

Attachment Theory

Once used to fasten garments, brooches are the glamorous multitaskers of the jewelry world.

BY **TANYA DUKES**

PHOTOGRAPH BY **JENS MORTENSEN**

WE HAVE THE LIMITATIONS of Bronze Age fashion to thank for the advent of the brooch—the earliest examples were used to secure clothing around the body. The intervening millennia have led to simpler methods of fastening a frock, but nothing can supplant the brooch as one of the most adaptable adornments that can be worn virtually anywhere.

Legendary French jeweler Van Cleef & Arpels has made its share of expressive brooches (or “clips,” as they’re referred to in the *maison’s* preferred parlance) since its 1906 inception. Each one is a painterly composition with texture, color, and radiant sparkle, often informed by other artistic disciplines. The *Cristaux de Saphirs* clip translates the image of a crystal cavern from Jules Verne’s *Journey to the Center of the Earth* into an arresting form dotted with pink sapphires and spiky, otherworldly diamond formations. Meanwhile, the sapphire and diamond *Solero* clip fuses the shapes of a rose and the sun, inspired by a passage from *Romeo and Juliet* wherein the pair declares their love by referencing both motifs. And the diamond clip seen here is a heritage piece that dates to the 1960s; it is as desirable now as when it first bloomed decades ago—and will continue to be in any era. vancleefarpels.com ■

FROM TOP: Heritage clip in diamonds, 18-karat white gold, and platinum. *Cristaux de Saphirs* pink sapphire, diamond, and 18-karat white gold clip from *Les Voyages Extraordinaires* collection. *Solero* sapphire, diamond, and 18-karat white, rose, and yellow gold clip from the *Romeo and Juliet* collection. All prices upon request. **Styled by Laurel J. Benedum**

