

It takes an element of childlike curiosity and unlimited inspiration to bring to life the kind of couture hats that Louis Mariette creates. Already much-in-demand as a bespoke designer, Mariette is fast becoming a peerless fashion phenomenon – a mad-hatter, a visionary, a fascinator in his own right.

Mariette's extraordinary accoutrements have provided the talking point for catwalks the world over, and captured the imagination of renowned costume designers, photographers, stylists and creative directors in every port. So it comes as no surprise that his current project is a flamboyant headpiece to adorn Kate Moss' delicate brow for an upcoming Mario Testino/*Vogue* shoot. It's just another feather for Mariette to add to his cap.

London-based Mariette has acquired an eclectic and loyal client-base, which at the last headcount includes Jerry Hall, Jodie Kidd, Sophie Dahl and Isabella Kristensen – all women who like to walk on the wild side.

Mariette caught the world's attention, and was catapulted to high-fashion status, after creating the 'Chapeau d'Amour', a dizzyingly dramatic item of headgear valued at £1.5m – the most expensive hat ever made. He went on to launch a diffusion line of elegant headpieces and accessories, and hasn't looked back.

He owes his inspiration to his early years growing up in Malawi, where his fascination with flowers and insects led to a passion for colour and sparkle. He collected semi-precious stones, seedpods, cactus flowers and tribal knickknacks, and these are ever-present in his elaborate and iridescent designs – a butterfly here, a beetle there, a bird feather pinned agh.

And in his new line, Bejewelled, Mariette has expanded into ornate headbands, tiaras, hatpins, brooches and jewellery – each piece adorned with his signature Louis Mariette diamante crystal.

Want one? A private consultation for a bespoke piece is by appointment only.

louismariette.co.uk

