

India's rich sari traditions inspired Alice Cicolini's latest collection.



ALICE CICOLINI HIGH SARI ODISHA BOULLE RING (\$27,200) AND SARI ZARDOSI STUDS (\$4,060), ALICECICOLINI.COM

Where to NEXT?

A jeweler's personal odyssey leads to a ring on your finger.

BY JILL NEWMAN

In Rajasthan, monsoon season serves a sartorial purpose. Women wear vibrant, wavy-patterned saris known as lehariyas; eventually the torrential rains cause the colors to bleed together, creating a beautiful monochrome effect and, it is believed, bringing good fortune to the wearer.

Turns out wet season is ripe for jewelry inspiration, too. The lehariya is one of several sari styles—there are at least 30 regional varieties in India—that inspired Alice Cicolini's new collection of candy-hued enamel jewelry. "Saris contain so much symbolism, from their colors and materials to the way they're worn, or even folded for storage," says the designer, who did a deep dive into these

expressive garments while living in India (she served as the British Council's director of arts and culture for five years). She also met Rta Kapur Chishti, a textile scholar who has spent decades traveling across the subcontinent documenting sari styles, which can be traced back to 3000 BC.

Cicolini has transformed the lively patterns and textures she came across into a suite of unique jewels, each of which tells a story. A playful dotted black ring with an orange garnet, for example, features tiny gold granulations that emulate the nubby quality of a sari's fabric. A marbled enamel ring anchored by a pink sapphire mimics the effect of tie-dye.

Jewelry with cultural gravitas is something

of a signature for Cicolini, who launched her eponymous line in 2009. "I take great pleasure in a kind of collector's mentality, gathering references that may not come out immediately but find their way into something," she says. The ornate ceiling of a Lahore palace, a ceramic goblet in a Turkish museum, the crisp stripes on a Venetian gondola pole—all have made their way into her gems. So have age-old craft techniques still practiced by the master enamellers, goldsmiths, and lapidaries Cicolini partners with to infuse her work with layers of skill and history. "There is something captivating about the possibilities of containing poetic ideas in such small things as jewelry." **T&C**

STROKE THE EGO

A few coats of enamel and you'll be ready to go.



▲ **SILVIA FURMANOVICH**
MINIATURE PAINTING FAN EARRINGS (\$12,760), BERGDORF GOODMAN
NEW YORK, 212-753-7300



▲ **ALISON LOU**
TRIPPIEST COCKTAIL RING (\$2,575), ALISONLOU.COM



▼ **SANJAY KASLIWAL**
THE PADMINI BANGLE,
SANJAYKASLIWAL.COM



▶ **DAVID WEBB**
ASHEVILLE EARRINGS (\$68,000),
DAVIDWEBB.COM

BRIANA BLASKO (SARI)