special-edition perfume bottle the French artist Jean-Michel Othoniel has designed for Dior's fragrance J'adore L'Absolu.



Parfums Christian Dior

The special-edition perfume bottle designed for Dior's fragrance J'adore L'Absolu by the French artist Jean-Michel Othoniel.

Three hundred of the handblown Murano glass bottles will be available world-wide in November for the asking price of \$3,500. That is more than our monthly rent, so we're still mulling over

whether it is a smart purchase for us, but according to a Dior spokeswoman, a wait list has already begun in earnest.

Mr. Othoniel has been in town for the last 10 days preparing for his coming exhibition "My Way" at the Brooklyn Museum, which opens next week. An exhibit of newer glass work by the artist will open at L & M Arts in early September. In an interview, Mr. Othoniel said that this is the first time he's worked on a commercial project, and it came about because Bernard Arnault and his daughter, Delphine, of LVMH are collectors of his work. The company, which owns Dior, sponsored "My Way" when it was presented at the Pompidou in Paris.



Guillaume Zicarelli

'My Bed,' which was created by the artist in 2003. The artist's work will be on display at the Brooklyn Museum beginning Aug. 17.

"Mr. Arnault owns a big boat that I made, and Delphine owns something more abstract," said Mr. Othoniel. "So she came to me and said, 'I love your work. We're doing this new fragrance. Can we try to make an art edition?'"

(Last fall, Dior collaborated with the German artist Anselm Reyle on a line of accessories and colorful nail polishes and other beauty products.)

For years, Mr. Othoniel said he has been working on the concept of necklaces in the abstract form. Meanwhile, in previous incarnations, the Dior perfume bottle had the shape of a woman's body with an abstract form of a necklace at the top.



Guillaume

'Large Double Lacan's Knot' from 2011.

"I wanted to open this necklace," said Mr. Othoniel, "like if the necklace opened around the bottle." He said he hoped to suggest that while in the 1960s, a woman might be more constricted by social mores, these days, "she can buy the necklace, she can buy the bottle herself." In turn, in Mr. Othoniel's current interpretation, the necklace now has expanded to wrap around the entire bottle.

"The fragrance is unique," he added, "and the bottle is really quite voluptuous."

Mr. Othoniel said that each piece is handmade in Venice. "It seems to be easy to make this kind of thing by machine, but when you do it by hand, it's more difficult," he explained. "We are going back to the way that they probably made perfume bottles 2,000 years ago."

"It's really an artwork, it's such a small edition," he went on. "But this way you can enter the life of the people. Sometimes, when you work mostly out of galleries and museums, you never know what people will think of your work. But this way you can connect with real people, not just art lovers."



Guillaume

A detail of 'Lacan's Knot,' a 2009 piece.

Mr. Othoniel explained that his horizons opened up, too, connecting with a fragrance. "It hadn't interested me before," he said, "but I discovered I have a nose."

As for his retrospective, with his team, Mr. Othoniel has been slowly putting together his sculptures from the various, large-scale glass beads that have been shipped to the Brooklyn Museum. "It's a lot of work, and very time consuming," he said. "We do it step by step."

How many individual glass pieces need to be put together? "I didn't count, but probably more than 5,000."