

# 170 GIFTS THEY'LL BRAG ABOUT TOWN & COUNTRY

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

## HOW TO CELEBRATE

(DESPITE IT ALL)

America's  
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WEDDING

FAMILY  
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SURVIVAL GUIDE

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\$12,000 Turtledoves!  
Status Desserts!  
Giuliani vs. Giuliani!



*Is Santa a Jedi?*  
**KERI  
RUSSELL**  
on all the  
*STAR WARS*  
Secrets





# 21 Put on an Art Deco Brooch...

BY JILL NEWMAN

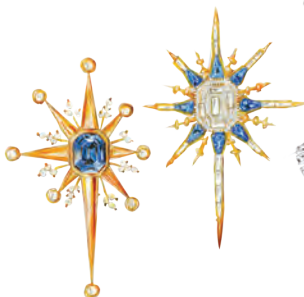
A client of the jeweler James de Givenchy sheepishly confessed that she had a beautiful 30-carat old mine cut diamond that sat in a safe because she didn't have an occasion to wear it. "People fall in love with stones. Why shouldn't they enjoy them all the time?" the designer asks. So he removed the diamond from its ornate setting and placed it on a simple silk cord necklace that the client now happily wears all the time—with everything from jeans and T-shirts to cocktail dresses. She's one of many women faced with the same dilemma: Is it sacrilegious to take apart family heirlooms and sentimental gifts?

Rest assured, there is a long history of women redesigning their jewelry, says Frank Everett, Sotheby's senior vice president and sales director of the auction house's luxury division in New York. "Tons of Art Deco

## ...or Don't!



**22 MAKE IT A NECKLACE INSTEAD**  
Known for his innovative use of color and material, James de Givenchy juxtaposes the rare Ceylon sapphire with a modest leather cord and olive-colored ceramic accents.



**23 OR EARRINGS**  
Vram's mismatched earrings feature the sapphire and a composition of baguette and trapezoid-cut diamonds for textural variety.



**24 A CHOKER?**  
Brazilian-born jeweler Fernando Jorge created a dreamy azure palette by combining the sapphire with a series of bright blue lapis stones, each set with a diamond.



**25 A PENDANT?**  
Irene Neuwirth's playful California sensibility shines through in this large carved pink opal floral pendant, which holds the mesmerizing sapphire.



**26 NO—A CUFF!**  
The Rome-based jeweler Fabio Salini uses unconventional materials to give precious gems a modern appeal. Here, the sapphire is placed in a carbon fiber cuff with invisible hinges for a seamless curve.



Sotheby's  
\$40,000-  
\$60,000 (est)

jewels were made with great gems that were taken from Victorian and Edwardian designs because women didn't want to wear those jeweled garlands, swags, and bows anymore."

Once again we are at a critical style juncture when some of the heavier pieces that were popular in past decades don't fit the current aesthetic. Still, people's emotional attachment to jewelry can make it hard to break pieces apart, says de Givenchy, who insists that his clients save the mountings in case they decide to go back to the original design. Requests for makeovers are increasing, he says, because the world has changed. "Before the internet, people often wore jewelry to show their worth, but today we know everything about everyone. Nobody needs to prove anything. Women still fall in love with gems, and they want to wear them every day, not just on special occasions."

To illustrate the possibilities for a single stone, we asked five contemporary designers, with their own sensibilities, to reimagine a 1930s brooch from the collection of silent film star Mary Duncan Sanford that is set with a 50.63-carat Ceylon sapphire and surrounded by diamonds and smaller sapphires. (The piece is being offered at Sotheby's December 10 Magnificent Jewels auction in New York.) It's a beautiful design, but it won't appeal to everyone, says Everett, who encourages his clients to look past the setting if it isn't their style. It can be fixed. **T&C**

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