



## Fashion is an Art

Fine art and high fashion come together at this one-of-a-kind boutique. Tiffany Parks takes a peek.

**A**rsenale, an elegant shop just around the corner from Campo de' Fiori, is the brainchild of fashion designer and art collector Patrizia Pieroni. Pieroni began her career as an interior designer in New York City in the 1980s. She later returned to her native Italy, where she became a consultant for several prêt-à-porter, sportswear, and swimwear lines. The culmination of her career came when she combined her passions for art and fashion by opening a shop like no other.

Located on Via del Pellegrino, a narrow street dotted with artisan workshops, art galleries, and eccentric boutiques, Arsenale is a concept store with a dual function. The ground floor is a showroom bursting with clothing, accessories, housewares, and design objects. Each fashion piece is either one of Patrizia's own creations, or selected personally by her from designers around the world. From sophisticated work attire to elegant eveningwear, from comfortable separates to an exclusive bridal collection, all are truly original pieces full of bold colors,

unexpected forms, and exquisite fabrics. Also on offer are a wide selection of handbags, scarves, shawls, costume jewelry, hats, overcoats, tableware and more.

Thanks to her design background and artist inclinations, Pieroni has learned to take inspiration from the world around her, from the people, sounds, sights, colors, and emotions that make up her daily reality. She allows her designs to speak the unique language of her own particular creativity. But her passion for art doesn't end there. On a loft above the showroom is an intimate all-white gallery space that hosts live performances, art exhibitions, and fashion shows. It's an eclectic and multidisciplinary environment that reflects Patrizia's own versatility and wide variety of interests. Gertrude Stein famously said, "You can either buy clothes or pictures." Patrizia Pieroni clearly doesn't agree.

> **Via del Pellegrino, 172. Tel 0668802424.**  
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