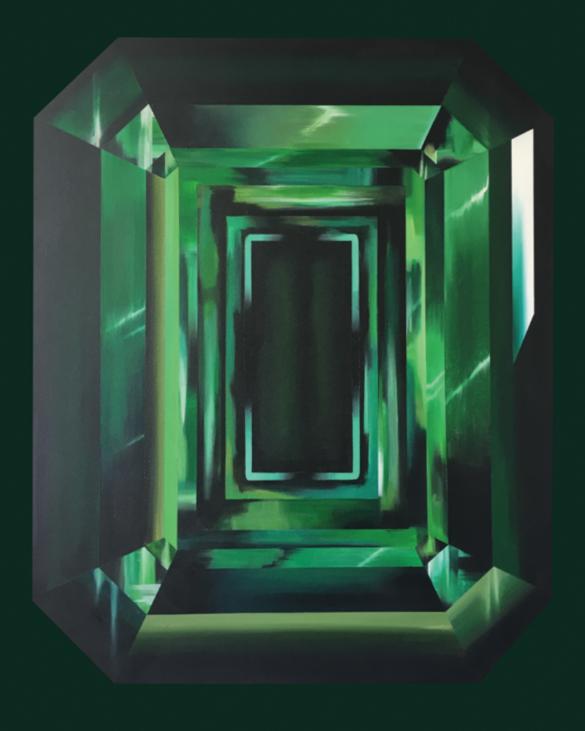
THE

JEWELRY JOURNAL



LAS VEGAS

Original Roman Coins









595 MADISON AVENUE, 5TH FLOOR, NEW YORK | 212,663,3456 | BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

BERGDORF GOODMAN | MARISSA COLLECTIONS | NEIMAN MARCUS | STANLEY KORSHAK

CADAR.COM

LAS VEGAS ISSUE

MAY 2019

TRENDS

KURT PIO Diamond Artist



GEM HEALERS



FOR FUTURE REFERENCE



TEFAF



GEM GENEVE Vivienne Becker

VRAM MINASSIAN Modern Master



TOTAL **TRANSPARENT TIMING**

FLOWER POWER A surge of floral love



Covetable Jewels



GREECE IS THE WORD



GAGA FOR TIFFANY



Editor in Chief
ALBERTO PETOCHI

Editor at Large KAREEM RASHED

Art Direction MYORB

Advertising
ANTONIO PICCOLO

Contributors

SHANNON ADDUCCI, EDOARDO CELA, ANNIE DAVIDSON, ROBERTA NAAS, SMITHA SADANANDAN, FRANCESCA SIMONS, EMILI VESILIND

Published by
THE JEWELRY JOURNAL
18 EAST 41ST STREET SUITE 1906
NEW YORK, NY 10017
USA

@THE_JEWELRY_JOURNAL ADV@THEJ-JOURNAL.COM

on the cover KURT PIO NO.3

on this page SELIM MOUZANNAR X MUZO





EDITOR'S LETTER

Our quarterly issue, now in its Third Year, celebrates the jewelry world's forward-thinking individuals. As everyone who crafts or loves jewelry is gearing up to fly to Las Vegas for the annual 'market week,' there is no doubt that the city increasingly represents a key hub for designers, buyers and traders from across the world. It is a great vital sign for the gem and jewelry industry and one we wholeheartedly support.

Our industry today is more than ever filled with amazing artists and designers, all coming together in the city of neon signs and bright lights to reveal new trends and styles. No truer words than those of a Greek master to start us off...

Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder

PLATO

Travel provides the creative inspiration for many of the articles featured in this edition: Kareem hops across the Greek Islands to scour for the latest designs from a country that is as beautiful as it is talented. Smitha walks through fantasy gardens to discover one of this year's strong trends, while watch expert Roberta visits the Swiss Alps to discover what's new in the watch world.

Australian artist Kurt Pio reminds us that not all jewels are made to be worn; so free up some wall space at home or in your office (we did!).

One of Hollywood's favorite hoop designers brings us into her kitchen and shares her new launch, while the duo behind some of the new IT designers dive into retail in the new 'Hamptons' Upstate New York.

Enjoy the shows and remember: "I have enough jewelry" – Said no one ever...





'Every piece of jewelry has a story to tell...'





JESSICA BIALES

enamel and yellow gold ring, \$2,420 • *jessicabiales.com*



COLETTE

enamel, diamond and yellow gold cuffs, \$5,395 each • colettejewelry.com



ALICE CICOLINI

London blue topaz, enamel and yellow & white gold ring, \$3,800 · alicecicolini.com

IN LIVING COLOR

A spectrum of rainbow-bright enamels makes for jewels that pop



SARAH HENDLER

enamel, citrine and yellow gold earrings, \$4,095; Robertson's Fine Jewelry • 501-664-9000



ALISON LOU

yellow sapphire, enamel and yellow gold earrings, \$1,895 \cdot alisonlou.com



SANTO BY ZANI

enamel, diamond and rose gold pendant, \$6,000 • santobyzani.com



FERNANDO JORGE

pink opal and diamond ring, \$4,300 • fernandojorge.co.uk





RETROUVAI

Amber and rhodochrosite bead, tourmaline, lapis and mother-of-pearl necklace, \$8,900 • retrouvai.com

EASY, BREEZY, BEAUTIFUL

Channel the barefoot glamour of Talitha Getty with boho-luxe beads







TRENDS

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?





5.15MM THICK Octo Finissimo in sandblasted steel, \$13,300 bulgari.com





PIAGET

4.30MM THICK

Altiplano Ultimate Automatic in rose

gold with alligator strap, \$27,300

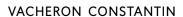
piaget.com



BREGUET

5.45MM THICK Classique 5157 in rose gold with alligator strap, \$18,800 breguet.com

For dressing up or everyday, these ultra-thin watches prove that less can be more.



8.10MM THICK Overseas Ultra-Thin Perpetual Calendar in white gold, \$98,000 vacheron-constantin.com



Always authorized. Carefully curated. On your terms.

IN CONVERSATION WITH

KURT PIO

BY SMITHA SADANANDAN



Tell me about your earliest art memories

My earliest memories of art were my mom bringing me lots of off cuts of colourful paper and little pairs of scissors and crayons, and I would often just sit and cut out and draw on these pieces of paper for many hours alone in my bedroom.

When did you realise you had an inclination for art and what did you since?

I always find with this profession that you don't choose "it," but "it" chooses you and as much as I tried go down different routes and careers, this is the one that I had to say yes to for my own personal wellbeing.

What do you love most about painting?

The escape from reality that it brings.

You are an interior designer and self-taught artist – how has design influenced your perspective in art and your own work?

I often use my home to kind of express myself and do different visuals in my home, and often use my artwork as part of the visual of the interior and

therefore has deeply influenced my work as well as my home.

How would you describe your style – and what is your key medium?

My style varies, as I get bored very quickly and need to change it up. It could be experimental, pop art. My key medium is often acrylic on canvas. I am impatient and, therefore, acrylic dries quicker than oil.



What prompted you to explore diamond and gem artworks? And how long have you been painting such pieces?

I moved to Amsterdam and completed a three-month Artist in Residency program with Open Ateliers Zuidoost in 2011. Here, I started drawing geometric patterns and with the combination of always feeling the need to represent parts of my country's resources, the gem artworks were birthed. We have large diamond deposits that are mined in South Africa and these are only a few of the things that I was drawn to and excited by.

Which would be your favourite gemmy artwork, if you had to pick just one?

It would be the Green Emerald.

What has been the highlight of your artistic career?

My first solo exhibition in America was a sell out and within the first two hours of opening – the gallery

owner came to me and whispered in my ear that we had sold out.

You've done an array of artwork, including murals, botanical paintings (aloe), magazine cover art, black and white abstracts. How do you choose your subjects?

I'm drawn to certain subjects and I kind of make mental notes of these along the way – and often if I get a few mental notes that are all the same, then I am drawn to actually produce something within that subject.

What's the newest you've been working on?

The latest body of works have been cigarettes.

GREEN WITH ENVY ALL ABOUT MUZO

In the midst of summer 2019 during the 'Jewelry Week,' in Las Vegas, Colombian emerald miner Muzo will celebrate its 10th anniversary with the launch of a vibrant

green collection by exciting names in the industry.



The designs, reflecting the independent spirit of each designer, are embellished and accented with Muzo emeralds, featuring a mix of beads, slices, cabochons and tumbles to showcase the full run of the mine's production.

"We wanted to continue working with an exclusive group of designers who, we felt, could best showcase our organic material. Our partners – many of them rising industry stars – have each taken their own individual approach and the result is a vast array of unique designs that truly emphasize the diversity of emeralds," says Gabbi Harvey, Head of Business Development and Designer Outreach for Muzo.

The range honors Muzo's focus on emeralds, with pieces that narrate the poetry of traceability through bejeweled interpretations, making for exquisite jewelry. "Muzo emeralds are all one-of-a-kind; no two gemstones are exactly alike. They are produced under legal, environmental and humane working conditions. This makes our Colombian emeralds not only unique for their beauty but also for their responsible mining origin," explains Gabbi Harvey.

The collaborations highlight every grade of its gemstones, including Muzo's commercial production of emeralds that may have a softer hue or have slightly more inclusions. "For the 10th year anniversary, we will add some new, established designers as well as emerging talent to the mix, including some very talented Colombian designers. The most important factor for us is working with designers who best fit with our company ethos," she adds. The tribe of talented designers participating in the 2019 project, a kickoff to an ongoing series of collaborations, include Alice Cicolini, Ara Vartanian, Dana Bronfman, Daniela Villegas, Katherine Jetter, Mateo, Mercedes Salazar, Noor Fares, Tres Almas, Venyx, Victor Velyan and Yael Sonia.



"It is such an honor to work with these unique natural stones, and with a mine such as Muzo with their strong commitment to ethical practice. Their support and encouragement for design innovation and experimentation has been a really positive experience and I look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration." says Alice. whose Muzo trapiche collection will be showcased at Couture. The emeralds in the chandelier earrings and matching ring, designed by Alice, are offset with plique-à-jour (enameling) and feature hexagonal slices of rich toned Muzo emeralds.

Last year's collaboration had 25 designers, including Coomi, Vector Velyan and Erica Courtney. Adding more sparkle to the celebrations, Muzo unveils its Heritage Collection at the ICK. The collection has five unique sub-collections - Atocha, Chakana, Muisca, Royal Orb and Verity - wherein each collection takes a special approach to tell the story of the gem. It took Muzo over a year to unearth the emeralds for the collection in order to ensure uniformity throughout the 120 pieces of jewelry, which were made by highly skilled craftsman from some of the world's best ateliers.

Muzo also has a new shoppablewebsite – MuzoStore.com – where you can buy original designs from its Heritage Collection derived from the Private Treasure of Muzo Emerald Colombia. *Images from top to bottom:* VENYX, Muzo Heritage Collection, Alice Cicolini

"This makes our Colombian emeralds not only unique for their beauty but also for their responsible mining origin"







or decades, the luxury watch industry has turned to sapphire for its watch crystals. Sapphire is an extremely strong material and is highly scratch resistant. However, over the past decade or so, certain luxury watch brands have also turned to this crystal clear material to create exceptional watch cases that enable onlookers to view an entire watch movement in all its glory.

The ability to create these clear cases, sometimes with a bit of gold or other material on the edges to hold the sapphire pieces together, is the result of advancements in engineering and machining. Still, a sapphire case is no easy feat to create. With a hardness of 1,800 Vickers, a sapphire case can take hundreds of hours of machining with a diamond-tipped tool to cut, shape and polish. Some

totally transparent monobloc sapphire cases can take months of machining. As such, these cases are incredibly expensive to make. This factor makes a sapphire cased watch both rare and expensive.

Generally watch brands use a sapphire case to demonstrate technical prowess because not only is the case difficult to make, but also it allows for an uninhibited look at the mechanics within. To date, just about a dozen brands have sapphire cases, and those are generally for limited editions and specialty pieces. Additionally, among those using sapphire to create a case, another new development is springing up: color. Some brands are turning to colored sapphire (yellow, pink, green, blue) to add new dimension to these futuristic looking timepieces. Here we take a look at six sensational sapphire watches.

Richard Mille's (top this page) RM 07-02 Green Lady Sapphire is a superb example of colored sapphire adding a real flair to the aesthetics of the watch. As though taken from a painter's palette, this soft green sapphire tripartite case is made from a single block of sapphire. It takes 40 days of machining and finishing to create one case. This watch allows for viewing of the inhouse-made CRMA5 automatic movement with 18-karat white gold diamond set rotor. \$1,165,000.

Greubel Forsey (bottom this page) has been using sapphire for cases for a while now, as well. This Greubel Forsey Double Balancier Sapphire (introduced last year) watchcase is the result of 900 hours of machining. The bezel, case and caseback are machined from a single lock of synthetic sapphire and then polished to perfection. Even the crown is made of sapphire. The watch is powered by the 284-part Double Balancier movement with spherical constant differential rotation, and 72 hours of power reserve. Just 11 pieces will be made. \$695.000.

Jacob & Co. (4) unveils the newest Astronomia Flawless watch with impeccable totally clear case and the highest grade, flawless, diamonds. In this newest version, a 2.88-carat flawless diamond tops the Astronomia movement and is on full display via the highly machined case. The case has been the signature look of this collection that was first released five years ago in 2014. It enables

viewing of the gravitational triple axis tourbillon from all angles. The monobloc case features parts that were previously made in metal. To produce just the case middle requires 15 more steps and about 326 hours of work. The case back also takes about 300 hours to create and the domed sapphire crystal requires another 288 hours. \$1.1 million

Hublot (3) this year releases the Spirit of Big Bang Yellow Sapphire watch. The brand has previously favored colored sapphire cases and released not only transparent cases, but also blue, red, black, white, and gray. The bright sunshine yellow sapphire case was developed in the brand's in-house Metallurgy Research Department in the Nyon, Switzerland, via a heating and fusing process that binds alumnium oxide (raw sapphire material) with bold yellow metal chromium and copper.

The sapphire is as light as titanium and the full watch, with strap, weighs just 107 grams on the wrist. The 278-part HUB4700 self-winding skeleton movement (based on the Zenith El Primero caliber) powers the watch. Just 100 pieces will be made. \$106,000.

independent **Swiss** watch brand Armin Strom (2) opts for a sapphire case for the most recent Masterpiece 1 Time Resonance watch. The oval shaped timepiece is both aesthetically and technically appealing. The complete sapphire crystal, case and caseback reveal the patented resonance clutch spring mechanism in the in-house-made ARF17 caliber. It combines two completely independent time indications with the increased precision of two independent movements in resonance. Just eight pieces will be made. \$280,000.

Bell & Ross (1) uses transparent sapphire to showcase the beauty of its golden-hued movement in this BR-X1 Chronograph Tourbillon Sapphire watch. The see-

through case displays the movement whose BR-Cal. 288 hand-wound metal components are all made in solid pink gold. The watch features a flying tour-billon and offers 100 hours of power reserve. The 25mm sapphire case features anti-reflective coating on the sapphire crystal. It is finished with a translucent rubber strap for overall clarity. \$500,000.



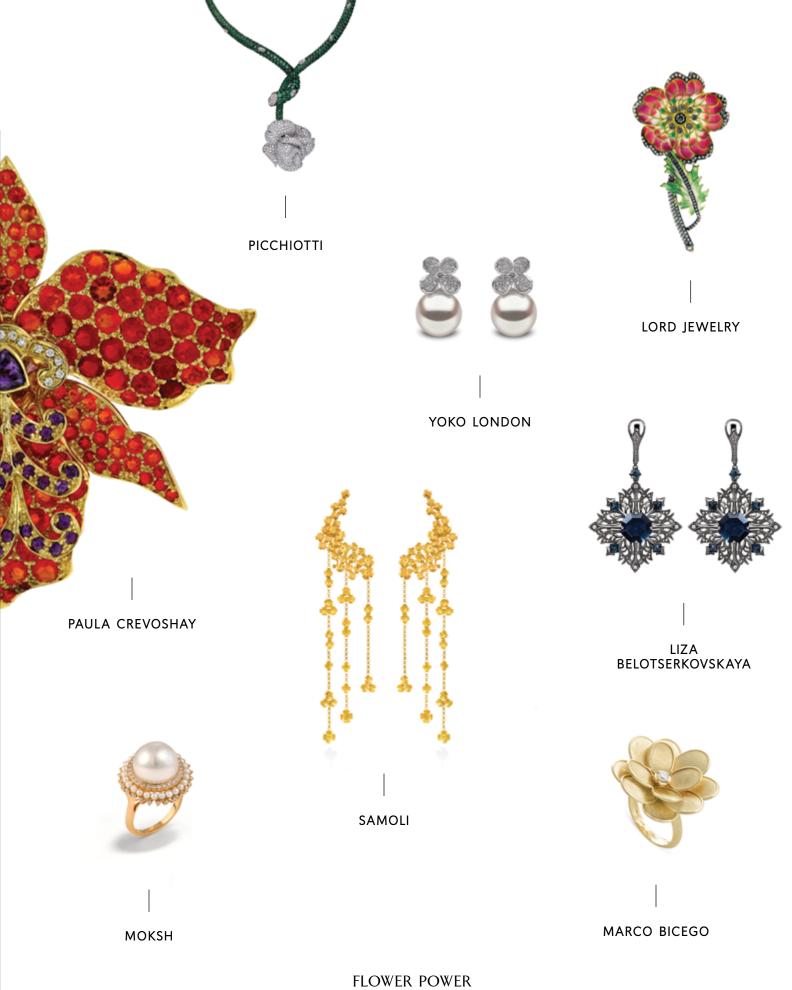




FLOWER POWER

We see a surge of floral love this summer. Vibrant conversations in gardens and forests are in full bloom. Emulating delicate petals, encrusting the surface with gems, jewelry designers have re-imagined exciting alternatives, reworking micro-floral motifs. Leaves, buds, blossoms and petals scattered

with diamonds, colored gems and semi-precious stones or a splash of enamel create a winning effect. Clever contemporary slants and textures make a dramatic splash this season. Head to the stylistic epicenter, Las Vegas, for a closer look at these precious jewels.



FLOWER POWER



FLOWER POWER

THE STONE AGE

rade and worn by mankind, there has been indication of its uses in protection and status. The first pieces of pre-historic jewelry—made of shells, bone and rudimentary stone—served to shield from danger or signify the wearer's rank. They laid the groundwork for how human

adornment would be interpreted in later civilizations, from the perceived immortality of lapis lazuli—and prevention of wrinkles in rose quartz-infused makeup—in Ancient Egypt and conjuring ancestors living within Chinese jade, to the Renaissance habit of pairing gems with herbal remedies.

Yet for much of modern history, the idea that gemstones could have healing or protective qualities has been relegated to the corners of patchouli-drenched New Age alternative medicine, side-eyed as props for shamans and psychics (consider the connotative image of the crystal ball, made of the same rock crystal that might be used in a David Webb cuff).

But the past few years have brought a noticeably renewed interest in utilizing gems for such purposes, with both jewelry designers and beauty experts turning to various crystals and stones in pursuit of products that go beyond the superficial to the transcendental.

Chalk it up to "wellness," a term that has come to define physical, mental and social health in the 21st century and a lifestyle that often cites activities like juice cleanses, yoga, meditation and holistic healing as routine. That routine has also increasingly come to include crystal healing, with one-on-one sessions, home interior consultations, beauty elixirs—and yes, jewelry—supplementing these practices.

Such is the case for Paige Novick, who has been a certified meditation instructor for five years and debuted her first line of gem healing jewelry, Powerful Pretty Things, a year ago. "My mom was super alternative and into holistic medicine and acupuncture when I was growing up, so I think it was just waiting to surface," says Novick, jokingly. But the New York-based designer started to get serious about the idea as she began working with more and more colored stones, which led to a six-month course in crystal healing. "Before I studied crystals, I thought it was about magic and I couldn't relate to that. But then I learned more about the amplification of thought that you are projecting. The work comes from you; so when you start to think of it that way, the crystals are a conduit,"

she says. "And if you take crystals out of this arts-and-craftsy, hippie-dippy context, they really are alive. They're used in technology, in computers and other instruments," referring to the crystal oscillators used in everything from clocks to cell phones.

Novick's made-to-order line incorporates gems like emerald, aquamarine, citrine and amethyst into delicate, refined bangles, asymmetrical rings and modern curved-bar earrings and pendants—none of which read as the typical rough-around-the-edges hippie jewelry of yore. "I wanted to introduce [the idea] with something that I was known for," the designer explains.

Since then, Novick has debuted two more gem-wellness-focused collections: Pretty Powerful Things 2 Go (a collection of loose stones) and Gem Story, which launched this spring and includes pendant necklaces decorated with tumbled stones such as angelite (for spiritual guidance), red jasper (for passion and vitality) and tiger's eye (to balance obstacles), all of which Novick has dotted with her signature line of three diamonds.

It was the pursuit of wellness that also led Noor Fares to create jewelry using crystals and other gemstones for healing purposes. Whilst practicing kundalini yoga, the British jewelry designer debuted her Krystallos collection in 2015, which was inspired by crystals and the different mean-

ings they hold in different cultures. The Krystallos range, named after the Ancient Greek word for crystals believed to be divine ice from the gods, included rock crystal to promote clarity with its high-energy vibrations, rose quartz for female energy and amethyst to promote intellect.

Since then. Fares has also created two other collections that use healing gemstones: Akasha in 2016 and Prana earlier this year, both of which focus on stones that relate to the chakras, a concept found in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. In Prana, Fares uses specific crystals meant to balance each of the seven chakras: there are rubies and rhodolites for the red aura of the Mudalahara (root) chakra, realized in pendants and earrings outlined in a petal motif; carnelian and orange sapphires in crescent moon-accented rings for the Svadhistana (sacral) chakra for pleasure, desire and procreation, and so forth.

But Fares insists that her jewelry is still open to the individual wearer's interpretation: "It's a subtle undertone, something that is implied—not imposed—upon the wearer," says Fares, who wears a herkimer diamond that she purchased for herself at Venus Rox, a crystal shop in London. "It helps to keep me attuned and centered. I have always believed that people are subconsciously drawn to certain gemstones."





CLOCKWISE:

GEMWATER
JACQUIE AICHE
PAIGE NOVICK



Jacquie Aiche takes a similar philosophy when it comes to helping her clients choose gemstones. "You're always drawn to the crystal that you need the most," she explains. "You have to believe in it and have a connection to it. It might change colors or become cloudy at times, it becomes a little totem of you." Many of the L.A.-based designer's private clients come to her Beverly Hills showroom, located in a residential home, seeking stones for specific purposes. "Two years ago a lot of my clients would come in and tell me they needed an emerald on a pinky ring. A crystal healer would [recommend] it for money and for protection," she explains. In addition to her main collection of bohemian jewels, Aiche recently introduced a line called Voler comprised of handwoven gold mesh pouches that can be filled with a cocktail of loose gemstones to address whatever ails you.

Aiche's New Age-y home base has become something of the gold standard in selling and promoting wellness through jewelry by offering clients an experience that goes beyond just buying a ring or necklace. "I'm a California girl, it's in my DNA," she explains. The house-turned-showroom is outfitted with plenty of salt crystals and petrified wood, with a large pyrite at the entryway for psychic and spiritual protection. The de-

signer regularly hosts various experts, from facialists and massage therapists like Cynthia Marie Faranko to Kabbalah mystics and a shaman from Big Sur, in addition to yoga classes and sound baths. "I'm selling energy," Aiche explains.

Other designers—and beauty brands—have followed suit on a smaller scale: Novick's Gem Story collection also includes balancing oils from Bio Apothecary, which incor-

porate essential oils with actual crystals at the bottom of the bottle. She also holds one-onone and group meditation sessions (upcoming classes will be held at Sacred Space in Miami, Unplug in L.A.

and Spring Place in New York). And Diamond in the Rough and Todd Reed veteran Anjanette Dienne Sinesio's year-old Gem-Water sells water bottles and carafes with crystals at the bottom, meant infuse the beverage with the stones' energetic properties—yet another practice borrowed from an ancient tradition, reimagined for today's aesthetically-minded mystics.

PAIGE NOVICK



LONG CONSIDERED THE REALM OF HIPPIES AND MYSTICS, CRYSTALS AND GEMSTONES ARE NOW GAR-NERING ATTENTION FROM JEWELRY DESIGNERS.







PURE ART

JENNIFER FISHER: DOMESTIC GODDES

hen you're in the kitchen, it's a total creative process.

Especially because I wing it a lot of the time," says entrepreneur



and designer, Jennifer Fisher, about her latest business venture into the culinary world. "[Cooking] is kind of like designing jewelry. You're being creative—it's just a different avenue for it." Like her fine jewelry which transpired from a personal pendant she created after the birth of her son-Fisher's kitchen

developed through a combination of familial influences and "happy accidents."

Long before she was designing in the studio, Fisher was learning in the kitchen. As a 10-year-old growing up in Santa Barbara, Fisher began taking classes after Montessori school. "It gave me this foundation for cooking that a lot of people don't really get, so it was a huge gift that my mom gave me," she explains. "I'm not formally trained like many people who

have gone to culinary school but I almost think that this is better because it was real-life training." In those early days, she learned fundamentals such as how to peel corn, poach eggs, and trim beans—skills that she continues to draw on today.

After growing a family of her own and being diagnosed with thyroid disease, Fisher became increasingly cautious of food and exactly what went into her dishes. "Having a family, you care about what your kids eat. The kids eat what we eat," she says, "I care about what my husband eats. I want him to be healthy. I want to be healthy."

It wasn't until she posted a photo on her Instagram account that she realized her culinary pursuits appealed to an audience beyond her family. In an effort to draw attention to one of

her sculptural silver-plated brass rings, Fisher instead received an influx of requests about her salted avocado toast in the background.

Shortly after, Fisher decided ed to sell her I origina love with of this standard

SS

homemade organic salt blends and post her original recipes (such as "My Mom's Da Bomb Banana Bread" and "Aunt Tinda's Brownies") on her brand's website. "Normally, you'll get salt that tastes like sticks and stuff you want to stick in your bathroom as potpourri. It's not anything you want to eat"—which is exactly why Fisher incorporates fresh, unexpected ingredients, like the zest of lemons from her father's grove in California and (Fisher's personal favorite) dill, into her proprietary blends.

With nearly 100 recipes online already, Fisher's brand is on the fast-track to becoming a full-fledged lifestyle empire. What to expect next? Dressings and sauces—which are sure to be as essential to a well-stocked pantry as Fisher's designs are to a well-stocked jewelry box.

Ily fell in h a version alad in s.



THE EASIEST LENTIL SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups dried lentils, any type will do.
 This will yield approx. 5 cups cooked lentils.
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- · 1 white onion, diced VERY fine
- 15-20 hot or mild Peppadew peppers, chopped fine
- 1/2-1 teaspoon JF Universal Salt, to taste
- · Approx. 2 batches of my Mustard Vinaigrette

PROCESS

Rinse and drain lentils in a sieve to remove any dirt or debris. Place in a medium saucepan and add chicken or veggie broth to cover by approximately 3". Add the vinegar to the water.

Bring to a boil and reduce to simmer for 30-40 minutes, depending on the type of lentils. Check them after 20 minutes and adjust simmer time. Keep an eye on them as you want the lentils to have a bit of bite and not be mushy.

Once cooked, drain and add the vinaigrette to the hot lentils. Add onion, peppers and adjust the salt seasoning. Add fresh cracked black pepper.

Serve warm with a protein of your choice or, even better, refrigerate overnight and serve cold. I think it is better the next day after letting them marinate a bit in the vinaigrette. This keeps for approximately 3 days refrigerated.

Trust me, this is amazing for summer BBQs or lunch. Try this in butter lettuce wraps with grilled chicken, with extra dipping vinaigrette on the side and a glass of rosé. For brunch, serve with a fried or poached egg on top.



BY KAREEM RASHED

GREECE IS THE WORD

The idyllic Greek isles have excelled at jewelry for millennia and, now, have produced some of the most original voices in the industry today. Meet the designers leading jewelry's Greek revival.



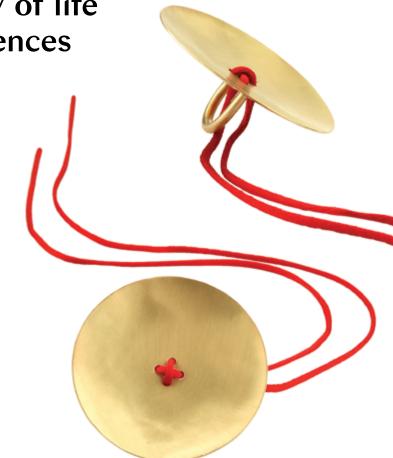


ELENA VOTS

"...the simple lines of the ancient columns and the simplicity of life here are big influences on my work."

B ased on the postcard-perfect isle of Hydra, Elena Votsi has an endless supply of inspiration just beyond her studio's window: "From designing the Olympic medals to a simple gold ring, the light of Greece, the simple lines of the ancient columns and the simplicity of life here are all big influences on my work."

Indeed, simplicity is a thread that runs throughout Votsi's work, distilling designs to their purest essence. From necklaces dotted with bits of coral and shell to sleek, sculptural gold rings, Votsi translates her surroundings into pieces with an innately Greek sense of fuss-free elegance.



"I have the utmost respect for the Greek goldsmithing tradition"







thens-native Nikos Koulis riffs on elements from the past, like geometric Art Deco motifs and ancient mythological symbols, to create jewels that are unmistakably modern.

A true innovator, Koulis frequently experiments with unusual gem cuts and materials like transparent enamel. He attributes his boundary-pushing drive to the rich tradition of Greek craftsmanship: "Because of our history, you can find exquisite gold pieces from the 5th century B.C. in our museums and they can seem so contemporary.

I have the utmost respect for the Greek goldsmithing tradition — it might not be apparent in my creations but has surely defined my creative DNA."



NIKOS KOULIS earrings, \$27,500; diamond and gold bracelet, \$9,600; diamond and gold necklace, \$112,000; Bergdorf Goodman, 212-753-7300 Clockwise from top: diamond and gold ring, \$17,800; diamond and gold

GREEK DESIGNERS



"At the moment, there's a flourishing artistic scene and creativity that has re-emerged in the country."

ne of Greece's most iconic natural materials — marble — hasn't often made appearances in jewelry. But Athens-born and raised designer loanna Souflia has reimagined the historic stone in strikingly minimalist jewels. Both earthy and architectural, Souflia's designs have an elemental beauty.

When asked what she finds most inspiring about her homeland, Souflia cites the here and now: "At the moment, there's a flourishing artistic scene and creativity that has re-emerged in the country. One of the things I find characterizes Greece is resilience, and what is more inspiring than a persevering spirit?"



Clockwise from top: Bardiglio Imperiale marble and grey diamond earrings, \$6,660; chrys-oprase and diamond ring, \$2,810; chrome chalcedony, chrysoprase and diamond earrings, \$5,430; Bardiglio Imperiale marble and grey diamond cuff, \$11,050; auverture.com

DANNA SOUFLI

"I'm inspired to create pieces whose elements comple-ment each other..."



thens is a city that combines the old and new, past and present, offering a very stimulating landscape for a designer," says Christina Alexiou. Her collection toes that line between past and present with pieces like tourmaline pendants carved into luscious lips and sunny gold cuffs molded to resemble traditional Orthodox ex votos.

Her subtle wit gives age-old symbols a cheeky wink. "As I walk by the ancient agora on my way to the studio every day," she says, "I'm inspired to create pieces whose elements complement each other in a way that is greater than the sum of its parts."







he sun, the sea, the amazing Cycladic light...everything in Greece is about life and how to enjoy it," says Lito. "It's about spontaneity and freedom!" That effervescent spirit imbues all of her designs, from cocktail rings whose stones playfully dance about to whimsically asymmetric earrings.

There's a beachy, bohemian appeal to her work that gives precious stones an air of effortless ease. Her artfully enameled evil eyes, crowned with diamond lashes or simply set on a woven bracelet, are some of the most coveted, and most original, renditions on an ever-popular Greek talisman.

"At the moment, there's a flourishing artistic scene and creativity that has re-emerged in the country."









MELANIE GEORGAC POULOS

Ithough she's based in London, Melanie Georgacopoulos's Greek heritage instilled her with a deep appreciation for the art of jewelry-making. "I still remember all those school trips to archaeological museums, seeing so much jewelry and artifacts," she recalls, saying she took them all for granted until later realizing "all these pieces are really part of my DNA."

Rather than hewing to traditional Greek goldsmithing, Georgacopoulos's work explores the lustrous beauty of pearls — a material that ancient Greeks revered as tears of the gods. Georgacopoulos's bold, geometric designs prove that pearls are still as lust-worthy as in Helen of Troy's day.





kwise from top: mother-of-pearl and freshwater pearl bangle, \$2,500; mother-ofl and South Sea pearl cuff, \$15,600; mother-of-pearl earrings, \$5,900; mother-ofl and freshwater pearl ring, \$5,100; melaniegeorgacopoulos.com



"...all these pieces are really part of my DNA"

"The deep blue of the Mediterranean sea, it's seascapes and landscapes drenched in sunlight free one's mind and allow creativity to blossom"







erhaps the single most influential figure in modern Greek design, Ilias Lalaounis revived techniques and styles from antiquity for mid-century jet-setters like Jackie Onassis and Elizabeth Taylor. Lalaounis's legacy is carried on by his four daughters, who continue to evolve historic motifs like intricate Byzantine filigree and Minoan carvings in radiant 22-karat treasures.

Maria Lalaounis, who serves as the brand's creative director, credits Greece's natural gifts for generating so many talented artists: "The deep blue of the Mediterranean sea, it's seascapes and landscapes drenched in sunlight free one's mind and allow creativity to blossom."



FOR FUTURE REFERENCE GOES RETAIL



andi Molofsky, cofounder of jewelry brand development agency For Future Reference (FFR), is well aware that opening a brick-and-mortar jewelry store—a famously tough business at present—"is a little crazy." But Molofsky and business partner Meaghan Flynn opened their own little slice of quirky, glamourous retail heaven in Hudson, N.Y., in June to bring to life "the dream of having our own little corner of the world where we could bring our shared style to life," she says.

But the founders come to the retail game with long and diversified jewelry careers behind them: Molofsky is a former marketing director for mining company Gemfield's, and Flynn is a former sales director for jewelry designer Jemma Wynne. And together they've built one of the most buzzed-about brand development agencies in the business, specializing in both public relations and sales for emerging jewelry brands. FFR's high-wattage roster is currently comprised of Retrouvaí, Brent Neale, ARK, Established Sarah Hendler, Harwell Godfrey and Sorellina.

Its splashy brands, along with jewelry from designers Anthony Lent and Jane Taylor, make up the top tier of merchandise at the For Future Reference shop, which is located on Hudson's main shopping drag, Warren Street. But the store also carries a selection of hand-picked vintage and estate pieces—"a

great mix of things we're drawn to, including diamond encrusted initial rings, unusual hoop earrings and lots and lots of yellow gold," notes Molofsky. There's also a curated selection of vintage clothing, accessories and home decor, all sourced by the cofounders, who are frequently the most stylish women in the room (Molofsky and her extensive collection of sequined vintage pieces were profiled on fashion site Man Repeller earlier this year).

The partners also created a pair of proprietary perfumes for the outpost. "Meaghan has always been a lover of scents and oils," explains Molofsky, "and for my 40th birthday, she arranged for us to take a perfume-making class through Harwell Godfrey, who's using perfume solids in her jewelry. We each made a custom scent — hers is called East and is more musky and spicy, mine is called West and is more citrus and floral." The scents are sold in jewelry-like roll-on bottles with stones such as rose quartz as the roller. The store's décor is a masterful mash-up of vintage furnishings. "We both just truly love vintage furniture and decor, but not of one particular style," Molofsky says. "Both of our houses are a mix of mid-century modern, Hollywood Regency, '70s modern and '80s glam, and we wanted to bring that vibe to the store. We're not the type to hire a designer—we go on instinct."





COVETABLE JEWELS: TEFAF

EFAF New York Spring edition had a formidable line-up of jewelers, showcasing artistry and design of the highest caliber. A visual spectacle of covetable jewels that hacked tradition, pushed the boundaries of creativity, and exalted engineering prowess – unveiled by

dauntless defenders of the jewelry world.



Revered German jewelry house Hemmerle returned to the show with gorgeous creations that were a feat of construction. A pair of round earrings, speckled with 16 diamonds, held in place by bending lines of interlacing blackened silver

with domes of pave-set diamonds: "Learning from our past is a part of who we are and distinctly informs our layers of knowledge, expertise and design principles. Materials are our starting point and drive our creativity. We experiment with unconventional materials not just to be different but to create a perfect setting," observed Christian Hemmerle. The new series of Hemmerle jewels included an exceptional double cabochon Colombian emerald, set in bronze, that

mirrored a transcendent quality. The gem seemingly floated atop pave-set emeralds to create a swirling pattern. "The emerald had an incredible clarity to it and when thinking about a setting for it, we didn't want metal or skin to be visible through it — it was important to us that the pave-set emeralds underneath were the same color as the double cabochon, so its true color wasn't altered at all. The coloring of bronze and the patina, we created, works perfectly with the color of the emeralds," mentioned Christian and Yasmin Hemmerle.

What defines Hemmerle is its otherworldly designs, including a pair of earrings vivified by two diamonds floating at the center of bronze spikes, and meticulously engineered to hold each stone securely in place with minimal pressure. Each bronze spike was accented with reverse set diamonds that capped each spike. "It took us five years to find two diamonds that matched perfectly and then over six months experimenting with the setting," said Yasmin.

James de Givenchy, of Taffin, brought out a series of haute couture jewelry that reflected his increasing focus on exceptional and important stones as well as unusual materials. "It showcases a collection of materials that continue to highlight the house's aesthetic, but unlike earlier works, there will be a more significant layering of



colors to allow the materials to be just as prominent as the gemstones used," said James de Givenchy. A spectacular necklace sprung to life with rare button corals splayed out on blackened stainless steel and rose gold, creating visual contrast. Carved jade and radiant ceramics gave a fantastic insight into his contemporary aesthetic and association of materials and color. Other standout pieces from Taffin included a 35.82-carats natural blue star sapphire cabochon, orange ceramic, green ceramic, grey ceramic and 18k rose gold ring, a 16.42-carats fire opal, red ceramic, black cord and 18k rose gold necklace and a 25.49-carats pear-shaped emerald, brushed slate gray ceramic and 18k rose gold necklace. So, what drew him to ceramic? "I am always looking for new mediums to work with; new ways to create outside of the expected. Specifically when I described the ceramic, I was drawn to its wide color range and the ability to work with it in a sculptural way, creating colorful volumes to play with the individuality of the stones," explained Givenchy.

Alessandro Sabbatini's designs for his brand, Sabba, are mold-breaking. His earrings are stunning, sensational, and huge as evidenced in a pair of sky-blue sapphire and diamond ear pendants mounted in titanium and yellow gold, and a pair of amethyst and diamond ear pendants realized in

platinum and yellow gold. "My main inspirations in design are nature and classic art. I love to play with various colors and materials. Generally, I start from looking at the stones and playing with them until I reach the shape and balance I want," said Sabbatini. The designer plays with dimension and shape, and "all of the designs are one of a kind, and they can be quite different from one another, because each of them has been imagined for a different woman." Jewelry magpies, be aware: Sabba is sold exclusively at FD Gallery, USA.

Paris-based artisan jeweler Reza's offerings came in splashes of red. Delicious jewels turned up in the form of the Grappes earring. As many as 22 pebble rubies formed a juicy bunch amidst emerald-cut diamonds, punctuated with a few brilliant-cuts on rose gold. Drawing upon a trove of flawless, untreated gems, the jeweler dreamed up one-of-a-kind rings set with Burmese and Troidia rubies. The Chose Troïdia ring featured an unheated Troidia ruby sourced from East Africa, weighing a generous 8.48 carats, set in rose gold alongside brilliant-cut diamonds. Another lovely ring, Ayli, featured an unheated ovalshaped Burmese ruby set in white gold and accented with tapered-cut diamonds.

Images Left to Right: Hemmerle, Taffin, Reza. Sabba





IN CONVERSATION WITH

42

GEM GENÈVE'S VIVIENNE BECKER

BY SMITHA SADANANDAN



What is your vision for Vivarium?

My idea for Vivarium is to create the ultimate authoritative destination for jewelry lovers and connoisseurs – I want to show and share the richness of jewelry, history, culture, its role in different civilizations, fashion, great women and their jewels, the romance, meaning, gemology, the science, art and craftsmanship....and so it goes

on, overall to give the subject the depth it deserves. I am fortunate that the founders of Gem Genève have given me the opportunity to create a Designer Showcase, which this year is called the Designer Vivarium.

I imagine you do an extensive review of the work, craftsmanship before shortlisting the designers for Vivarium. What key aspects enable you to arrive at the decision?

Yes, I am looking all the time for new or hidden talent: I have strict criteria and am fortunate in being helped in this by Ida Faerber, daughter of Thomas Faerber, co-founder. Ida has superb taste and an incredible

eye and we often make final decisions together. I look particularly for a strong point of view, an individuality of artistic expression, a certain sophistication of craftsmanship and execution — and we look too for something fresh, a new expression for the art of the jewel. Sometimes it's hard to define what I'm looking for but I know when I see it! Also, the jeweler has to be somewhat under the radar, so that the vivarium — as

its name suggests - becomes a place of discovery.

Does emotion influence your decision?

Yes, emotion definitely comes into the decision – as I say, I know when I see something, if I have an immediate emotional response, I know I've found something or someone exciting and innovative. Jewelry is all about emotion.

How many designers did Vivarium start off with, last year?

I think we had nine last year, we have 11 this year – six returning and five new names.

DESIGNER VIVARIUM ARTISTS:

Alexander Tenzo, Alexandra Jefford, Cora Sheibani, Milio, Ming Lampson, Nadia Morgenthaler, Nicholas Lieou, Ninotchka, Racine, Sean Gilson and Tatiana Verstraeten



MING LAMPSON



NADIA MORGENTHALER



NICHOLAS LIEOU



TATIANA VERSTRAETEN



ALEXANDER TENZO



CORA SHEIBANI

What do you like about Nicholas Lieou's craft?

Nicholas Lieou is a great talent I think — I love his attitude to his work, quite cerebral, his creative take on what I see as a noble classicism — he has an amazing book, a portfolio of ideas and designs that is simply breath-taking and points to his so far untapped potential.

What drew you to the works of Nadia Morgenthaler and Ming Lampson?

Nadia Morgenthaler is one of the most talented and exciting designer-jewelers, artist-artisans in the world today. Her work has a nobility, very new yet with subtle echoes of the past, which of course I love, the mix of 18th century splendor, romance with very modern technology that enables unimagined structures, lightness. Ming too has a wonderful approach to jewelry, the jewels are modern but not self-consciously so, I love her storytelling, her interpretation of themes, especially the newest Reverence for Nature, inspired by Japanese rituals around the natural world.

Tatiana Verstraeten has a fledgling brand. What makes her jewelry interesting to you?

Tatiana Verstraeten is a breath of fresh air in the traditional diamond world of the Place Vendome – she brings fashion and a touch of fantasy, the fantasy of fashion jewelry to High Jewelry and I find this exciting. As soon as I saw the jewels, in her tiny showroom in Paris, I knew these were the jewels women, me included, would want to wear right now.

What, would you say, sets Racine apart from many others in the industry?

For Racine, they are making jewels in the modern idiom, of degradé pave work but with a subtle twist – they are non-figurative, which I like, beautifully made and I feel that their style is really evolving.

MODERN MASTER

WE CAUGHT UP WITH VRAM MINASSIAN TO TALK ABOUT SCULPTURES, COSMIC FORCES AND JEWELRY

BY SMITHA SADANANDAN

Tell us about your journey from Beirut to Paris and then, LA.

I was born in Beirut in 1963. My father was a jeweler and a watchmaker who had his own shop there. I was always enamored by the clientele who visited the store – distinguished, worldly, and cultured people all of whom looked to my father as an expert. Plenty of beautiful women too! During the summers I'd spend mornings

apprenticing in the workshop sawing, drilling, filing, drawing wires, piercing, stretching, and stringing before going to the beach. Even then I thought I'd become a jeweler one day. But by the time I was in high school, Lebanon was plunging into civil war – and with the business climate unstable and my parents insisting that I get a traditional academic education, I enrolled in the American University in Paris, where I earned a degree in International Business. Only after that did I move to Santa Monica to study at GIA.

For around 30 years, you've designed for private labels and done bridal collections too. How different is the creative palette – then and now?

Working with other brands is a totally different process. I'll use a tennis analogy – when I was doing



private label, I was the coach or the trainer – always helping others reach their goals. And now I'm not only the coach and the trainer, but the player, the manager, and the agent too. There's immense creative freedom but also a whole new world of responsibility.

What was your debut collection for VRAM? And how long did it take you to come up with the final set?

My first collection for the VRAM brand is called Continuum Moment I. I had been working on the collection for around a year, when I decided to show them to Barneys New York in the summer of 2016. I requested a few weeks to prepare if they were interested in doing a show, but they wanted me in the store only 13 days later...so, I figured it was as good a time as any and booked my flight.

How did you go about channeling your passion for sculpture into your jewelry?

My passion for sculpture is something that seems to be innate. With abstract forms either you're drawn to them or you aren't. And it has to do with the forms, but also the context and the minds of the sculptors. It isn't so easily explained and yet, I find myself with a whole collection of abstract works – most of



which were created by little-known California sculptors, whose names aren't found in art history books. Now I'm in a place where I don't even talk about specific artistic references because I realize that it detracts from the experience. It works much better if they form their own understanding with their own 'a-ha!' moments.

Your rings Sinc, Sine and Echo – part of the Continuum series – relates to mathematics, and what else? What inspired the name 'Continuum'?

The name Continuum comes from a couple of places – first, because the initial pieces were created shortly after the birth of my first daughter, Elsa, and I was thinking a lot at that time about how generations are both a renewal and a continuation of what came before. I also knew then that my designs should have a similar dialogue: ever evolving, but stemming from a common sensibility.

Do cosmic forces influence your design ideas?

Yes! One of the main inspirations for the first Continuum collection was unseen cosmic forces including sound, gravity, and magnetism. There's also the invisible force between the shape and the viewer to consider – attraction? Repulsion? Ambivalence? Apathy? Affection?

What else inspires your work?

I grew up in the 20th century during the space race and I was transfixed by science fiction books and films growing up so that had a much larger influence on me. In my mind, the concept of outer space is inextricably tied to fantasy, imagination, and play. There is something amazing about the vastness of the universe that is awe-inspiring and helps put everything in perspective. I'm glad if my pieces can remind people of that in a small way. Some of my elements, especially in the second and third Moments echo geological and biological forms.

This year, you've added on necklaces, and lots of gemmy earrings and statement rings. What sparked your decision?

I still tend to design pure shapes without gemstones first before working on colors or gemstone treatments. That being said, I also create 15-to-20 one-of-a-kind pieces per year that are built around specific gemstones. People are really starting to notice the gemstone-rich pieces now because my studio is small and a lot of them take four-twelve months to complete. Now I've made nearly 60 – with more completing each month. Look out for debuts at the upcoming Couture show!

What kind of finishes are you experimenting with?

Every piece calls for its own finishing treatment. Right now, my favorite process approximates the texture of the best vintage jewelry.







www.goshwara.com



GAGA FOR TIFFANY



"There are so many beautiful jewels in the world, but the radiant Tiffany Diamond is truly exceptional"

LADY GAGA

International style icon Lady Gaga looked stunning at the 91st Academy Awards®, wearing the iconic, cushion-cut brilliant Tiffany Diamond, weighing 128.54 carats.

Nominated for Best Actress and Best Original Song for her work in A Star Is Born, Lady Gaga illuminated the red carpet wearing one of the largest fancy yellow diamonds in the world. Audrey Hepburn® last wore the Tiffany Diamond in a necklace for the Breakfast at Tiffany's publicity photo shoot.

"Lady Gaga is the ultimate creator, innovator and rule breaker, and I'm thrilled that she wore the legendary Tiffany Diamond on the awards show red carpet" said Reed Krakoff, Tiffany & Co. Chief Artistic Officer.



Ernst Benz

PRECISION INSTRUMENTS FOR TIMEKEEPING



A kingdom for this gemstone! Associated with royalty and romance, the noble sapphire is one of the world's most coveted and treasured gemstones.

MINING . CUTTING . CREATION

PAUL WILD OHG • AUF DER LAY 2 • 55743 KIRSCHWEILER • GERMANY
T: +49.(0)67 81.93 43-0 • F: +49.(0)67 81.93 43-43 • E-MAIL: INFO@PAUL-WILD.DE • WWW.PAUL-WILD.DE

VISIT US AT

