

SHANGHAI★WEEKEND GUIDE

fashion

Sexier than ever

Ladies, are you looking for a bold, new way to 'wow' your man?

The latest designs from world-famous lingerie brand Triumph are sure to please.

At the launch of its Zero to Sexy product line last week in the metropolis, hundreds of shoppers crowded the Shanghai Grand Gateway for a glimpse of the new intimate pieces and to see Chinese supermodel Xiong Dailin

The collection features an innovative zero center gap design – reducing the center gap from 12 mm to 0 mm, creating a greater push-up effect, rightly matching this year's spring and summer low-neckline lingerie trend.

By using the principles of color-mix and color-conflict esthetics, the collection further caters to the woman's body with five different cup designs meant to compliment different occasions. Women can choose from a range of simple, charming, lovely, elegant, or luxury styles, which can be paired with casual, sophisticated or formal evening wear.

The most attractive characteristic of the Zero to Sexy are the geometrically-designed velvet-cushioned shoulder straps as they provide relief to pressure points on the shoulder. An additional side panel of support in the interior of the bra cups also helps to emphasize the centralized push-up effect.

Xiao Min



Where furniture meets fashion

► Artist helps antique chairs sit in qipaos

An antique Chinese chair suited in a 1930s vintage qipao (traditional Chinese dress) is an unusual concept, but one that has wowed Shanghai's design scene.

The stunningly gorgeous piece belongs to Swiss-born Italian artist Monica Bertini's latest work, her H Chair collection.

"I wanted to give the antique chairs a second life," says Bertini. "Qipaos have a strength and sexiness and the wood and fabric come from the same era; they have a dialogue."

The creative spirit has spent the past five years hopping back and forth between Europe and Shanghai working on various projects involving fashion design and sculpture art – and now furniture. The 37-year-old says her art can take on a variety of forms so long as there is passion and inspiration behind the work.

"Whenever you want to express feelings, and you give a story to those feelings, it becomes art."

It was by chance Bertini came across her first vintage qipao through a "secret" fabric supplier in Shandong province.

"I was always fascinated by their ethnic fabrics," she says. "About a year and a half ago, I noticed a lot of the fabrics that were stuffed away were actually these incredible vintage qipaos, so I bought all of them."

Upon discovering a collection of antique wooden chairs in Shanghai not long after, Bertini "wanted to help them". Following three months research in Florence and Rome regarding the artisan techniques of upholstery, she began restoring the chair frames using bamboo fibers, horsetail hair and natural latex – each chair took three days.

Bertini dedicated her first chair In the Mood for Love to a friend – a rocking chair wearing a fuchsia pink and peach floral qipao. Inspired by the Berlin Film festival, she went on to create another 26 pieces, naming each one after a movie.



Gone with the Wind chair by Monica Bertini

"I realized that there must be a story behind each chair."

She named another pair of chairs When Harry Met Sally because, "It's obvious from the colors of the qipaos one is a woman and one is a man."

Not keen on mass market appeal, Bertini stresses the chairs are meant to be part of an "art collection".

"Many people like the chairs, but won't buy them," she says. "So, they're a niche product; there's so much of everything, why not preserve what we have and make it special?"

Inspired by her H Chair collection, Bertini is following her artistic instincts to make silk-lined 19th century-style coats from her stock pile of qipaos. She is also exploring options with vintage kimonos from Japan.

Find the H Chair collection at Annly's Showroom & Art Gallery, No. 68, Lane 7611 Zhongchun Road 中春路7611弄68号, 6406 0242, and Eva Wang Studio, Sihang Depot, No. 422, 1 Guangfu Road, 光复路1号422, 6381 9938, www.monica bertini.com.



Monica Bertini