

VOGUE

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At Paris Art and Design Week, Big Tech Looms—But Humanity Shimmers Beneath It

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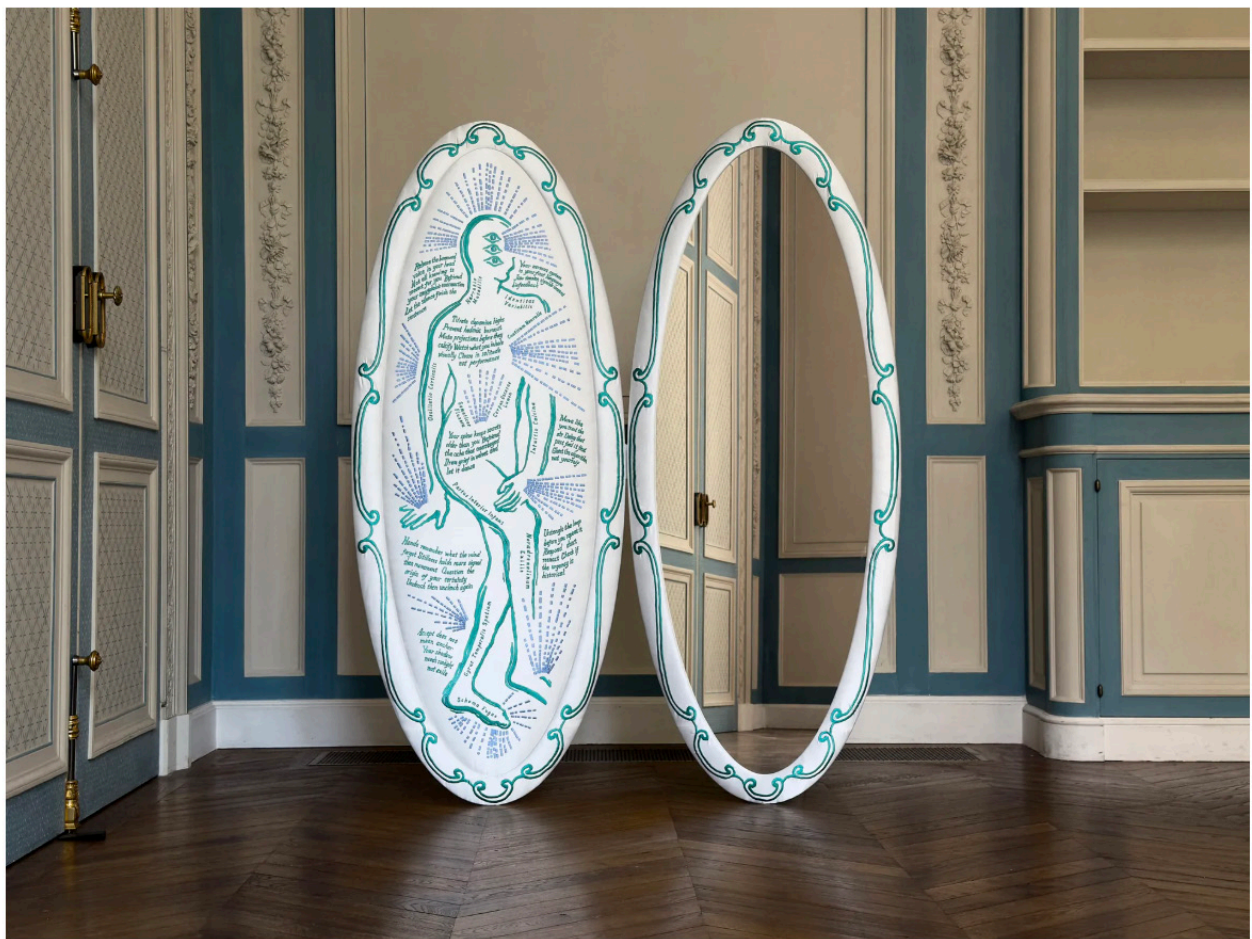


Photo: Elodie Croquet

“Nobody stops at a stop sign and thinks: ‘When are they going to redesign that? It’s so old!’”

A Brazilian Bookcase from Charlotte Perriand x Saint Laurent



Photo: Nicolas Bergerot

This collaboration debuted at Salone del Mobile, but it's too beautiful to not include, and its backstory is apropos of the topic: Charlotte Perriand purpose-built some of these pieces—now on view at Galerie Patrick Seguin—solely as pragmatic one-offs, without commercialization in mind. The “Rio de Janeiro Bookcase” from 1962—which blockily invokes the mosaic patterns of Ipanema and Copacabana’s boardwalks—is notable in this regard. It was designed by Perriand for her husband Jacques Martin’s apartment in the Brazilian city, originally intended as singular objects. It was meant to carry not only books, but display art, hold lamps, et al. It’s an extraordinary piece of humanity-imbued design, which Saint Laurent, under Anthony Vaccarello, has brought back in a limited-edition run.