

TREASURE
ISLAND

CREATIVE ACADEMY PRESENTS TREASURE ISLAND AT CASA DEGLI ARTISTI

PRESS PREVIEW

April 20 2026, from 2PM to 10PM
Entrance upon invitation

EXHIBITION

April 21-26 2026, from 10AM to 8PM
Free entrance upon online registration

CASA DEGLI ARTISTI

Via Tommaso da Cazzaniga, Corso Garibaldi 89/A, Milan

A project by

Creative Academy

On the occasion of the Milano Design Week 2026, Creative Academy, the Richemont Design School, presents *Treasure Island*, a collection of design objects inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson's famous adventure novel, a captivating theme proposed by the High Jewellery Maison Van Cleef & Arpels.

In partnership with

Van Cleef & Arpels



Creative Academy presents *Treasure Island*, a collection of design objects conceived and designed by the students of the Master of Arts in Design and Applied Arts under the guidance of Giampiero Bodino, Art Director of Richemont and Creative Academy. The sixteen creations were brought to life by two exceptional Masters: Simone Crestani, who shaped the artworks in borosilicate glass, and Jacopo Allegrucci, creator of the papier-mâché objects.

Crafted by the Masters



ATELIER CRESTANI
contemporary glass works

JACOPO
ALLEGRUCCI

Inspired by a common theme, the young designers of Creative Academy started from R.L. Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island* to reflect on the meaning each of them attributes to the word *Treasure* and enclose it in a tangible object. *Treasure Island* is a sixteen-stage route, recounting precious experiences and memories. A journey made unique by the heterogeneity of the students, coming from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds. This is a key element of Creative Academy, that has been training emerging talents in the design of jewellery, watches, and accessories since 2003.

Among the various interpretations, the exhibition does not neglect direct references to the adventure novel, presenting objects that embody distinctive traits of the characters or key passages from the book. For example, among the works, a glass prosthesis stands out, evoking the essence of Long John Silver, the charismatic pirate encountered by the protagonist Jim Hawkins in his search for treasure.

MILANO
DESIGN
WEEK

Visitors will also be able to admire a magnificent 1:1 scale reproduction of a coracle, the single-person boat that for millennia has sailed the waters of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and which Jim used to approach the buccaneers in *Treasure Island*.

The dialogue between creativity and craftsmanship is one of the core values of the Master's program. For *Treasure Island*, the synergy between Creative Academy and Master Craftsman Simone Crestani is renewed. Considered internationally as a luminary in both plastic arts and the design world, Crestani creates meticulously detailed works in borosilicate glass using the *Scultura Cava (Hollow Sculpture)* technique, which he has developed.

For the *papier-mâché* objects, students developed their creative ideas in collaboration with Jacopo Allegrucci. A protagonist of numerous victories at the Viareggio Carnival thanks to his incredible floats, Allegrucci has successfully applied his passion for the *papier-mâché* technique to diverse projects, creating magnificent animal-shaped sculptures like the series *La Fragilità del Futuro* and *Orso*, presented at Triennale Milano, and surprising scenic elements for prestigious productions and theatrical shows.

The artworks are highlighted by an immersive installation conceived by the Scenography & Concepts teams at Van Cleef & Arpels. Like a mirage, guests will be enveloped by the sounds of the oceanic world and the island. To make the visitors' experience even more engaging, the young designers of the objects will be present in the exhibition spaces and will guide guests as Ambassadors. This is a unique opportunity to learn about the history and creative process behind each piece.

Treasure Island can be visited throughout Milano Design Week 2026. The exhibition is presented as part of the *Arts & Crafts & Design* initiative, a new collaborative showcase that brings together four key players in Milan's craft and design scene: Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte, the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity & Craftsmanship, Creative Academy and Serapien.

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CREATIVE ACADEMY

Creative Academy is the Design School founded in 2003 by Richemont, specialised in the design of jewellery, watches and accessories. The school offers the Master of Arts in Design and Applied Arts, a postgraduate programme that each year trains twenty young creative talents coming from around the world. With a concrete approach and a faculty made up mostly of leading figures of the Group (CEO, Creative Directors, etc.), the Master allows students to learn and practice for seven months in Milan and then it offers the most deserving students the exclusive opportunity to conclude the training course with an internship in one of the creative studios of the Group Maisons. The didactic program is developed through specialised seminars, design projects and constant interaction with the Richemont Maisons, which include brands such as Buccellati, Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Vhernier, A. Lange & Söhne, Baume & Mercier, IWC Schaffhausen, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Panerai, Piaget, Roger Dubuis, Vacheron Constantin, Alaïa, Chloé, Delvaux, dunhill, G/FORE, Gianvito Rossi, Montblanc, Peter Millar, Purdey, Serapian, TimeVallée and Watchfinder & Co. www.creative-academy.com

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

Van Cleef & Arpels was born in Paris, at 22 Place Vendôme, in 1906. Its founding resulted from the 1895 marriage of Alfred Van Cleef and Esther (known as Estelle) Arpels, both from families of jewelry merchants. The Maison's sources of inspiration—including love, nature, couture and dance—open the gate to an enchanting universe. Guided by excellence, Van Cleef & Arpels is distinguished for its gemstones selected according to the most stringent criteria, its expert savoir-faire and its taste for innovation, expressed throughout its High Jewelry, Jewelry and Watchmaking collections. Today, its style, embodied in numerous signatures such as the Mystery Set technique, the Minaudière, the Zip necklace and the Alhambra motif, continues to blend inventiveness and poetry. Throughout its history, Van Cleef & Arpels has continuously expressed its attachment to the values of creation, transmission and education. Today, the Maison promotes the outreach of savoir-faire through L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, which has shared the culture of jewelry with the public since 2012. Meanwhile, the “de Mains en mains” event seeks to raise awareness of the jewelry professions among young people and adults in career transition. Further actions echo the Maison's major sources of inspiration. Since 2020, the Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels program has supported contemporary choreographic art, while the Maison's affinity for nature is reflected in its support for garden restoration and preservation. www.vancleefarpels.com

SIMONE CRESTANI

Founded in 2010 by Master Simone Crestani, Atelier Crestani is a laboratory specialised in the creation of transparent borosilicate glass sculptures. Taking inspiration from naturalistic subjects and themes, Crestani creates sculptural works with a pure and elegant style, distinguished by a meticulous attention to details. Some of his creations have already been exhibited in many prestigious international spaces and Master Crestani is often invited as a teacher and visiting artist in the most important glass centres in the world. Simone Crestani received the important Talent de l'Audace award at the Centre du Luxe et de la Création in Paris in 2018 and the MAM – Maestro d'Arte e Mestieri award in 2020. www.simonecrestani.com

JACOPO ALLEGRUCCI

Jacopo Allegrucci is an artist, collagist, and builder of allegorical floats for the Viareggio Carnival. A graduate of the Carrara Academy of Fine Arts, specializing in Decoration, Allegrucci began his career in 1996, constructing movements for the floats, and won the Carnival for the first time in 1998. Among his most recent works, Allegrucci created a polar bear-shaped sculpture, conceived for the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games and exhibited at the Triennale.

ARTS & CRAFTS & DESIGN

Arts & Crafts & Design is a new collaborative showcase uniting four key players in Milan's craft and design scene: Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte, the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity & Craftsmanship, Creative Academy and Serapian. Held at Casa degli Artisti, a space that aligns with the quartet's shared values of creativity, experimentation and dialogue, this collective endeavour is a meaningful addition to the dynamic discourse of Milan Design Week, engaging with its core themes of design, sustainability, craftsmanship and innovation.