



**RESPLENDENT
IN WHITE**

Pascal and Marie-Eve in their blissfully white love nest; Opposite: The procession that mesmerized those in attendance



Significant OTHER

AS MUCH IN LOVE AS 20 YEARS AGO, **PASCAL MORABITO**
AND **MARIE-EVE** RENEW THEIR VOWS IN A BALINESE-INSPIRED
WEDDING CEREMONY. AN INDONESIA TATLER EXCLUSIVE
WITH WORDS BY MADE M. NADERA



LOVE IS PROBABLY WHAT MAKES THE world go around, possibly more than the air that we breathe. Watching a couple who has been together for 20 years and yet are still in love just like the first time they met, is as inspiring as listening to the story of what initially attracted them to each other in the first place. "It was 20 years ago, in Avenue Montaigne, when I was hosting a reception with a lot of guests. Across the street, I caught a glimpse of Marie-Eve and we have been together ever since," Pascal Morabito, a French artist now residing in Bali, recalls that decisive moment. "Everyday I am more in love and I don't know why," he pauses for a while and remarks, "Yes, I know why, because she is a perfect woman, she is clever and bright, beautiful and not complicated."

A prolific artist, Pascal Morabito has churned out thousands of wide-ranging creations since 1970, from jewelry, perfume, champagne, leather goods, decoration, sculpture/arts, fashion and the latest one, Bali art spa. Finding an ally in Marie-Eve, a photographer and mother of their two sons Theo and Tao, he expresses the pride and joy of being together with her all these years. "As a photographer, every time she captures a picture that I love, I consider myself the happiest man on

earth. She can do something I cannot do and she is the spirit of my life."

Returning the compliment, Marie-Eve mentions the qualities she finds endearing in her husband, "I admire his generosity and optimism for the new day, the new life and new way of looking at life. Like other couples, we also have different ideas and ways of seeing things, but actually they are complimentary. He is a very visionary man who can see with his grand ideas and vision, while I can help him with little details and some practical things about life. Most of the time he listens to me and makes little modifications about his vision, but certainly the vision remains his own. As a creative designer, the most important thing for him is being free."

A well-known figure in the contemporary world of arts with close friends such as Damien Hirst, British most renowned contemporary artist, Pascal finds himself working for the same vision for the past 40 years. "I have not changed, except my hair getting white," he laughs and elaborates, "Incredibly, I have had the same vision even as a 10-year-old boy, but I have different possibili-

FROM TOP
Joyful couple;
Admiring
relatives and
friends during
the nuptials



ties to carry out my vision, including the technical possibility and the time, I sometimes make an adaptation to suit the period. The vision is the same: simplicity, straight-forwardness and clarity. I don't want anything complicated, I want to go to one direction and to be strong in one direction, doing a lot of things but it is still all in one direction."

"The highest reward for me is that when people wear my work. My jewellery, cubic, has sold one million pieces in the world. Everybody has their own personal sensibility when wearing it and now I start hearing different stories from the people wearing it and what they do to the piece. Each person has a different appreciation for the same piece, and that for me, is very important. After 40 years in the business, every different reaction in relation with the jewellery I create is really thrilling. Each piece is like music to me, thousands of people listen to it and everybody has their own reactions," he discloses his most rewarding moment of being an artist.

The couple's affair with the island of the gods, Bali, actually began with Pascal's introduction to the possibility of living on the island by a mere suggestion from his Indonesian butler, almost 40 years ago. At that time, he found the idea quite interesting but was not able to force himself to come as he puts it, "My life and work is in the world and I can't

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possibly live in one place. Years passed, one day my wife and my children were thinking about starting life in another country, out of our native France. With a lot of places to go, the family started globe-trekking from South America, India, Africa, Morocco and other places. As I have never been to Bali, I thought Bali could be it. When we arrived, we immediately decided to stay and we gave it one year. Now three years have passed and we don't want to leave."

"It is something magical. It is the weather, which really is the best weather. Even in the rainy season it is nice, people are always smiling, the nature is beautiful, and workers or artists here are great and we can do a lot of things if you have



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
Mr Bernard and Mrs Brigitte Ricco Bono
Gonzague Saint Bris in red frock delighted the audience;
Balinese wedding procession in progress



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Happy Family
With sons Teo
and Tao



the right network. In Bali, the first thing to do was to live our new life, make a new house and make connections to the new people so that when I work it does not feel like working," he elaborates on the choice to live in Bali.

Settled in a large spacious beach front residence in the Canggu area, the artist's favourite colour, white, dominates the whole structure and interior. "Pascal found the place with one of his friends and I just came back to France with children and it has a very nice ambience. It used to be an old hotel before and he says that with this place we can do something unique with the space, the sea and he started to imagine the renovation. After he set things up, I agreed and I contributed ideas along the way, but really the engine of the locomotive is Pascal," the beautiful Marie-Eve adds.

Renewing their marriage vows, the couple decided to embark on a wedding ceremony upholding Balinese tradition. "Now that we have the venue, our new house, it only took us two months to prepare, not a long time for



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The family portrait, Mrs Millie Stephanie, Mrs xxxxx, Mrs Maria Lukito, Mrs Pascale Doumeng and Mr Michel Doumeng; Mr Philippe Augier and Ms Vikan Soraya; Ms Suzanna Andrien and Ms Mailip Pauletto; Mrs Dian Goutilhomme and Mr Jean Paul Favand; Mr Renard and Mrs Joyce



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP 1992 Japon 2; 1992 Touraine; Mr Gaelle Echene, Mrs Nathias Echene (baby) Mr Iris, Mr Charles Pelletier, Ms Jyoti Morningstar, Mr Topher, Ms Maree and Mr Choux



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT 1995 Tunisie; 1997 Lascot; Mr A Halim; Mr Gian Carlo Moscoso, Mr Eric Van Bruggen and Mr Stephane Clady; Mrs Anita Lococo and Mr Reto Guntie

wedding preparations," Marie-Eve discloses, "We chose to have different weddings in different cultures all over the world, among others, 20 years ago in Japan, in a Shinto traditional ceremony and we also had one in Tunisia, a Muslim tradition in 1995. So what is so beautiful is actually that you are doing this ceremony, borrowing the culture of the country and people offer you the best because for each of our weddings, everything must be beautiful and you learn really so much rather than simply travelling and seeing the country. We like the minimalist approach, we like the colour white, and we always ask our guests to be dressed in white to be perfectly in harmony with us."

The special wedding gown the bride wore is



also a creation of Pascal's, a modern twist on the traditional kebaya. Made entirely from white lace, the gown with its open back and trail fits like a second skin for the beautiful bride who was thrilled wearing such a lovely creation.

The ceremony began with the bride and groom being carried on a separate palanquin, with a wonderful Balinese gamelan heralding the lovely couple's arrival, beaming with happiness on the way to the Candi Bentar. The ceremony in Balinese tradition also featured the couple's close friend, a famous French writer, Gonzague Saint Bris, dressed in a red frock amongst a sea of white, delighting the guests with his lyrical account on the love journey of the now once again pronounced newlyweds.

As the taking of photographs ensued, guests relished the wonderful dinner and wines, while enjoying the sound of waves, sea breeze and the flicker of torches along the shore. A party will not be complete without a spectacle of Lita CY the lady in the Renaissance Bubble who managed to thrill the audience with her vision of life, love and rebirth. "Bali is probably one of the best places to live in. My preoccupation is now to do small things such as creating wonderful smells in a bottle of cream, the little things that beautiful life can offer. We don't need gold or diamond to enjoy it, but simply a wonderful smell," he describes

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his latest project, the Bali Art Spa, that marks his approach to a happy life, with a spouse that has remained loyal for two decades, wonderful sons and the possibility to remain creative in beautiful and inspiring surroundings. ■

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Mr Ricardo Casto, Mrs Martha Renon, Ms Sarah Aurora and Mr Paul Renon; Mrs Annelies Audureau and Mr Jean Jaques; Mr Jeromi Abel Seguin and Mrs K 8; Mr Christian Graciel and Mrs Dayu Sri; Mr Francis Joyaud, Mrs Beatrice Joyaud, Mr Laine Jacques, Mrs Isabelle Bonan and Mr Frederic Bonan



Mr Isaac Khodri, Mrs Monica Khodri, Mrs Dominique and Mr Michel Glas