

## Arena

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### BOOKSHELF

## Work of an Artist

Seating charts can lead to awkward dinner pairings. But when the artist Enoc Perez found himself sitting next to Gilles Mendel, the French-born creative director of J. Mendel, at a benefit in New York last year, the two hit it off. "I thought maybe I could do a portrait of him, but it would be about looking at his work through my eyes," Mr. Perez said. Mr. Mendel allowed Mr. Perez into his workroom, where the artist shot pictures of everything he saw, then created collages, like the one seen here, for the new book "Gilles Mendel by Enoc Perez," which will be released Monday to coincide with the opening of J. Mendel's new flagship Madison Avenue boutique; \$80, at J. Mendel, 787 Madison Avenue. *KARI MOLVAR*