

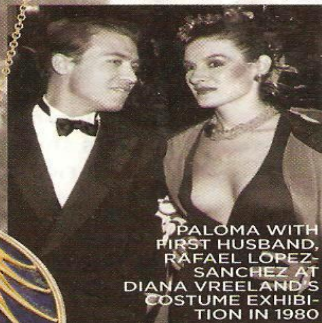
FLARE

VISIONARY

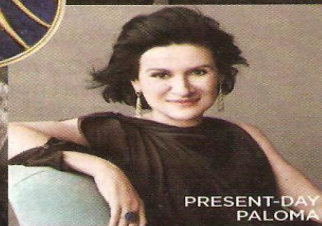
A 1950 PORTRAIT OF PALOMA AND HER MOTHER IN FRANCE



VILLA PALOMA PALM
PENDANT BY TIFFANY & CO.



PALOMA WITH
FIRST HUSBAND,
RAFAEL LOPEZ-
SANCHEZ AT
DIANA VREELAND'S
COSTUME EXHIBI-
TION IN 1980



PRESENT-DAY
PALOMA

JEWELLERY
DESIGNER AND
STYLE ICON

PALOMA PICASSO

PALOMA PICASSO IS A CLASS ALL HER OWN. From her parents' inescapable artistic legacy (mother Françoise Gilot was a noted writer and painter in her own right), to her own copious endeavours, Paloma is the personification of pedigree—meets—plenteous creativity. But scrape away her name and glamorous lore (homes in Paris, southern France and Switzerland; Ron Galella photos documenting heady Studio 54 days), and you'll find a trailblazer. Today she's traded in her frenetic, high-gloss existence for something decidedly more peaceful: a life in Morocco and a new focus. Over the phone from her base in Marrakesh, she spoke about Villa Paloma—her latest collection of botanical bijoux (inspired by her most beloved gardens)—and her relationship with Tiffany, the fine jeweller with whom her gestural designs have been synonymous since her free-hand graffiti series (see "The X is Back," right) in 1983.

What garden do you hold most dear? The one we had in the south of France when I was living with my parents. We had really beautiful orange groves, tangerines and mandarins—all unkempt. We have them in our gardens in Morocco now.

How does your outdoor space in Marrakesh influence your designs? We have a lot of olive trees, which I will be introducing later in the year with the [second] Villa Paloma collection. My name Paloma means "dove" [in Spanish] which is very often represented with the branch of an olive tree.

Are you much of a gardener yourself? Not really. I love to look at plants rather than picking the right soil [for them].

Has an idea ever proved too challenging for the Tiffany & Co. artisans? Sometimes they misread what you tell them and something comes out of it that you like and keep. Other times, they say they can't do it. This forces you to find the essentials to get the design you want—and that makes it even better.

THE X IS BACK

The '80s revival is on, and Paloma Picasso's iconic X earrings from the graffiti era are the pitch-perfect signifier of that decade's society-meets-street vibe. Scout out a vintage gold pair on eBay, or head to Tiffany for a sterling silver set.

X EARRINGS BY
TIFFANY & CO.



Your career is prolific, spanning a stint in film to beauty products. What else would you like to explore? My husband said to me: "I think you should concentrate on what matters most. What would that be?" And there's your answer: jewellery. I haven't slowed down, but rather, I am going deeper.

You are lauded for your talent as a bold colourist. Is there a certain combination currently inspiring you? Because I was working on Villa Paloma, I focused on a lot of green this year. It [represents] the gardens and also is a message to say, "Support the earth."

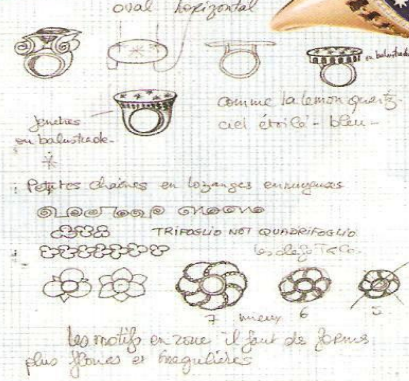
As a long-time beauty icon, what's your skin secret? Stay in the shade as much as possible.

What is the modern way to wear bijoux? You want to wear a big piece—but one very visible thing rather than a combination.

Which design do you think your father would have liked best? He would have loved these large hammered-gold link necklaces I used to do. I wear them as a long necklace or a belt or as a bracelet. I even asked the hairdresser to braid them in my hair.

That sounds decadent! What is your favourite thing to have in abundance? Flowers. Last year for my birthday, my husband gave me 1,000 roses—that was wonderful. Here in Marrakesh, you can do that. —Moshia Lundström Halbert

DREAMING UP THE VENEZIA (2011)



VENEZIA
STELLA
RING BY
TIFFANY
& CO.