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OCTOBER 7, 2009

Elsa Peretti for Tiffany Charcoal Bone Cuff

You know how some people count sheep to go to sleep? My boyfriend counts college quarterbacks. Anyway, I fall asleep counting the greatest jewelry designs of all time. The classic silver Bone Cuff by master minimalist Elsa Peretti has been on my short-list for eons. This updated version in black ruthenium on copper adds a new swagger to the body-con bracelet. And the price is a fraction of the original! I'll take two. \$395; at tiffany.com.

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry & Watches*

Next: Judith Leiber Crystal-encrusted Owl Minaudiere ▶



Courtesy of Tiffany



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FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Verdura Lace Solitaire Diamond Ring

In the midst of the rapid-fire dialogue of the 1940 film *Philadelphia Story*, Katherine Hepburn motions with her hands and flashes an impressive Verdura engagement ring. The only flaw in this otherwise perfect screwball comedy? You can't get a good look at the Verdura jewel. If the design had received a well-deserved close-up, I am sure it would look like this beauty revived from the Verdura archives. Like the film itself, the ring is a classic.

Price upon request; verdura.com

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*

Next: [Jennifer Meyer Gold and Diamond "Love You" Necklace](#) ▶



Courtesy of Verdura



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JUNE 11, 2010

Lucifer Vir Honestus Turquoise and Diamond Earrings

Historians know turquoise was a precious commodity in New Mexico during the twelfth century, but they know little about how the Native American Indians fashioned the gem. I like to imagine they made magnificent things, like these earrings by Italian designer Luca Francesca Scamussi, who is so passionate about old jewelry she named her company after a master jeweler of the middle ages: Lucifer Vir Honestus. For these earrings, Scamussi set hand-carved turquoise leaves on a white gold wire with a diamond accent. Perhaps I've have let my imagination run wild, as the gorgeous turquoise pieces of yore featured neither diamonds nor gold. But a girl's gotta make a little of her own history, right?

\$3,300; lucifer-vir-honestus.com

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*



Courtesy of Lucifer Vir Honestus



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FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Van Cleef & Arpels Zip Jewel

In the *King's Speech*, the Duchess of Windsor sparkles plenty in dazzling **Van Cleef & Arpels** diamonds. The French jeweler was actually one of the American's favorites, so when she proposed a piece that zipped Van Cleef & Arpels devoted 20 years to solving her design challenge. And solve it they did! Unzipped the jewel is a necklace, zipped it becomes a bracelet. Either way, it leaves me speechless.

Price upon request; call 877-826-2533

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*

Next: **Christian Louboutin Change of the Guard Heels** ▶



Courtesy of Van Cleef and Arpels



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FEBRUARY 13, 2011

Tacori Diamond and Sapphire Ring

"Something blue" became a big request when Kate Middleton debuted her royal ring, but if there's any universal truth in the bridal set it's that everyone wants to be unique. This Tacori beauty is hard to beat in the originality department. With this ring, a bride could have a touch of royal blue, but make a style statement all her own.

Price upon request; tacori.com

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*

Next: [Cathy Waterman Diamond Ring](#) ▶



Courtesy of Tacori

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FEBRUARY 25, 2010

K. Brunini Water Buffalo Horn, 18K Gold, Diamond and Pearl Earrings

The answer to my burning question of how on earth do I accessorize my jeggings, T-shirts and slim leather jacket has been answered by one of jewelry's most imaginative minds, K. Brunini. Fearless in her use of unorthodox materials, she has crafted water buffalo horn into shapes that remind me of Maori tattoos. Decadent diamonds, pearls and gold add light and sparkle to the pitch-black material. The post that goes through your lobe is the final tribal garnish on the brilliant pieces. Suddenly I can't get Patty Smyth's eighties hit, "I Am A Warrior" out of my head.

Top left, Water Buffalo Horn, 18K gold, diamond and South Sea Pearl drop, \$4,500
Top right, Water Buffalo Horn, 18K gold, diamond accents, \$4,000 Bottom left, Water Buffalo Horn, 18K gold and 1.85 carat diamond briolette, \$15,000; Roseark; call 323-822-3600

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, Fine Jewelry and Watches



Courtesy of K. Brunini



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AUGUST 18, 2010

Carla Amorim Cuba Libre Green Quartz and Diamond Bracelet

I am a dyed-in-the-wool New Yorker, but I rarely ever wear all black. I adore stand-out-in-the-crowd colors and cannot wait to wear the sophisticated **jewel tones** that marched down the runways for fall. I dream about putting an exclamation point on the looks with this totally chic chunky green cuff. It screams take charge in a New York minute.

\$26,640; call Broken English, 310-458-2724

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*



Courtesy of Carla Amorim

Next: **Givenchy Studded Feather Tank** ▶

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JULY 23, 2010

Erica Courtney 18K Gold and Diamond Yellow Beryl and Pink Sapphire Garden Earrings

Most jewelers set big stones in prongs raising them up to the light without any interference. Well, Erica Courtney is not most jewelers. When she sets hot rocks—such as these 55-carat yellow beryls—she wraps them up like presents in curlicues of gold and diamonds. The whole package makes plain stones look a little naked, don't you think?

\$51,000; ericacourtney.com

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*



Courtesy of Erica Courtney

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MARCH 11, 2010

Wendy Brandes Amethyst, Tsavorite and 18K Gold Marie Antoinette Ring

I love to hear the story behind the making of a jewel—and if it involves history all the better. Wendy Brandes pulled out all the stops when she told me about her Marie Antoinette Ring. The gems are in the regal color combo of purple and green. The super size is something the designer felt the ill-fated queen would love. And the thorny prongs symbolize the consort's sad situation in the end. All of this back story would mean nothing, or course, if the ring didn't look gorgeous at first glance which it does. It is as glamorous as Versailles' Hall of Mirrors. Making for a very happy ending.

\$12,500; visit wendybrandes.com for stores.

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*



Courtesy of SquareMoose

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MARCH 10, 2011

Aurora Lopez Mejia Silver Harmony ID Bracelet

I love reading. I relish writing. And I am always game for a Scrabble smack down with my sister—nothing gives you a better appreciate of vowels. Jewelry designer Lopez Mejia is totally devoted to words too. She engraves them in silver and gold on her necklaces, bracelets, earrings and rings. This bold beauty is the designer's brilliant riff on the American classic ID bracelet. It fits right in with spring's strong styles and sends a lovely message.

\$750; barneys.com

—Marion Fasel, Contributing Editor, *Fine Jewelry and Watches*



Courtesy of Aurora Lopez Mejia

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