



'Cobra' triple coil bracelet



Hollie Bonneville Barden

# PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT... CONSCIOUS JEWELLERY

USING RAW MATERIALS THAT HEAL OR CREATING AN ECOSYSTEM OF ARTISANS, THERE'S MORE TO THESE BAUBLES THAN MEETS THE EYE. BY MALIKA DALAMAL



The daily organic meal at John Hardy's Ubud workshop



'Cobra' diamond necklace



'Macan' diamond and gemstone tassel earrings



'Naga' diamond cuff

## JOHN HARDY

John Hardy, an avid environmentalist, moved from Canada to Bali and established his namesake jewellery brand in 1975. An advocate of the use of natural materials and sustainable practices, though Hardy is no longer involved in the brand, he remains the soul of the company. Local artisans using traditional techniques work alongside contemporary designers in a compound in Mambal, Bali, which serves as the production centre as well as a living and gathering space with an organic farm. Today, John Hardy's designs are stocked in high-end department stores around the world as well as their own flagship boutiques in Hong Kong, Houston and New York, yet their slogan remains 'Greener Every Day'—a reminder that their ultimate goal is to become carbon neutral and give something back to the indigenous communities that helped build the brand. We sat down with new creative director Hollie Bonneville Barden, formerly head designer at De Beers.

### As a company, how do you remain committed to the local community, artisanship and sustainability?

The company was originally founded as an authentic collective with local artisans. We still gather daily to share organic meals at the Ubud workshop. We are deeply committed to preserving the surrounding culture for future generations by employing local artisans, using and developing traditional craftsmanship in the creation of our jewellery and continued vocational training for artisans. The John Hardy Ubud Design Studio and Workshop is built from low-impact materials and set among 400 acres that include rice paddies and farms. The property can be returned to rice fields within three months.

### Can you tell us more about the 'Wear Bamboo, Plant Bamboo' campaign and other ways you work to reduce your carbon footprint?

'Wear Bamboo, Plant Bamboo' is an environmental renewal initiative through which we have planted nearly a million bamboo seedlings in Bali. Customers take part in this initiative every time they purchase a piece of jewellery from the Bamboo collection. A certain number of bamboo seedlings are planted with each purchase, which is inscribed on the inside of each piece. We then build with the bamboo that we plant.

### Among all the mindful practices the company has in place, what are you most proud of?

Each working day our kitchen cooks locally sourced produce to feed over 600 employees. Our 'long table lunch' is a mindful moment to come together, to be thankful and to share. [Johnhardy.com](http://Johnhardy.com) >



New York is Mor's base

## ALEXANDRA MOR

New York-based haute joaillerie designer Alexandra Mor finds inspiration in her clients' personal narratives. Mor uses fine gems and an impeccable eye to crystallise a significant moment in time for the wearer.

### What inspires your design aesthetic?

I can clearly say that my collections have become a tangible reflection of my journey as a woman. My work is a true juxtaposition of an appreciation for history, the significance of old-world craftsmanship and the pursuit of contemporary aesthetics and technology.

### How did you first become interested in the connection between jewellery and the art of storytelling?

I visited an exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston showcasing jewels from the beginning of time. Every piece represented a different era—there was a wooden pendant given to boys after their maturing ceremony; a Nubian conch shell amulet from the 24th century BC; a platinum, diamond, ruby and sapphire flag brooch that honoured the sacrifices of American soldiers in World War I. That exhibition resonated with me.

### How do you go about turning your client's personal narrative into a piece of bespoke jewellery?

First we find a stone that speaks to both mine and the wearer's heart. I meet with the client or have a phone conversation to gather as much information as possible and collaborate on the final design. Finally, the finished piece is presented with a personalised storybook that includes images that tell the unique story of the creation of the piece from start to finish.

### What makes jewellery so empowering?

A jewel is a statement. Whether big or small, silver or gold, mass-produced or haute couture, it is a statement of one's personality, mood, aspiration and life story. A piece of jewellery is like the mise-en-scène of life. Jewellery is symbolic of who we are and gives the world a clue about who we are inside. [Alexandramor.com](http://Alexandramor.com)



Asymmetrical bicolour ametrine and diamond three-stone ring



Flexible chain-link diamond ring



'Snowflake' signature black diamond cufflinks



Persian pink sapphire slice pendant with bezel-set diamond chain

Alexandra Mor

## ZOE & MORGAN

Steeped in family history and inspired by their exotic travels, Zoe & Morgan is made up of the British-born Sibbald siblings, Zoe, Morgan and Ruth. Using everything from healing gemstones to sacred geometry, animal totems and talismans, their heartfelt designs are both meaningful and timeless. Morgan Sibbald shares with *Vogue* the journeys and cultures that inform their pieces.

### What have been the biggest influences on your work?

Our father was a jeweller, so watching him at work laid the foundation for what we do. He had shops in Ibiza, Paris and New Zealand and we grew up doing things like travelling to India with him to buy gems and wading up mountain rivers to find crystals.

### Are there any particular places or cultures that have left a lasting impression?

When I was five we travelled from England to New Zealand by boat, stopping in many countries along the way. We spent time in Kashmir, and the Himalayas are one of the places I love the most. Our father was Argentinean, so South America is very special to us. Each of our collections is based on our travels in a different country. Last season we did Morocco and next will be India.

### What inspires your design aesthetic?

I love antique and ancient jewellery for the intimate physical connection to another world and another time. One of my early inspirations was the Egyptian section in the Louvre in Paris. I am also very influenced by nature, modernist architecture and design as well as Scandinavian and Japanese minimalist product design.

### You work with stones believed to be endowed with healing properties...

The natural crystals have strong energies that correspond to the chakras. For example, an emerald is great for anahata, the heart chakra. I make these crystals to hang really long so they rest right by the heart, which helps them interact with this energy centre. I also bathe the crystals in holy water and let them take in the rays of the sun and the full moon and then try to set them in a way that leaves as much as possible of the stone exposed so it can touch the skin of the wearer. Emerald crystals, aquamarine and tourmaline are very popular. I think energy-wise people love green and pink stones due to their connection with the divine (green) and sexual love (pink). [Zoeandmorgan.com](http://Zoeandmorgan.com)



Zoe Williams and Ruth Sibbald

Morgan Sibbald



New Zealand has served as inspiration



The brand's jewellery incorporates everything from healing gemstones to talismans



'5th Dimension' diamond and gold ring



'Tara Goddess' diamond, tsavorite and gold ring



'Spearhead' diamond and white gold earrings



'Khephera' diamond, lapis and gold necklace