



## Laura Berens for the V&A

The V&A Shop is delighted to announce its collaboration with London based designer Laura Berens. The commission coincides with the V&A exhibition *Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration*.

A digital print innovator, Laura Berens has applied her unique and eccentric imagery and colour sense to two silk scarves, *It Gives Me Great Pleasure* and *Princess Elizabeth*. Studying Cecil Beaton's entire oeuvre, Berens researched his drawings, illustrations, scrapbooks, book covers, costume design, textiles and most importantly photographs for inspiration for the designs. Berens chose Beaton's portraits *Princess Elizabeth as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards*, 1942 and *Queen Elizabeth II*, 1968 both taken at Buckingham Palace, as the starting point for each scarf.

*It Gives Me Great Pleasure* references Beaton's print and published works specifically looking to his 1953 book of the same name. Berens takes the book's treatment of graphics and colour and applies that to her striking scarf placing Queen Elizabeth II on a bold red background echoing the book cover colour and the same cut and paste application of text.

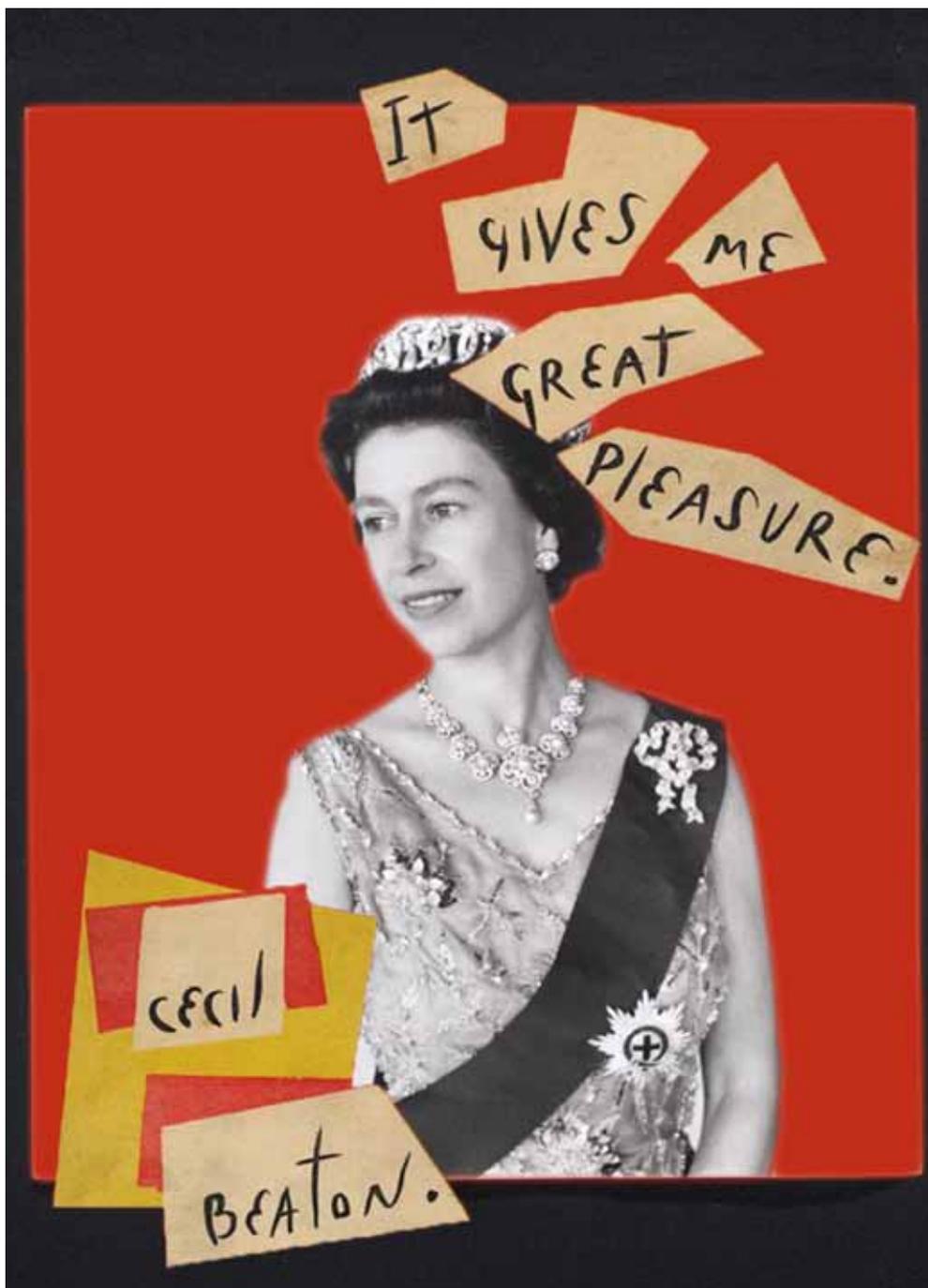
The *Princess Elizabeth* scarf is awash with bold yet beautiful botanical effects echoing Cecil Beaton's Fragonard background used for the portrait *Princess Elizabeth as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards*. Here, Berens recreates the Rococo backdrop enveloping the young Princess in colour.

Both scarves have been digitally printed onto silk chiffon and habotai and hand finished in the UK.

### V&A Shop

Supporting the world's leading museum of art and design the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

For further information regarding the Laura Berens for the V&A range please contact: **Lee Kendall** on 020 7942 2681 or email [l.kendall@vam.ac.uk](mailto:l.kendall@vam.ac.uk) (not for publication)



[www.vandashop.com](http://www.vandashop.com)

Laura Berens says 'I am a huge fan of Cecil Beaton and I jumped at the chance of working with the Beaton collection of royal portraits and the iconic images of the Queen.'

The V&A exhibition *Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton* presents highlights from the V&A's large collection of Beaton's royal photography, depicting the Queen in her roles as princess, monarch and mother. Berens's designs perfectly compliment the exhibition and the spirit of Beaton's love of beauty and fashion.

An MA graduate from Chelsea College of Art and Design, Berens is currently a member of the Fashion and Textiles Department at Central St Martins College of Art and Design working with digital printing. She has previously been involved in the contemporary art market, is a trained sculptor and formerly worked for a decorative design company painting murals. Laura was recently showcased in Liberty's 'Best of British'.

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### **It Gives Me Great Pleasure Scarf**

90 x 120 cm

### **Princess Elizabeth Scarf**

85 x 100 cm

Laura Berens for the V&A  
Silk Chiffon and Habotai  
£140 each

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