

LUXURY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Robb Report



Passion Investments

HOW YOUR GUILTIEST PLEASURES ARE PAYING OFF

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MODERN MASTERS



Top international fairs such as Art Basel and TEFAF (the European Fine Art Fair) are embracing an emerging contemporary-art category—one realized in gemstones and diamonds. Exhibited alongside Picasso paintings and Giacometti sculptures are often works by the likes of Hemmerle, Suzanne Syz, and Wallace Chan—pieces that transform stones, metal, and unexpected materials into arresting jewelry. The six jewelers shown here are among today's most collectible.

—JILL NEWMAN

Photography by
Claire Benoist
Styling by
Angela Campos

JAMES DE GIVENCHY FOR TAFFIN

These earrings featuring eye-catching spinels, bright blue ceramic, and spiky reverse-set diamonds illustrate Givenchy's bold style. Anything but conventional, the designer is known for creating wearable statement pieces such as these, as well as rings highlighting important diamonds in minimalist settings that seem to float the stones over the finger. (212.421.6222)

HEMMERLE

This fourth-generation German jewelry house forges striking designs of exceptional diamonds and gemstones with metals such as iron and copper echoing the Bauhaus aesthetic. Hemmerle is pursued by art collectors who are drawn to its strong, sleek image, as illustrated in these earrings of diamonds, copper, and white gold and the aquamarine pendant necklace with turquoise, gold, silver, and onyx. (+49.8924.22.600, hemmerle.com)



BHAGAT

led by Viren Bhagat and his two sons, the Mumbai-based jewelry house flawlessly blends an Indian aesthetic with European-style artisanship. The family-owned company has cultivated an international following, with designs highlighting prized stones such as Golconda diamonds and Ceylon sapphires. A small number of pieces, like these earrings set with diamonds and 21.5 carats of Burmese rubies, are available in the United States. (At FD Gallery, 212.772.2440, fd-gallery.com)





WALLACE CHAN

Designer Wallace Chan transforms stones into magnificent sculptural art—one such example being the four amethyst rocks he carved into butterfly wings that appear as though they could take flight. Some collectors of his work request pedestals so they can display his jewelry creations as art, while others prefer to wear his imaginative designs, like these rosewood earrings wrapped in a titanium ribbon of rubies, sapphires, aquamarines, pink tourmalines, and yellow and white diamonds. (wallace-chan.com)



CINDY CHAO THE ART JEWEL

From designer Cindy Chao's Black Label Masterpiece series, the graceful Winter Leaves brooches present more than 2,100 diamonds set in titanium and white gold with enamel highlights. Meticulously articulated works like these can take months or over a year to create, which is why Chao—one of Asia's most coveted jewelers—makes only about a dozen Black Label Masterpieces a year. (+852.2561.8298, cindychao.com)

SUZANNE SYZ

Influenced by her passion for contemporary art, Suzanne Syz creates jewelry that is bold, bright, and spirited. The Geneva-based designer is known for pop-art-inspired pieces—such as her diamond-embellished Life Savers series shaped like the round candy—and favors mouthwatering stones like the 7.6-carat tsavorite in this Spring Blossoming ring. (+41.22310.2084, suzannesyz.ch)

