

STYLE

A GLITTERING AFFAIR

The jewellery every woman should add to her armoire.

TEXT AND STYLING HO YUN KUAN

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Coloured Diamonds TIFFANY & CO



It all began with the Tiffany Diamond, a 128.54-carat fancy yellow diamond discovered in South Africa's Kimberley mines and purchased by Charles Lewis Tiffany in 1878. The high-profile purchase won Tiffany the title of 'king of diamonds' and the jeweller was soon recognised as a diamond authority. His gems found their way into the collections of America's wealthiest families – the Vanderbilts, Whitneys and Pulitzers. In 1961, the Tiffany Diamond graced the neck of Audrey Hepburn, who wore it set with diamond ribbons in a necklace designed by Jean Schlumberger for a publicity photograph for the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Today, the diamond is displayed on the main floor of the brand's Fifth Avenue store. It's not for sale, but the store offers many other tempting options. www.tiffany.com

INFINITELY DESIRABLE

From far left: platinum and 18-carat yellow gold ring with a 1.24-carat brilliant diamond (\$68,500); platinum ring with a modified square-cut 2.01-carat fancy intense yellow-green diamond (\$413,500); platinum and 18-carat yellow gold ring with a cushion-cut 4.18-carat fancy intense yellow diamond (\$296,500).

“The panther is the ultimate emblem of Cartier’s jewellery expertise and a symbol of strength and freedom.”

CARTIER EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, EMMANUEL PERRIN



Signature Collection CARTIER



It's difficult to tell if it was the panther that found Cartier or Cartier that found the panther. The first creation by the maison to showcase a panther in full was a cigarette case Louis Cartier presented to Jeanne Toussaint, Cartier's then creative director, in 1917. Toussaint was nicknamed La Panthere for her bold personality and love for wearing feline skins. Inspired by a safari holiday in Kenya, Toussaint's favourite big cat began to make more regular appearances in the creations she produced. The maison even pioneered fur setting, a technique of setting stones, usually onyx, within circles of folded wire that encroach slightly on the edge of the stones to imitate strands of hair surrounding the panther's spots. Today, the big cat is almost ubiquitous in Cartier's creations. www.cartier.com

Pearls
MIKIMOTO



okichi Mikimoto had an ambitious dream: to adorn the necks of women around the world with pearls. A native of Toba on Japan's Shima peninsula, he grew up surrounded by the town's most renowned export, Ise pearls.

However, these natural pearls were in such high demand that the oysters that produced them were harvested almost to the point of extinction in the mid-1800s. Observing this, Mikimoto grew his own pearls in protected oyster beds. This was not without setbacks – oyster-eating octopuses and red tide bacteria threatened the survival of the oyster beds. But his dream finally came true in July 1893 when his wife found a perfect pearl during an inspection. The world's first cultured pearl was thus born. www.mikimoto.com



INSPIRED CREATIONS

Five-strand pearl necklace with 453 Akoya pearls and 10.21 carats of diamonds (\$188,000). Facing page from left: Panthere de Cartier ring in platinum with a 5.36-carat sapphire; Panthere bracelet in platinum and white gold with 968 diamonds, two emeralds and onyx spots (prices upon request).



High Jewellery VAN CLEEF & ARPELS



Van Cleef & Arpels approaches the venerated realm of high jewellery with a touch of whimsy and playfulness.

This inventiveness was born from the Arpels brothers, who brought back with them images of exotic animals and plants from their extensive travels. These were transformed into flower brooches mystery-set with rubies so that no prongs were showing, and tropical birds encrusted with all manner of coloured gems to imitate their magnificent plumage.
www.vancleefarpels.com

“Bulgari stands for the contemporary Italian high jeweller, master of coloured gemstones.”

BVLGARI CEO, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BABIN



Coloured Stones BVLGARI



It's a little-known fact, but Bulgari began as a traditional goldsmith run by Sotirio Bulgari, a Greek

native who relocated to Rome in 1881 and opened the first Bulgari store in the Italian city in 1905. In the post-World War Two economic boom, precious gems became a norm. Bulgari decided to ride this wave of excess, but instead of using just rubies, emeralds and sapphires, it boldly mounted coloured stones – which were conventionally seen as less valuable – with diamonds. Cabochon was the preferred cut. Its rounded, polished form often gave Bulgari's jewellery a candylike look. This unusual aesthetic proved to be a hit with Hollywood stars, who often visited Italy as the country was then a popular location for shooting movies. Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn and Ingrid Bergman were just a few of the many stars the maison counted as its fans. www.bulgari.com

A FEAST FOR THE EYES

From left: bracelet in platinum and yellow gold with fancy sapphires and brilliant diamonds; high jewellery necklace in yellow gold with a cushion-cut 60.37-carat yellow sapphire, emeralds and brilliant diamonds. Facing page: Arcata necklace in white gold with diamonds and emerald pebbles (price upon request).