

RAINBOW REVELS

Paris-based jewellery designer Lydia Courteille hinges her newest capsule collection, 'Rainbow Warrior Prophecy,' on native American folklore, reports Smitha Sadanandan, our correspondent in UK.

It happened by chance. On a trip to the US, Lydia visited a big park that had the remnants of the homes of the Hopi tribe, who once thrived in the arid highlands of Arizona. This visit sparked Lydia's curiosity.

Memories afresh, Lydia attended an exhibition on native American tribes at the Quai Branly Museum, in Paris, last year. She also happened to buy some chrysocolla stones – a mix of very colourful stones. That's when memories of the Hopi tribe came flooding back. Perhaps, it was destiny. For Lydia, it seemed just natural that she should design a collection inspired by their folklore. "I always follow my emotion and feeling," says Lydia, who researched on American Indian legends, and learned about the story of the 'Rainbow Warriors' and the prophecy.

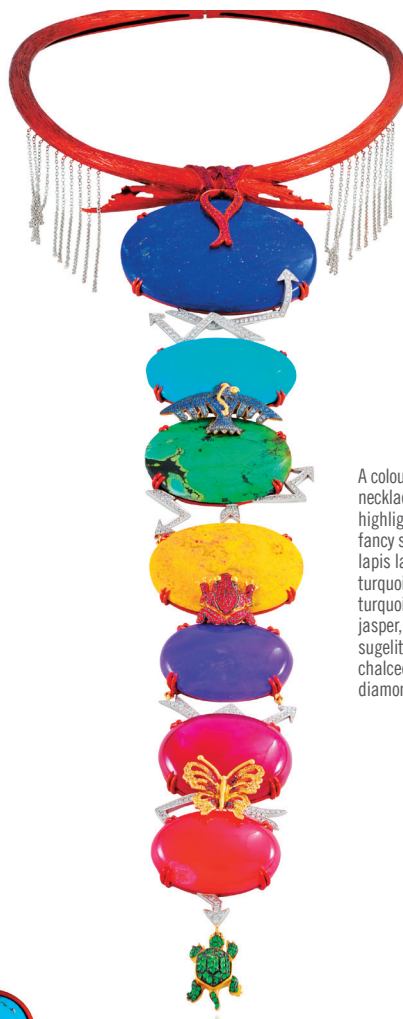
According to the prophecy, 'Rainbow Warriors' would unite the people of the land, while spreading peace and harmony in their midst. Lydia drew upon the message of love, peace and harmony to craft a very colourful, capsule collection in 18-karat gold with a special copper coating. The Rainbow Warrior Prophecy, limited edition line, features jewellery set with blue turquoise, rainbow chrysocolla, diamonds and fancy sapphires.

Did the design dictate her choice of stones and colours? "If you design a collection with turquoise, it is normal to think about native Indians and their sacred stones. I worked on their symbols when I began designing the collection two years ago," says Lydia, who is busy finishing the last of the 14-piece jewellery series.

This collection has Lydia using a mix of gemstones and coloured enamels to embellish the designs, as seen in a pair of turquoise earrings with enamelled feathers in yellow, red and white. How often does she use enamels? This, says the designer, depends on the subject. "The next collection will be without enamel," she adds.

A favourite piece from the Rainbow Warrior Prophecy line? "The necklace!" says Lydia, in a heartbeat. "It's a wonderful piece."

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A colourful gold necklace is highlighted with fancy sapphires, lapis lazuli, blue turquoise, green turquoise, yellow jasper, purple sugelite, ruby, red chalcedony and diamonds.



The gold ring focuses on a turquoise with a surround of brown diamonds, fancy sapphires and tsavorites.



The 18-karat gold earrings are composed with fancy sapphires, turquoise, rubies, tsavorites and amethysts.



The gold feather earrings are studded with sunstones, fancy sapphires, white, black and brown diamonds and tsavorites.