



# And the winner is...

Chanel's latest one-off high-jewellery clock is worthy of an award, says *Avril Groom*

Fifty-four years after her death, Coco Chanel has been awarded what looks like an Oscar – but this gold figurine is of course modelled on... herself. Not content with using her likeness on watches, now the brand has immortalised her as a clock, *The Silhouette*.

It is part of Chanel's latest high-jewellery range, titled 'Reach for the Stars', which is an evocation of the house's signature glamour through the time of day when its most luxurious couture and high-jewellery creations come to life – the golden hour. This is the moment when the sun's final orange blaze suffuses everything with a golden glow that makes gems sparkle at their best.

Chanel's jewellery studio, under its late head of fine jewellery creation Patrice Leguèreau, imagined the effect of this moment on Mademoiselle's favourite stones – diamonds and opulently coloured gems – as well as symbols. These include a comet, represented by a five-pointed star, the huge wings common to angels and mythical birds, and the lion, signifying bravery and her own zodiac sign of Leo.

The 27cm-high *Silhouette* is the latest in a line of very special clocks that have accompanied both high-jewellery and watch collections since this division of the couture house was founded in 1993. Its lineage includes almost pure jewellery models, like the Morning in Vendôme clock in the classic Chanel octagon shape, based on the plan of the Place Vendôme in Paris; haute horology, like the

Lion Astroclock, featuring a caged, sculpted lion under a gyroscopic clock; or automata like 2024's Musical Clock Couture Workshop, where five tailor's dummies gently revolve under a gold-and-diamond chandelier.

In every case, the Chanel design team spins the house heritage and Mademoiselle's vision, life and loves, both human and abstract, into new creative forms, including her image on simpler but still precious clocks. This was a special project for Leguèreau, and one of his last before he died in November 2024 at only 54. He wanted to evoke the natural elegance and glamour of both the woman and the house in the context of this collection, and worked to create a specific pose for the figure. She looks to the stars, in one of her favoured outfits of tweed jacket, fluid trousers and her signature accessories of boater and pearls, hand-sculpted and engraved in a mix of yellow and white gold and several techniques, in collaboration with a specialist Paris workshop.

If Mademoiselle is watching from among those stars, hopefully she will find the leggy, neat-footed depiction, though plainly not taken from her youth, pleasingly flattering. And if Leguèreau is sharing her company, she should compliment him.

*Chanel The Silhouette Clock statuette, POA; chanel.com*



