

# COCCINELLE

## **Coccinelle/Barbara Hulanicki**

It was in 2008 that the partnership between Coccinelle and Barbara Hulanicki, the illustrator, designer and 360 degree artist, first took off. Polish born but English by choice, Hulanicki studied at the Brighton School of Art before making her name as a designer and trendsetter in 1964: the boho-rich allure of the Biba brand and her London boutique on Kensington High Street were a *must* for musicians, actors, artists and the “it girls” of Swinging London, a story recently related in the documentary *Beyond Biba*.

Barbara Hulanicki wrapped up this part of her life in 1976 but she continued to design clothes for Fiorucci and Cacharel and also discovered the joy of interior design: after moving to Miami, she got involved in designing the interiors of opulently *charmant* homes and hotels. She is still passionate about design and recently created a line of wallpapers and home accessories for the British brands *Habitat* and *Graham and Brown*. Barbara Hulanicki rediscovered her passion for graphic prints and their bold visual impact but with a new angle for her work with Coccinelle.

Originally intended as a capsule collection, Coccinelle/Barbara Hulanicki has now grown and become a complete collection that is made in Italy in a limited edition. It tends to prefer essential lines and casually luxurious materials, from retro velvet to light nylon or natural look canvas used for sack bags, bowling bags, shoppers and easy-chic clutches. But it's the Art Deco prints - elegant geometric or floral patterns -that put the Coccinelle/Barbara Hulanicki bags in a category of their own. As well as the sophisticated use of colour: intriguing contrasts with a hint of the Seventies that underline the elegant patterns and the sophisticated details.