

OF A KIND

Diane von Furstenberg's Magic Talismans

“Their power is in the energy of the person who gives them to you,” says the fashion designer.

By John Wogan Illustrations by Aurore de la Morinerie

Feb. 21, 2020

“Many of the good things that have come into my life have happened by fate or by accident,” says Diane von Furstenberg. Through the years, the 73-year-old fashion designer has collected talismans of all kinds. Some she’s found on her travels for her brand — which has grown, since her iconic 1974 silk jersey wrap dress was introduced, to include 85 stores on four continents — others were given to her by friends or family. “Their power is in the energy of the person who gives them to you, or the place where they came from,” says von Furstenberg, who was born and raised in Belgium. The designer’s company bears the surname of her first husband, the German prince Egon von Furstenberg, with whom she had two children: a son, Alexander, and daughter, Tatiana. Her granddaughter Talita now designs TVF, the brand’s more youthful line, which launched last April. This month, the DVF Awards — von Furstenberg’s initiative to support female philanthropists — presented a \$50,000 grant to four honorees working to better the lives of other women.



Illustration by Aurore de la Morinerie

Jade and jasper pomegranate, date unknown. “The forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden wasn’t actually an apple — it was a pomegranate. It’s my favorite fruit. My husband gave me this one.”



Illustration by Aurore de la Morinerie

Gold, crystal and mother-of-pearl sculpture, date unknown. “This is a tiny pagoda enveloped in gold, most likely from Thailand. I bought it at an antique shop decades ago. It feels very powerful to me.”



Illustration by Aurore de la Morinerie

Ivory sculpture, circa 1800s. “These carved animals resting on the back of a large turtle represent the Chinese zodiac. My friend Hamilton South gave it to me one Christmas, and it sits on my desk.”



Illustration by Aurore de la Morinerie

Clasped diary affixed with crystals, a glass eye and a mirror, 2019. “This is a creation by my friend Fidji Simo— a clasped diary encrusted with crystals, a small mirror and a glass eye — which I keep in my office. I love anything with an evil eye for protection.”

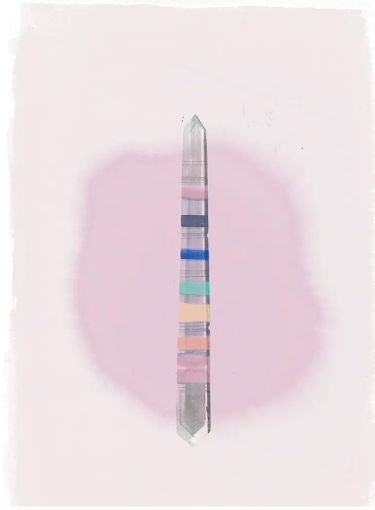


Illustration by Aurore de la Morinerie

Quartz and gemstone wand, 2018. “This magic wand, which resides on my desk, is by Sandra Müller, a jewelry designer based in Beverly Hills, Calif. The colors represent the chakras, which are the energy points throughout the body used in ancient Eastern meditation practices.”



Illustration by Aurore de la Morinerie

Jade, agate, jasper and rhodonite paperweight, 1800s. “It’s a 19th-century piece from western Russia, with stones native to that region. I bought this one myself from the New York City antique shop [A La Vieille Russie](#). I feel it’s symbolic of the harvest and prosperity.”