

April 2021

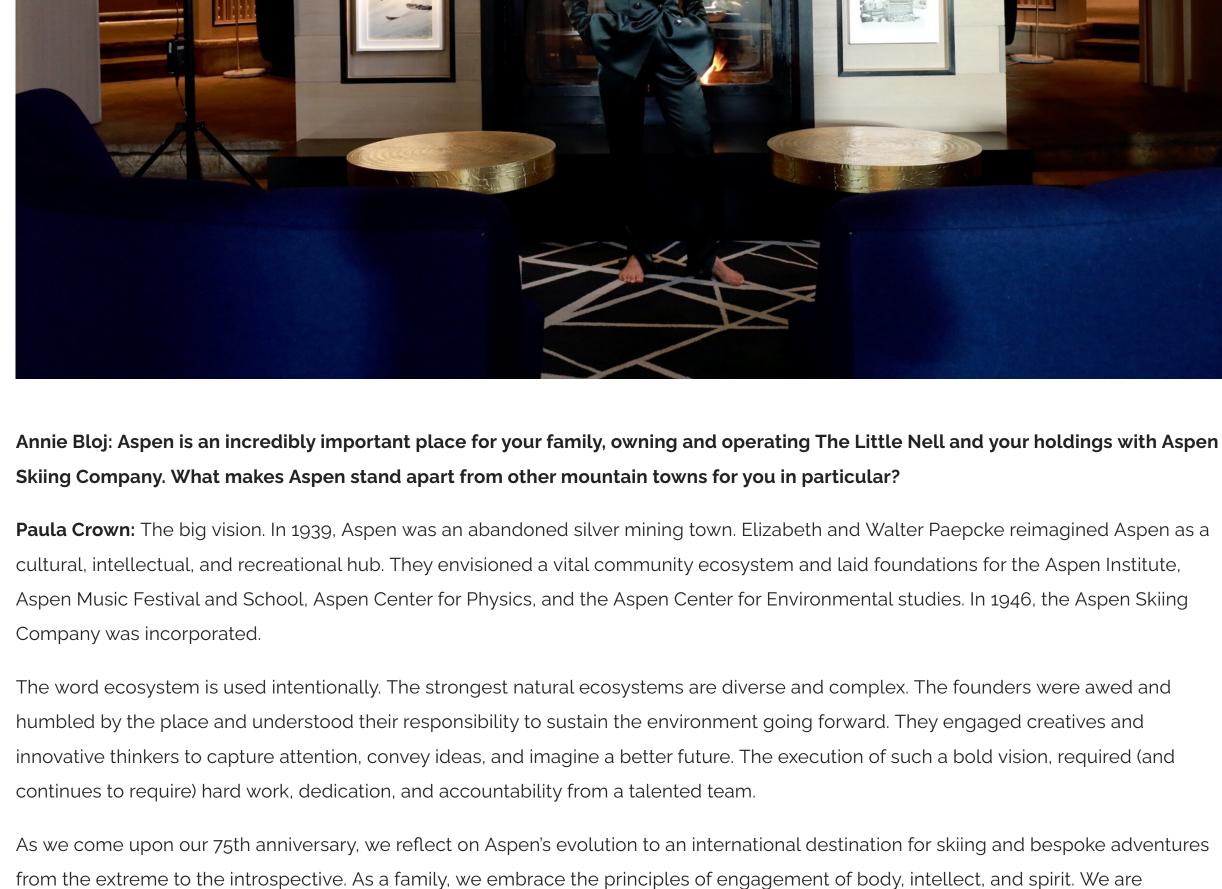
## Paula Crown Is Expanding On The Big Vision For Aspen With The Little Nell

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ESTHER LEE LEACH AT THE LITTLE NELL

WRITTEN BY ANNIE BLOJ // CULTURE & STYLE EDITOR STYLED BY KIRI MORKEN // CLOTHING: CHRISTY RILLING X PAULA CROWN ATELIER

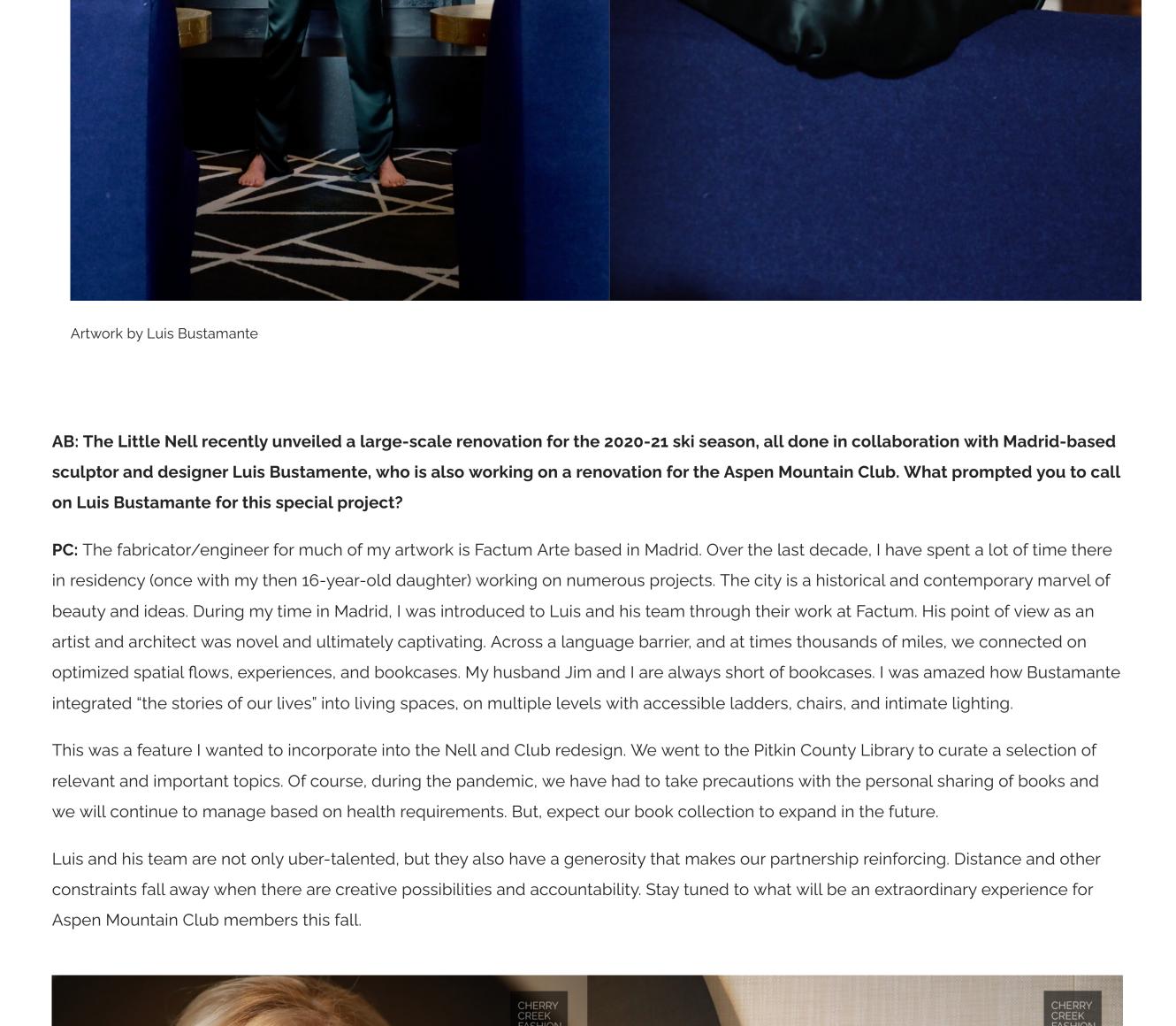
CREEK **FASHION**  **APRIL 2021** 





Aspen holds transformative potential. While standing in the same place, everything is suddenly different and ripe with possibilities. How might this place of astonishing beauty help reveal, heal and nurture the best in ourselves? Nature will show us the way.

committed to our local and global interconnectedness and sustaining the sacred beauty of our surroundings.





connection between the Paepckes, The University of Chicago, and the creative community. The commonalities of the Chicago artists include subject matter, materiality, artist collaborations (such as in the case of Theaster Gates), or admired artists/educators from The School of the Art Institute. The Theaster Gates work you mentioned, as an example, tells an important story. Racism and violence are part of our shared American

history. The colors speak to our red, white, and blue flag. Gates made this during President Obama's first term in the White House. The fire

hoses composed in the frame were actually used to douse and restrain black voices. Seeing the water hoses up close and understanding

how their use was perverted to harm others is confrontational. The work poses questions, it does not judge. The superpower of art is its

As you have pointed out, we strive to allow our hotel spaces to be a platform for ideas. The Limelight in Ketchum engages artists in a

shared conversation about topology. The works in the Limelight Snowmass represent geographical and ethnic breadth. Whether it is our

space design, food and beverage offerings, or art, we want our hotels to promote connection and vital ideas. We think about creating a

ability to invite the viewer to pause, find space beyond their own beliefs, and engage in a larger constructive conversation.

AB: The way you have integrated art into The Little Nell could be seen as surprising to other hoteliers. For instance, the Vertical Flag

**PC:** Art is a language. Our collections are curated to reflect issues of import and to provoke further conversation. Art operates on multiple

The work at The Little Nell and Element 47 also specifically underscores the historical relationship between Chicago and Aspen, like the

levels. It can be pleasurable to look at, confusing, or disquieting. My intention is to curate stories and reveal connections.

by Theaster Gates, which is made of decommissioned hoses used to spray black protestors during the civil rights movement. How

does having statement-making pieces add depth to The Little Nell experience?

residential ambiance and rooms for living, not just living rooms.

AB: As a highly regarded artist yourself, you've been quoted as saying "I do not believe there is a conscious 'want' to be an artist." It

PC: We are interwoven into, not separate from, an astounding universe of life forces, forms, and space. Gravity reminds us that we all

belong. Our stories are what separates us. Our perceptions are affected by how we are made physically and how we are affected by

My life has been about trusting what pulls my attention, what I have a talent for, and how it can be of use to the world. My confidence

I have come to more clarity about my talents, which are due to the randomness of the physical world, genetic evolution, or mutation.

None of us had any say in the genetic hand that we have been dealt. I have always been voraciously curious about the world. I am really

good at asking difficult questions. This could be due to poor impulse control or some gift of acute sensory awareness. I also seem to be

while before I realized it was difficult for some to read architectural drawings for example. By owning this, I can better process ideas,

advocate, provocate and highlight our societal and existential challenges. Maybe a more inclusive and broad conversation can lead to

What matters is that each of us has a unique gift. If my work or process can encourage someone else to lean into their gifts or if it can

My work is about navigation and the search for work bearings from the intimate of our own bodies and consciousness to the sublime of

the cosmos. During this last year, we have all searched for grounding. This has been reflected in the personal journey of my work over the

uncertainty and work through possible solutions. I am not good with injustice. I hope the manifestation of my unique language can

able to imagine and translate space dimensionally (i.e. from a 2-dimensional object to a 3-dimensional object and rotate in space.) It was a

about "my lane" has evolved over time. This confidence is fragile and vulnerable. If you are lucky you will find someone to reinforce your

intuition and help develop it in some fashion. How nice it is for someone to hear that "you are doing fine, steady on course." It is a message

seems as though your artwork comes from a narrative, or a reaction to a specific time, place, memory, or experience. Do you see your

last year.

better solutions.

expand or create new knowledge, sign me up.

Artwork by Michelle Grabner

societal norms.

that I convey often to others.

process as a conduit for the zeitgeist?

it's vital for our institutions to ask our communities what is rising to the surface of consciousness?

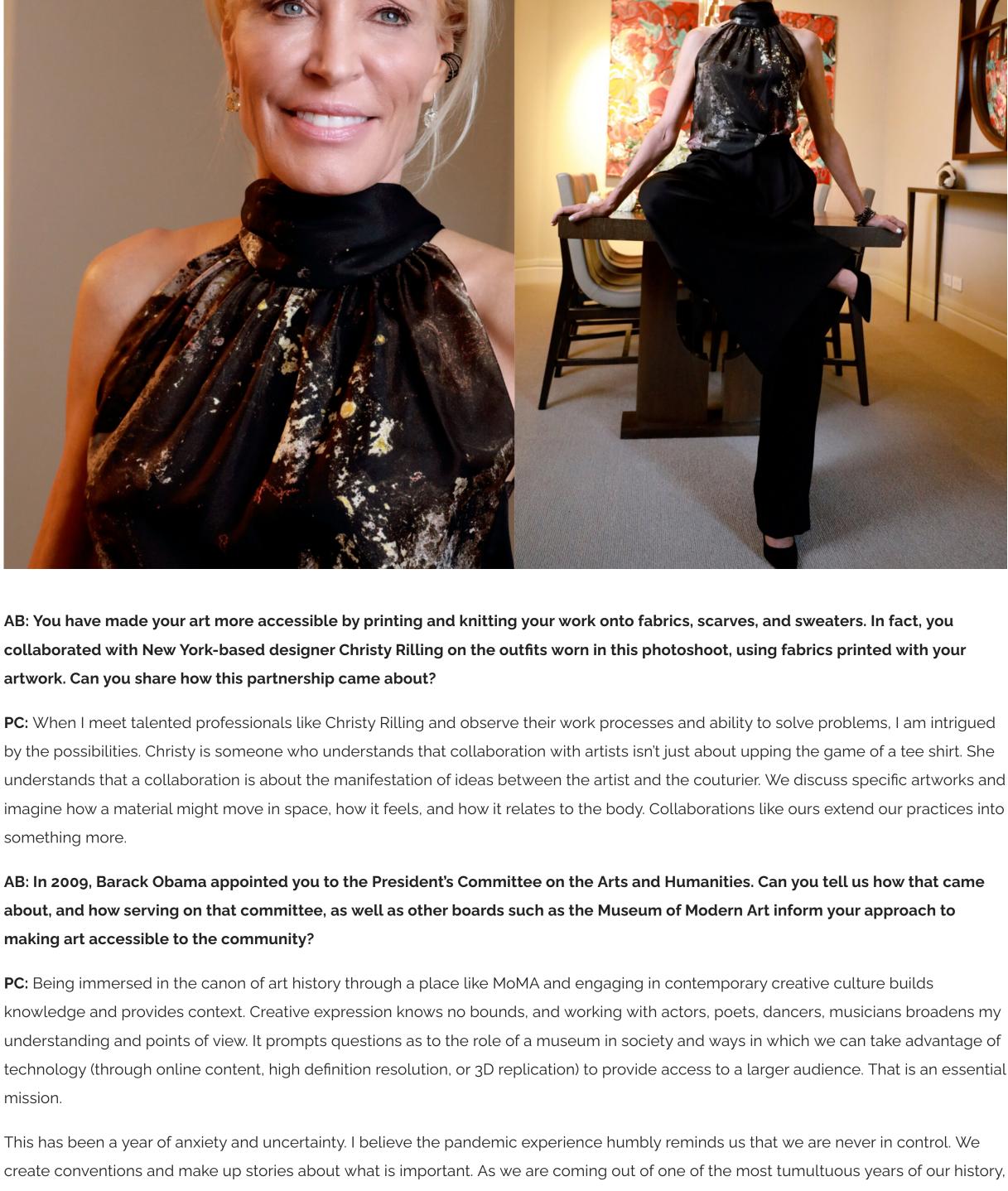
AB: Paula, I can't say enough about the time we were able to spend with you. Not only do you have a breadth of interests, but your genuine curiosity about the world is infectious. You are someone whom I am thankful exists in the world, your generosity abounds and it was such a pleasure to inhabit your world even for just a day.

PC: For me, this year helped me shrive back to the essentials, and to what really matters like our health, connections to family and friends,

truthfulness, and nature. I am in a place of deep gratefulness for my art practice that provided some grounding. By pivoting and adapting

we discover new ways to be of service to our world. Happiness comes from helping others and connecting to our sensory nature. The sacred ground is beneath our feet.

AB: What are you taking with you into this new year and how has this past year changed your outlook on life and your art?



The Christy Rilling X Paula Crown Atelier collection can be found at The Boutique at The Little Nell and on https://www.atelierpaulacrown.com/shop/

https://www.cherrycreekfashion.com/issue/paula-crown-the-little-nell

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