

MAKE A STATEMENT: WHY HIGH JEWELLERY STATEMENT EARRINGS WILL NOT GO OUT OF FASHION.

Writer: Olivier Dupon



Earrings by Moussaieff Jewellers in 18K white and yellow gold set with 36.36 carats of multi-coloured diamonds and white diamonds. POA.

www.moussaieff-jewellers.com

Illustration by Jayma Sacco.

www.jaymasacco.com



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Earrings from G by Glenn Spiro (only one shown) in 18K white gold and titanium set with 24 old-cut diamonds (H-I / VS2 S11 - 13.81cts) and 839 round rubies (12.16cts). POA.

www.glennspiro.com

Illustration by Jayma Sacco.
www.jaymasacco.com

Over the past few fashion cycles, we have seen many headlines about 'Statement Earrings', the costume jewellery kind. Worn as a pair or just one earring or even mismatched, statement earrings have been seen on catwalks and in many editorial articles. Recently there has been a thing for fashion earrings that are directly inspired by artists' abstract motifs as in silhouettes, mobiles or sculptures. It is all about maximum drama from the neck up; however, and as with everything

in fashion, the trend will fade and come back again with a vengeance in a few years. This reality should not overshadow the fact that statement earrings have constantly been in high jewellery collections. Whatever the season or trend of the moment, bold and highly decorative earrings are a staple of any haute joaillerie vintage. This article aims to reclaim the high jewellery pedigree of statement earrings. Whereas the 'statement' label when applied to fashion earrings encompasses all and nothing (the word itself has been a bit derided since anything is about making a statement these days), it does make perfect sense and gives a clear idea of what you get when it comes to the ultra-luxurious category.

Chandelier, shoulder duster, hoops, and the cascading variety, their size allows for an abundance of gemstones and high carats, the crux of high jewellery. Besides and as their name suggests, statement high jewellery earrings convey impact and a sense of pre-eminence, they certainly get one noticed or at the very least they give the wearer the sense of being the centre of attention. Wearing highly precious pendants, not only elongates one's portrait, it also improves one's posture and presence, all the more if their components brightly radiate and are irreplaceable. There are many splendid examples that I could have included in this review, so the following article is far from exhaustive, however, it provides an overview of very different approaches from some of the most revered statement earring specialists. High jewellers definitely know best.



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www.moussaieff-jewellers.com



Earrings in 18K white gold set with 35.63 carats of diamonds and 6.35 carats of yellow diamonds. POA.

Earrings in 18K yellow gold set with 47.66 carats of yellow diamonds. POA.

It is yellow fever season at Moussaieff Jewellers! But it is completely harmless except when it comes to one's envy. The three dazzling pairs of earrings (the third pair is shown on the cover of this article) make the most of yellow and yellow-tinged diamonds. Hello, sunshine! They all share the same design concept of clustering, but each has a very different outcome. The cover earrings are gorgeous chandelier earrings that are subtly mismatched due to the rarity of

the multi-coloured diamonds which cannot be exactly mirrored from one earring to the other. The second pair (left) is a ravishing cascade of daisies in various sizes, whose hearts are round-cut yellowish diamonds surrounded by a halo of yellow diamonds for the bigger flowers. The third of these intoxicating earrings are tapestries of yellow diamonds on yellow gold in a slightly convex design. Opulence made of just a few ingredients.



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www.dolcegabbana.com



*Sicilian Cart Earrings in 18K gold set with two rubellite tourmalines (oval shaped, mixed cut, 5.44cts), two rubellite tourmalines (round shaped, mixed cut), 14 emerald beads (6.08cts), 16 emeralds (round shaped, brilliant-cut), 18 yellow sapphires (round shaped, brilliant-cut, 0.92ct), 28 blue sapphires (round shaped, brilliant-cut, 1.44cts), 14 pink sapphires (round shaped, brilliant-cut, 0.72ct); 14 rubies (round shaped, brilliant-cut, 0.78ct), 14 amethysts (round shaped, brilliant-cut, 0.53ct), 16 diamonds (round shaped, brilliant-cut) and two South Sea pearls (20.21cts); **Alta Gioielleria**. POA.*

You can count on Dolce & Gabbana for head-turning creations, and their Alta Gioielleria is where their unbridled imagination heaps up wonders. Most of the designs are figurative and highly ornamented just like Italian baroque artefacts, religious and secular. Their latest instalment of high jewellery was presented on a trip by the steamboat Concordia, from the Cernobbio to the city of Bellagio on Lake Como. It perfectly reflects how high jewellery is always linked to wanderlust at Dolce & Gabbana. Once again, the



*'Lucia' Earrings in 18K white and yellow gold set with two rubies (round shaped, cabochon-cut, 1.71cts), two rubies (square shaped, step-cut), two blue sapphires (square shaped, princess-cut), two emeralds (square shaped, carré-cut), 152 emeralds (round shaped, brilliant-cut), 6 diamonds (marquise shaped, modified brilliant-cut, 2.86cts), four diamonds (round shaped, rose-cut), 160 diamonds (round shaped, brilliant-cut), two South Sea pearls (14.34cts); **Alta Gioielleria**. POA.*

designs were to die for, as much objets d'art as pieces of exceptional jewellery. Earrings in particular made a strong impression, the largest being operatic statements. The gold and filigree work of the Lucia Earrings is magnified by the setting of coloured gemstones in the same manner as that of historical bejewelled chalices. Then there are the colours of the rainbow presented on a stylised wheel and topped by a flower and berry arrangement. These Sicilian Cart Earrings are certainly uplifting, the kind to put a spring in one's step.



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www.glennspiro.com



Earrings in titanium set with 21 oval shaped diamonds (5.92cts), one oval shaped diamond (D-SI1/ GIA certificated - 0.70ct), one oval shaped diamond (H-VVS1/ GIA certificated - 1.00ct), one oval shaped diamond (H-VS1 / GIA certificated - 1.10cts), 1,107 round ruby and pink sapphires (6.09cts) and 1,047 round diamonds (3.93cts). POA.

There is something quite primal in the way the Herringbone Earrings frame one's face. Part spikes part millipedes, as much futuristic as tribalistic, these bold earrings are like nothing we have seen before. The same can be said of the Fishbone Earrings (shown on the Introduction spread): they also fiercely shield one's jaw and if it was not for the old cut diamonds that punctuate each barb, they could pass for warriors' hunting trophies. So bold and audacious are G by Glenn Spiro's designs. And even when not so edgy, they



Earrings in titanium set with 20 pear shaped cabochon rubies (73.04cts - GRS), brilliant-cut diamonds (5.14cts), rose-cut diamonds (9.01cts), and single-cut diamonds (0.74cts). POA.

still have that unconventional, yet desirable, touch that make them unique. The earrings that replicate the folding of a scarf when hung from one of its corners, are utterly sensual. Pear shaped cabochon rubies embellish the drape like fringes whilst delicately adding movement. All three earrings are powerful head turning styles, whose impressive composition is lightened thanks to the use of lightweight titanium structures; That said you should probably stay away if you don't want to get noticed.



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High Jewellery Earrings in 18K pink gold set with coral rubrum and turquoise elements and 2 round green emeralds (2.36cts) and pavé-set diamonds (1.83cts); **Pop Pleats, Roaring 80's, Wild Pop Collection.** POA.



High Jewellery Geometris Earrings in 18K yellow gold set with onyx inserts, rubies and pavé diamonds; **Pop Pleats, Roaring 80's, Wild Pop Collection.** POA.



BVLGARI's latest high jewellery collection is **Wild Pop**, which I have described as "a throwback to the 80's, an era marked by pop art and the birth of pop music" in my Haute Joaillerie Report, Paris July 2018. PART I of this report which was published early in August on DeluxePad is where one can find dazzling statement earrings. I have picked two styles that play with geometry and colour blocking; however, one has a vibrantly joyful colour palette (turquoise, coral and vivid green) and the other a more sophisticated colour scheme (black and raspberry red). The first of these earrings belong to the 'Roaring 80's' theme: reflecting the psychedelic aspects of the era, they feature a flashy hypnotic wheel. I am not sure that they will enable you to control people's mind, but they will certainly capture people's attention. The latter pair of earrings is less mesmerising though more glamorous, a feat in itself since geometry rarely lends itself to sensuality. The black onyx mirrors the black shades of the rubies while the white diamonds underline their brighter side, creating an optical illusion of deep strata. Members of the 'Future' theme, they exude elegant authority.



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Long statement earrings do not have to be voluminous; they can be simply elongated and slim as seen in these two pairs by Cartier, which both hint at Art Deco patterns through an array of geometrical shapes. Other than their stylish design, these earrings carry a secret weapon: exceptionally rare coloured diamonds nestled in a row of white stones. Their impact is less visual or theatrical, and more seductively subtle than some of the other bold earrings in this article. Here it is a question of making a statement in confidence, between connoisseurs, or at least a statement known to oneself. The effect is more apparent in the earrings (top opposite), where the vertical row of white diamonds gradually increases in size to then abruptly switch gear with vivid yellow stones for the bottom larger trio. On the other hand, the pair on the bottom right could almost pass as all white classic pendants if it was not for the subtle mismatch made by one fancy vivid green-blue and one fancy vivid green VS2 pear-shaped diamond, one on each side. It is very tastefully done, a discreet statement, but one that matters.



Earrings in platinum set with three fancy square-cut deep yellow diamonds, three square-cut white diamonds, and round brilliant-cut diamonds; Vincent Wulveryck ©Cartier. POA.

Earrings in platinum set with two D IF pear-shaped diamonds (6.02cts), one 0.44-carat fancy vivid green-blue and one 0.28-carat fancy vivid green VS2 pear-shaped diamond, baguette-cut diamonds (1.66cts), emerald-cut diamonds (0.83ct), triangular-shaped diamonds, and brilliant-cut diamonds (2.13cts); Vincent Wulveryck ©Cartier. POA.



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The Opulence Earrings by Carnet Jewellery offer more than meets the eye. Although monochrome, a composition of all white diamonds, they have the refinement of fragile lace and the prestige of royal emblems or armour panels. The main pendants are made of four distinctive screens that are paved with inverted diamonds that appear connected together by rare larger diamonds. They fit perfectly together like pieces of a precious jigsaw. Those shields hang from a series of three separate components, with first a fancy heart-shaped diamond, then a cluster of faceted table-cut diamonds that have been set flat on top of each other, and lastly a diamond-paved heart with a pear-shaped diamond in its centre. It is a parade of geometrical shapes, all very different from one another and yet they all somehow work perfectly as a whole. There are precisely fourteen exceptional diamonds (seven on each earring) that are all certified and symmetrically positioned. Who knew that an all-white diamond design could be so tantalizing?

Opulence Earrings in 18K white gold set with 14 centrepiece old-cut diamonds (all rare and GIA certified), including pear shaped brilliant-cut diamonds (approx. 2cts each), heart shaped brilliant-cut diamonds (approx.1.5cts), and oval shaped brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.



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www.alexandrereza.com

Earring in 18K yellow gold set with two unheated cushion-shaped Burmese rubies (5.52cts), two Brazilian emerald drops (22.62cts), 6 emerald-cut diamonds (4.76cts), marquise- and pear-shaped diamonds (4.30cts), fancy yellow brilliants and calibrated rubies (0.89ct). POA.

Qui est la plus belle pour aller d'ancer? could well be the song playing when you make an entrance with the Gouttes Earrings by REZA scintillating from your ears. Just imagine the music swelling as you confidently glide across the floor. For a start, the various cuts create an intricate pattern that mixes sharp and soft angles, as well as repetitive (the identical rows of emerald-cut white diamonds and round-cut yellow diamonds) versus seemingly random (the cluster of marquise- and pear-cut diamonds) elements. The large emerald cabochon drops and cushion-cut unheated rubies deserve no less and also why only highly precious gemstones have been carefully selected. Nothing has been left to chance: the colours are all linked and by the laws of physics. When red and green combine the result is indeed brown / yellow. This may indicate how the French high jeweller has approached the design, perhaps like an architect who assembles volumes in ways not tried before, and a painter who mixes primary colours to obtain additional hues. So, let's repeat: who is the most beautiful tonight? Surely whoever wears these superb earrings.



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www.taffin.com

Amethyst, blue sapphire, navy blue ceramic and 18K rose gold Ear Pendants by Taffin. POA.



Looking at these exquisite earrings by Taffin, it certainly feels like stepping into some kind of enchanted garden. They evoke ripe, juicy fruits drenched with nectar or delectable berries just waiting to be picked. Everything points to some exotic species: the shapes are curvaceous, proportions are generous, and colours prone to dazzling contrasts. Here, the seductive purple hues of elliptical amethysts are contained within the formal texture of navy-blue ceramic. The spiky bead made of reverse-set sapphires which sits on top adds an edge (are these fruits forbidden?).

There, large morganites are nestled in a solid sea of coral coloured ceramic, whose edges are outlined with white diamonds. They offer an arresting sight, not least thanks to the vivid carmine surround, yet the slightly lobed shape makes these earrings dreamlike. Lastly, the Topiary Earrings are simply joyful, with their sinuous and simple gold thread that seems caught in motion. Three scintillating pods made of reverse-set rubies hang mid-air as if strung along the golden hook. They seem to bounce and twirl as they celebrate vitality.



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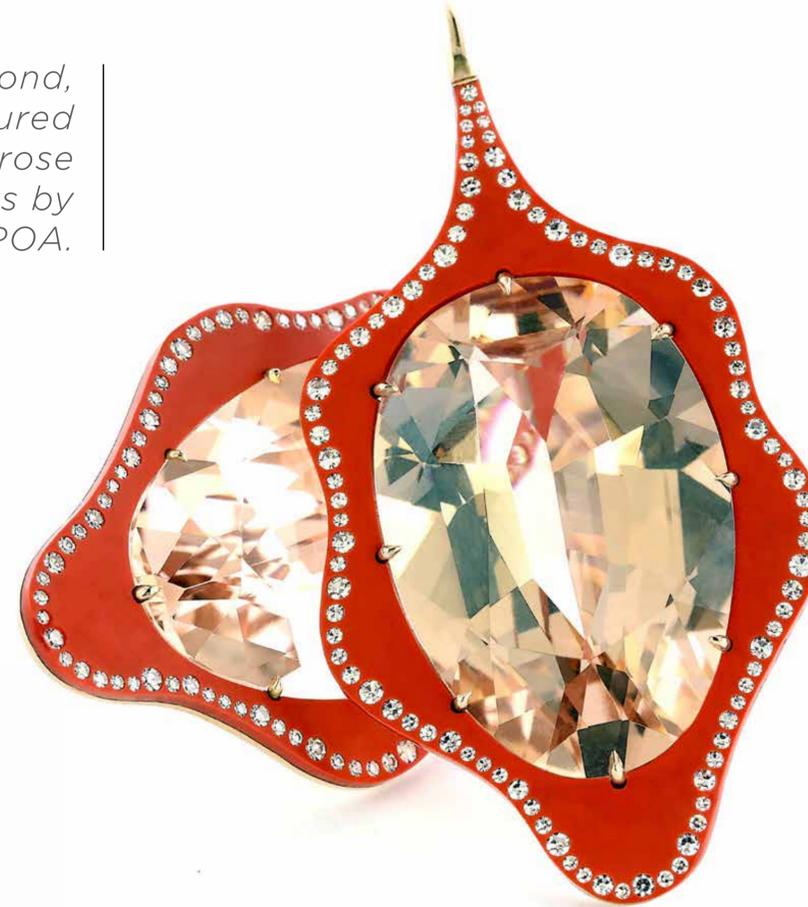
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*Morganite, diamond,
coral coloured
ceramic and 18K rose
gold Ear Pendants by
Taffin. POA.*



*Reverse set rubies,
oxidized silver, 18K
rose gold "Topiary"
Ear Pendants by
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Important Earrings in 18K yellow gold set with an exceptional pair of pear-shaped historical Golconda diamonds (18cts), each strung with natural Basra pearls, and with further pear-shaped diamonds at the bottom of the design (4cts). POA.

As a result of having been exposed to the finest of jewellery for most of his life, Krishna Choudhary now promotes the authenticity-driven methodology of sourcing old stones that were mined 150 years ago to be the star of his modern renditions, part of SANTI Jewels. By imagining what kind of jewels these rare minerals would inspire today, he strives to create a collection that celebrates India's craft and traditions but in a contemporary way. With the flawless interplay of exquisite colours and rare stones, Art Deco meets Indian fantasy, where the intricate structure of each composition conveys elegance and formal splendour. In the same way Mughal artisans would create composite designs of natural patterns – e.g. idealised hybrid

flowers – and play with a fluid sense of symmetry, Krishna Choudhary explores equally modern and ancient patterns (with a predilection for chevron motifs), pairing geometry with movement. This is most prevalent in the featured Chandelier Earrings, which were inspired by the flowing water from a Mughal fountain. Bubbling streams represented by natural Basra pearls seem to pour out of pristine pools of crystal-clear old mine Golconda diamonds. It is an enchanting sight that combines a delicate, spatial and ordered structure with looseness and fluidity. Most of all, this proves that exceptional gemstones do not have to be set in monotonous designs; they can and should be part of an enthralling pattern.

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www.hemmerle.com

Hemmerle Earrings with mid 20th century porcelain panels, blackened silver, diamonds and white gold. POA.



There is been no doubt that Hemmerle jewellers revel in exploring the past as much as the future. And here come sensational earrings that once again showcase how Christian and Yasmine Hemmerle unearth ancient artefacts that not only lend themselves as perfect component of jewels, but also as remnants with a captivating symbolism. *“Wear your art on your sleeve”* could certainly apply as one of Hemmerle’s mottos. Here the six mid 20th century porcelain panels were all sourced in Japan and they depict six of the Seven Gods of Fortune (who are believed to grant good luck). *“We found these porcelain panels on a trip to Japan and immediately fell for their quirkiness and the narratives and stories layered within them”*, Christian Hemmerle says. In this design, the characters all face inwards towards the wearer and they have been set in a bamboo frame of blackened silver that allows the multicoloured details to prevail. In the domes of the earrings, white diamonds peek through the sides, as if not to distract from the protective spell at play.



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www.alvr.com

Contemporary Gem and Jade Pendant Earrings in gold set with diamonds, coral, emeralds and carved jade panels. POA.



Amongst all the antique treasures that A La Vieille Russie – the New York-based art gallery that specialises in Russian artefacts – offers, one always finds some serious pieces with a strong historical provenance (original and important pieces from Carl Fabergé, Cartier, Tiffany & Co, etc). That said, from time to time, one can also stumble upon some whimsical pieces such as this contemporary pair of earrings. While the artist made sure to depict the bees in detail (see the fine gold work on their legs), he also went beyond this and playfully opted for hybrids. The stylised bees seem to be worker bees each one carrying a drop of pollen represented by a diamond briolette; the carved green jades make for oversized wings, coral stones for torsos and onyx and diamonds for the bodies. It is in the choice of colours that we get the clear indication that these are chimerical insects, where the designer has let his imagination run wild creating a fantasy about their world and kingdom. Of course, these earrings are first and foremost splendid artful statements, and most probably conversation openers.



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www.davidwebb.com

Grand Girandole Earrings in 18K gold and platinum set with hexagonal cabochon amethyst, cabochon emeralds, fire opals, and turquoise, turquoise drops, and pear-, marquise-, and brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.



You know that you will be the centre of attention when wearing these Girandole Earrings by David Webb. The fireworks of colours on each tier make them chandelier earrings on steroids, while the mix of semi- and highly precious stones add a carefree touch. It is as if these earrings were made for living life to the fullest and despite or thanks to their superior pedigree. They are jubilant and grandiose, extremely decorative and packed with stunning gemstones. Two worlds collide for the



Snake Earrings in 18K gold and platinum set with cabochon emerald drops, and brilliant-cut diamonds. POA.

better: the classical formula of marquise-cut diamonds set in platinum with the flamboyancy of colour saturated gemstones in yellow gold. Then there are the Snake Earrings, again highly ornamental, and borrowing from the house's predilection for the animal kingdom. Slightly menacing – with their raised coils – these snakes may well be majestic protectors for the emerald pebbles that hang from their tails. I bet the garden-like inclusions of these stones could tell a thousand stories.



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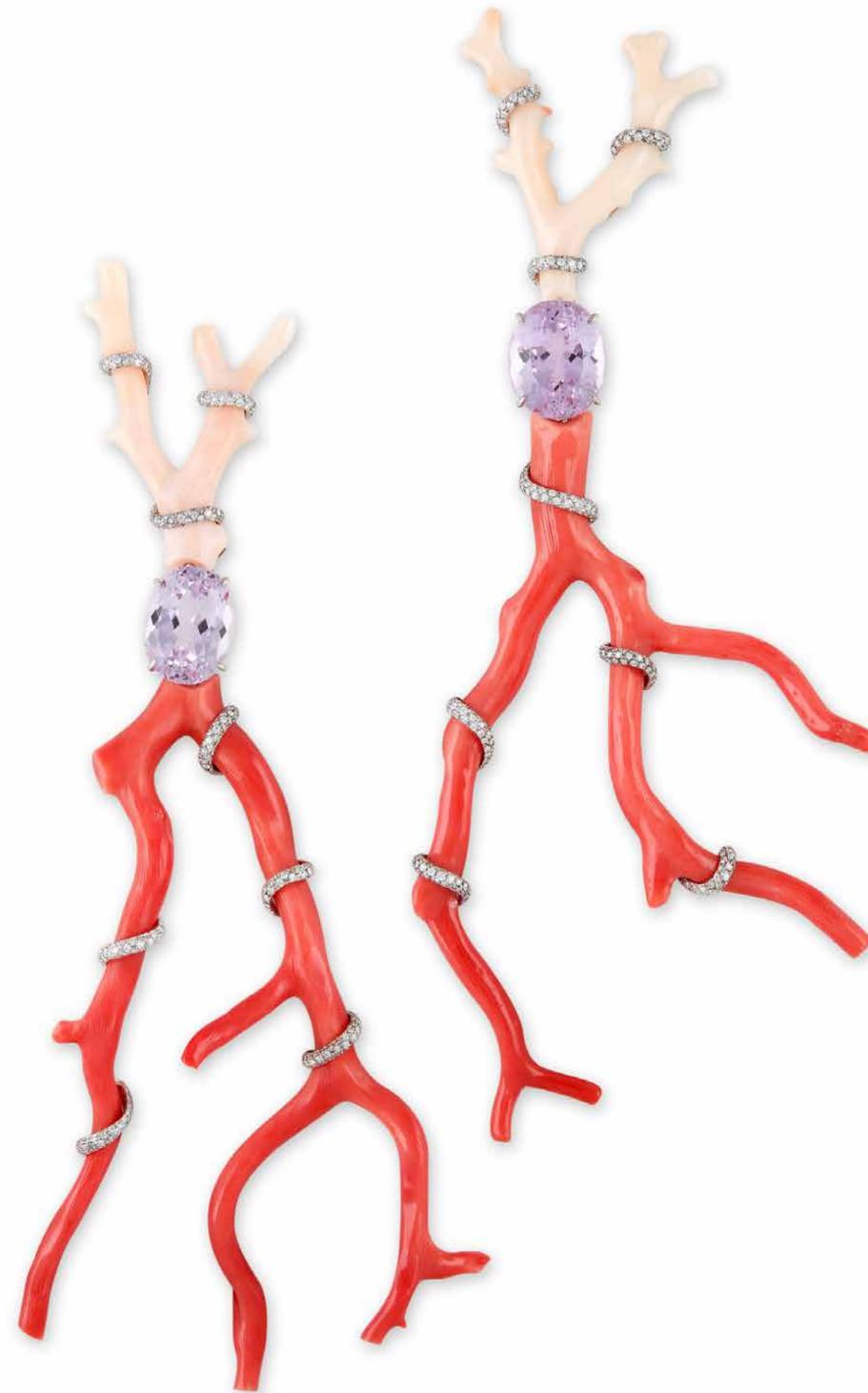
AUDEMARS PIGUET

Le Brassus

www.fabiosalini.it

Earrings in 18K white gold with coral branches, kunzites (38.11cts) and diamonds (3.20cts). POA.

Creating statement earrings is almost second nature for Fabio Salini. Here are three examples that showcase his trailblazing approach and particularly demonstrate his passion for optical illusion. Fabio Salini is possibly the only high jeweller today who expertly combines carbon fibre with precious gemstones, and this can be seen in the pairs on the next spread. One of them is made of carbon fibre and gold set with navette-cut jade and diamonds. From the front one can only see the jade and perceive them as pendants; however, from the side, the semi-disk of carbon fibre provides a radically different perspective: the earrings appear totemic and edgy. This is a genius touch and proof that statement earrings can be more than just ornamental. The opposite pair is firmly different, yet borrowing from Fabio Salini's interest in coral. When he is not combining it with carbon fibre (for the most striking effect), Salini uses it in all its organic splendour. Branches in two different colours meet at a kunzite-set junction, whilst diamond-paved creepers wind all along the coral structure appearing to hold it together. This is another illusion, the precious version of what one would ordinarily do with just tree branches and ropes.



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www.fabiosalini.it

Earrings in carbon fibre and 18K gold with diamonds (1.47cts) and navette-cut jades. POA.



Earrings with carbon fibre and 18K gold with diamonds (4.62cts) and citrines (81.26cts). POA.

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www.fd-gallery.com



A pair of rose-cut diamond and brushed rose gold 'Lotus' Earclips, signed Bhagat. POA.

I am not sure how one can exercise self-control when visiting FD Gallery in New York City. The dazzling array of high jewellery as well as the objets d'art on display is an assault on self-restraint. Everything is so tempting, how to choose? And when it comes to contemporary statement earrings, having to make a choice is even more difficult. Between pieces signed by Viren Baghat, or by JAR, Bodino, Taffin, Hemmerle or SABBA, a precise curation of exceptional creations from the crème de la crème, one could lose sight of one's reasonable compass. So, let me try to make it easier for you. Here are stunning

earclips from Viren Baghat, where carefully positioned rose-cut diamonds seem to be embedded into brushed gold just like sun rays jutting out of a powdered sphere. Then if you are in a more carnivalesque mood, opt for the colour block earrings by Sabba. Short or long, there is a style for everyone who revels in benefiting from the mood enhancing sight of bright colours. But make no mistake, these are seriously stylish colour bombs. Just imagine the impact these lapis lazuli and turquoise pendant earrings will have, first on your self-esteem and second on your sex-appeal.



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www.fd-gallery.com



A pair of lapis lazuli, turquoise, sapphire and diamond Ear Pendants, mounted in platinum and yellow gold, signed SABBA. POA.

A pair of diamond, coral and turquoise Ear Pendants, mounted in platinum, signed SABBA. POA.



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www.austyleeartjewellery.com

According to his team, Austy Lee finds the trivial things in his daily life inspiring. This certainly means that the Hong Kong based artist (self-described “painter, jewellery designer, lecturer and product designer who revels in jewellery as psychedelic art”) has a limitless and rather vivid imagination. His creations are indeed a far cry from ‘trivial’, as they can be mesmerising or even phantasmagorical at times. Fascinated by flowers and plants, especially orchids, floral designs can often be found in his collections, such as these incandescent earrings with fire opals that embody blooming flowers in spring. They are a kind of surreal flower, sun-drenched and hallucinatory (the colour association is not quite real, yet it works wonderfully). The young maestro is also known to enjoy the company of animals. Back in earlier days, he used to own a lovely sparrow and so the next earrings are a heartfelt tribute to his avian friend. The Sparrow Earrings graphically depict the profiles of a couple of sparrows while they are perching on a branch. The delicate perches are designed in ancient Chinese style with a focus on the colours pink (love) and green (harmony).



Fire Opal Earrings in 18K yellow gold set with 25 diamonds, 34 green garnets, 99 pink sapphires (1.39cts), 168 orange sapphires (2.30cts), two green garnets (2.91cts), 7 doublet opals (4.82cts), and four fire opals (13.21cts). POA.



Sparrow Earrings in 18K yellow gold set with 64 brown diamonds (0.84cts), 104 green garnets (1.47cts), four yellow jades (27.30cts), two green jades (1.99cts), and two yellow jades (47.74cts). POA.



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*Earrings in 18K gold set with 10 diamonds (0.97ct), 30 brown diamonds, 33 rubies (3.30cts), 128 fancy sapphires (1.94cts), 46 tsavorites, and two turquoises (3.80grs); **Nueve Mundo** collection. POA.*

Lydia Courteille could just as well be a tour operator! Year after year, each collection is an invitation to discover a different part of the world through her fanciful eyes. After last year's collection, **Rosa Del Inca**, a trip to Argentina with a focus on rhodochrosite the Argentinian national gemstone, we are now led to Guatemala with her new collection, **Nueve Mundo**, which pays tribute to the Mayan civilisation. Always delving into the specifics of each culture, Lydia Courteille instils in her creations references to the relevant folklore and beliefs. Here she studied the intricate embroidered details of the traditional huipil garments, embraced the spiritual dimension attributed to Mayan kites, and celebrated the protective power of Tracas dolls. The following two pairs of earrings borrow from the Mayan festive use of colour, a rainbow palette that complements both the solid blue of turquoises and the translucent azure of opals. Each time the rainbow portion has the appearance of precious ribbons with the flowers as rosettes. In terms of statement, both exude joyfulness and the very auspicious benefits of Mayan ideology.



*Earrings in 18K gold set with 33.90 carats of opals, tanzanites, chrysoprases, 3.71 carats of sapphires, tsavorites, 0.80 carat of rubies, 0.84 carat of orange sapphires, amethysts, and diamonds; **Nueve Mundo** collection. POA.*



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