



RELATED ●

An Inside Look at Chanel's New Coco Crush Rings

Spring Fashion Is Larger Than Life

Karolina Spakow...

FASHION > IN THE MAGAZINE

# How Conie Vallese Is Reimagining Art, Design, and Fashion

The artist shows soft new looks set against one of Marcel Breuer's famed Brutalist buildings.

BY ADRIENNE GAFFNEY, PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDY HARRINGTON. STYLED BY ALEX WHITE.  
PUBLISHED: APR 7, 2026

🔖 SAVE ARTICLE





Andy Harrington

Every item on this page was chosen by an ELLE editor. We may earn commission on some of the items you choose to buy.

🕒 3 MIN READ

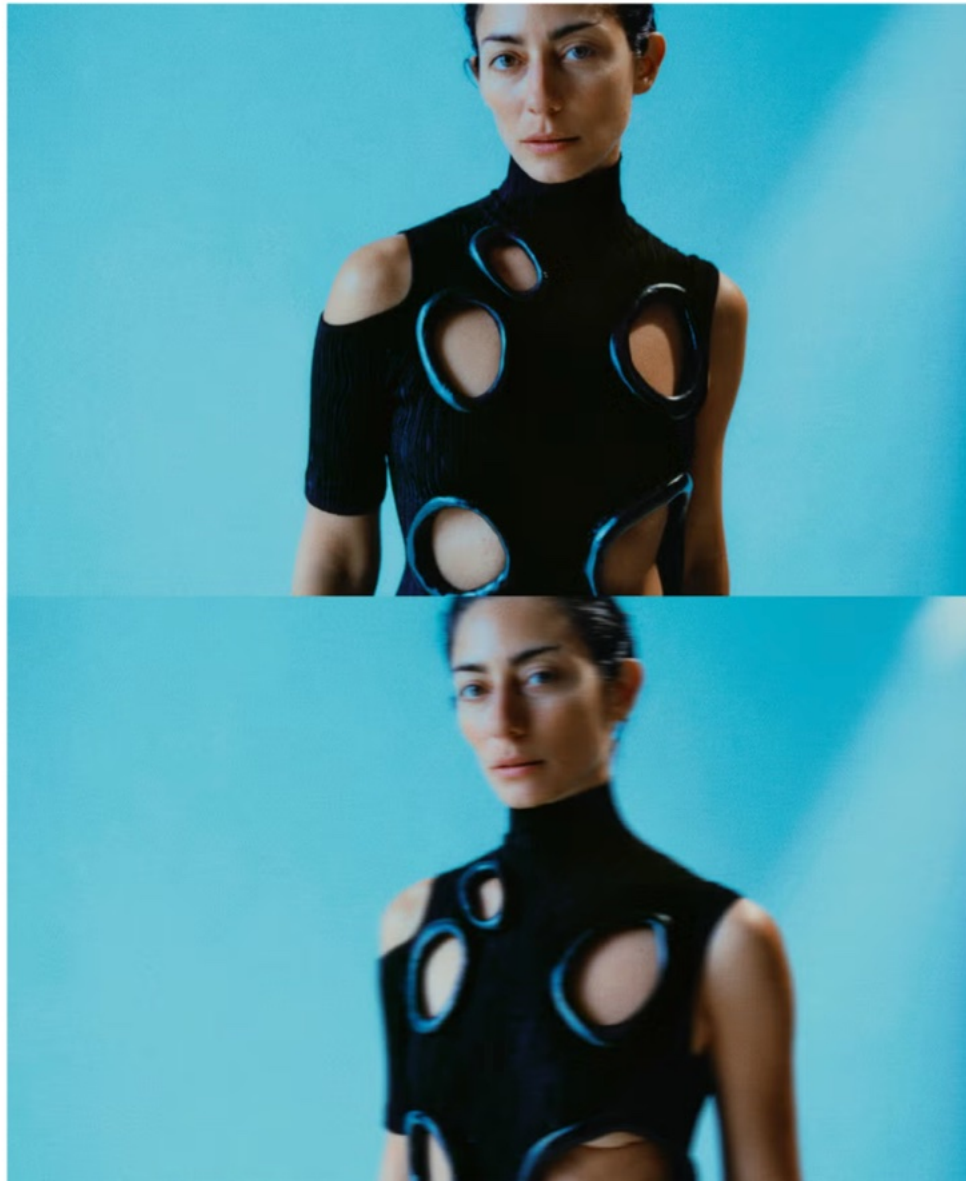
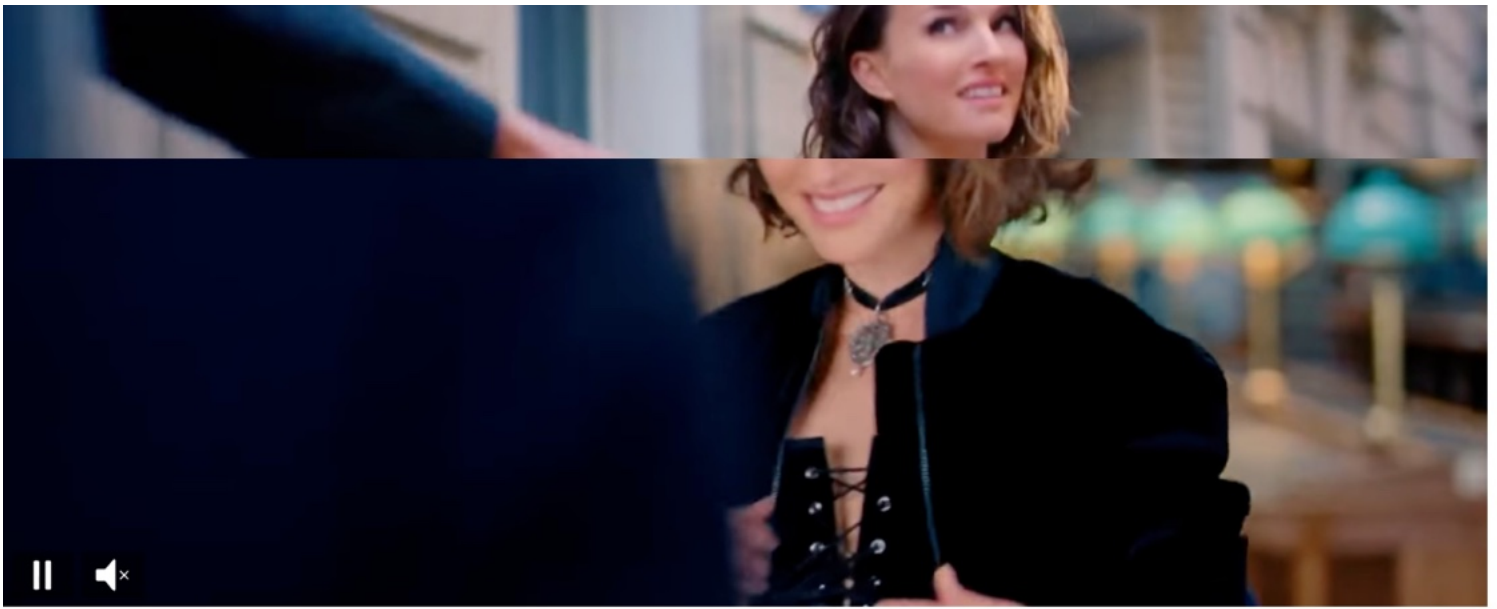
During last winter's Design Miami fair, attendees were welcomed into "Fonderia Fendi," a brilliantly yellow room showcasing the work of artist and designer Conie Vallese. Vallese had been handpicked by Fendi for the project, a celebration of the brand's 100th anniversary. She worked with five different Italian ateliers to build the pieces, which included a vase, a room divider, a carpet, ceramic cubes, and a chair, each combining sleek design with soft touches, like floral flourishes. "It felt less like assembling objects and more like composing a shared language across materials," Vallese says. "In the end, the installation became a celebration of togetherness as the core and force of the project. It felt like a true meeting point between my own sensibility and Fendi's heritage."



Andy Harrington  
Top, trousers, earrings, Bottega Veneta.

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below





Andy Harrington  
Top, Schiaparelli.

Vallese grew up in Argentina, the daughter of a doctor and an interior designer. Incorporating beauty into daily life was always important to

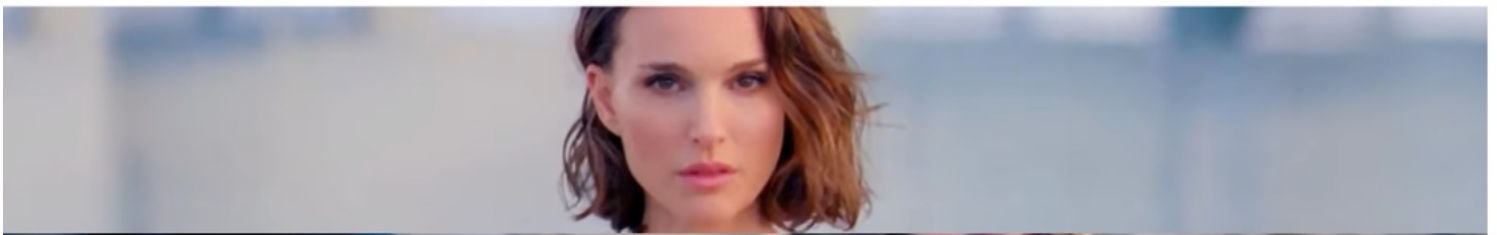
her, but she began pursuing art more seriously after she moved to New York City in her 20s. She was inspired by her beloved grandmother, a painter, and began painting, drawing, and creating decorative objects in materials like bronze, glass, textiles, and ceramics. Now living in Italy and New York, Vallese has shown her work at Milan Design Week, the prestigious design residency Numeroventi, and the art fair Collectible New York. She's working on a collection of tiles for the Copenhagen design brand Blēo and is making vases for the Venetian blown-glass lighting company Barovier&Toso.



Andy Harrington  
Top, jeans, Khaite. Gloves, Wing & Weft.

---

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below





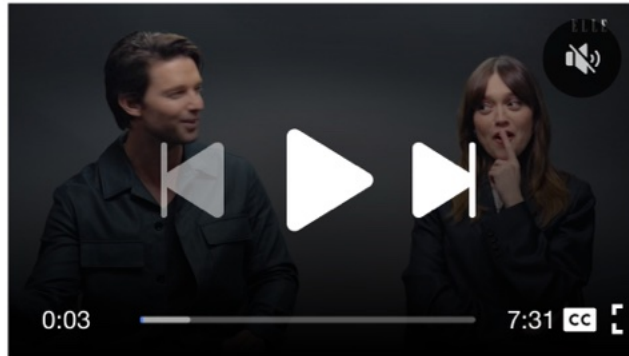
Andy Harrington  
Coat, top, skirt, shoes, Prada.

The wide scope of Vallese's vision has made it possible for her to work with brands like By Malene Birger on a series of glass vases, create a collection of embellished cutlery with jeweler Orit Elhanati, and design ribbon-adorned bronze furniture pieces with Rym Beydoun of the fashion brand Super Yaya. Though she moves between mediums and

partnerships, her work has a consistent vision. “I’m always interested in working from a place of continuity and also exploring new materials or approaches. Learning new ways to make work is what motivates me to continue the path of creating work, not reinventing myself for each, but allowing familiar elements of my practice to stretch,” she says.

MORE FROM ELLE

## White Lotus Cast | Where Is The Lie? | ELLE



Andy Harrington  
Jacket, top, skirt, Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello.





Andy Harrington  
Dress, Loewe. Earrings, Chanel.

---

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below

---



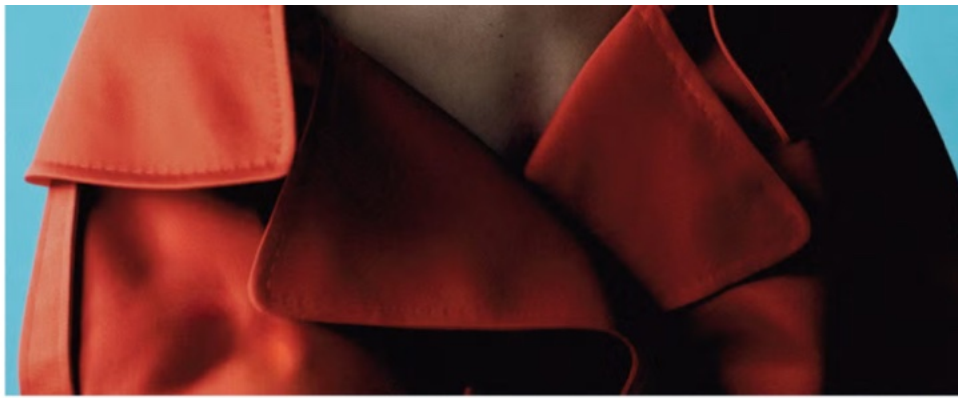
Flowers, particularly lilies, which she sees as “symbols of fragility and resilience,” are a theme for Vallese, but the prettiness of her art doesn’t distract from its depth. “Recurring motifs like floral forms, softness within structure, and a sense of domestic intimacy are very present in my practice,” she says. “Flowers have always been a quiet constant in my work, not just as visual beauty, but as emotional markers. I grew up surrounded by them, and over time they became a kind of language for me. I’m drawn to the way they hold contradictions so naturally.”





1996-98 AccuSoft Inc.  
Pullover, skirt, earrings, pumps, Chanel.



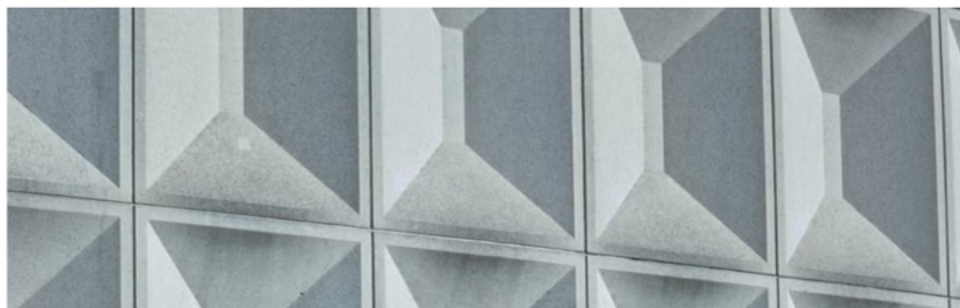


Andy Harrington  
Jacket, Givenchy by Sarah Burton. Earrings, Chanel.

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below



In 2015, Vallese began working in front of the camera. She walked in one of Phoebe Philo's last Céline shows and has since modeled for Bottega Veneta. "It was a bit spontaneous, and at first I didn't really understand where it fit in my life or my work," she says of her modeling jobs. "My first experience felt unfamiliar, because I'd never seen myself in that role before. Over time, some projects and collaborations felt very special to me, and I began to enjoy it. The work stopped being about posing or appearance and started to feel more like another form of expression."





Andy Harrington  
Dress, earrings, pumps, Chanel.

---

*Lead image: Jacket, top, skirt, earrings, Khaite.*

*Hair by Erol Karadag for Oribe; makeup by Frank B at the Wall Group;  
manicure by Lolly Koon for Chanel; produced by Family Projects;  
location: Bronx Community College.*

***This story appears in the March 2026 issue of ELLE.***

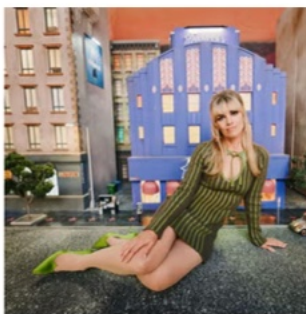
GET THE LATEST ISSUE OF ELLE

---

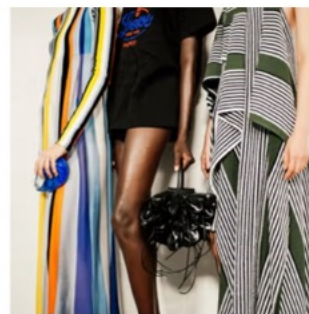
## Related Stories



How Frida Escobedo Is Making History at the Met



The Most Anticipated Moments at Art Basel



How Modern Art Is Shaping the Runway

Looking for what's on-trend this month?

We've got you covered.

✉ Pop in your email address.

LET'S GO  
SHOPPING.

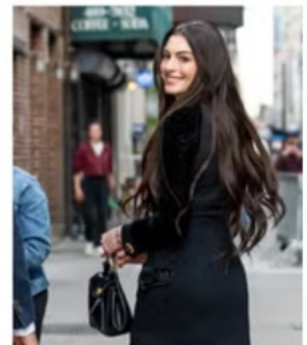
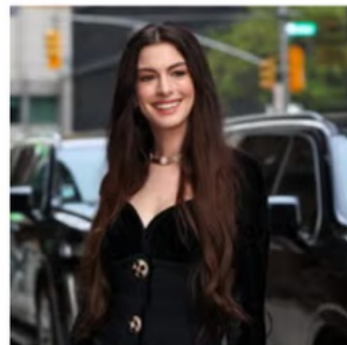
By signing up, I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) (including the [dispute resolution procedures](#)) and have reviewed the [Privacy Notice](#).

This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below



## *You Might Also Like*





The Only Shoes to Wear With Bootcut Jeans



Anne Hathaway Just Made a \$99 Bag Look Expensive



Victoria Beckham and Gap Debut Capsule Collection



Pink Jeans Are Spring's Chicest Surprise Trend

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below





How Do I Wear Barrel Jeans?



How to Style Windbreakers, According to Cool Girls



Celebs Love This Kate Spade Bag



Coach's Viral Under-\$500 Handbag Everyone Wants



Kim and Lewis Shared a Kiss in Intimate Beach PDA



17 Fashion Highlights From Milan Design Week 2026



Beyoncé's Lemonade, 10 Years Later



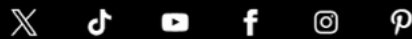
These Are the Exfoliating Pads Experts Really Use

Advertisement - Continue Reading Below

*Miss Dior*  
THE NEW ESSENCE

[SHOP NOW](#)

ELLE



[Newsletter](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Media Kit](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Community Guidelines](#)

[Advertise Online](#)

[Customer Service](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Events & Promotions](#)

[Giveaways](#)

**HEARST**  
FASHION & LUXURY  
COLLECTION

A Part of Hearst Digital Media

We may earn commission from links on this page, but we only recommend products we back.

©2026 Hearst Magazine Media, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Notice](#) [CA Notice at Collection](#) [Your CA Privacy Rights/Shine the Light](#) [DAA Industry Opt Out](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Site](#)

Map



Your Privacy Choices: Opt Out Of Sale/Targeted Ads