

This summer Masterpiece London was the place to be! Outstanding jewellers and brands dazzled visitors with divine creations gleaming with diamonds and awash with colour. Finding new ways to surprise jewellery connoisseurs through masterful artistry and mind-boggling techniques comes easy to these designers.

Curated by prestigious auction houses – part of the fair's jewellery ensemble – the vintage pieces lined up included exceptional collectibles. Not an easy task, but we have handpicked some of our favourites that vied for attention.

By **SMITHA SADANANDAN**



Fabio Salini
Earrings in gold, titanium and carbon fibre set with diamonds and sapphires.

STARS OF MASTERPIECE LONDON 2018





Fabio Salini
Earrings in gold, titanium and carbon fibre set with opals, fancy sapphires and diamonds.

FABIO SALINI

An artist who debuted this year with unique pieces was Fabio Salini. The Italian jeweller, noted for using alternative materials such as bamboo, wood, silk or stingray (shagreen) skins and carbon fibre, adopts a contemporary approach that is imbued with tradition. Gold, diamonds and gems play key roles in Fabio's creations in oxidised copper, bronze or titanium; a nod to futurism is remarkably expressed through innovative designs. Undeniably, his jewellery mirrors a love for gems, proportion and volume achieved through harmonious styles and daring juxtapositions. Among the pieces on show were a bracelet in rock-crystal embellished with white gold, blue sapphires, diamonds and pearls; a pair of Pac-Man-esque earrings in gold and carbon fibre set with navette-cut cabochon amethyst; and linked circle earrings in gold, titanium and carbon fibre adorned with diamonds and blue sapphires.



Fabio Salini
Earrings in gold, titanium, carbon fibre adorned with navette-cut cabochon amethysts and pavé-set amethysts.

Cindy Chao
Peony brooch.



CINDY CHAO

Debuting at Masterpiece fair, Taiwanese high jewellery artist Cindy Chao unveiled the newest Black Label Masterpieces – that drew upon one of her trips to Canada last year and ephemeral wonders of nature – alongside the White Label pieces. Inspired by architecture, sculpture, travel and nature, Cindy's wearable artworks are made using the delicate craft of 18th century artisan wax moulding, before encrusting the motif with gemstones.

The Black Label Masterpieces are symbolic of an ongoing metamorphosis of both artistry and technique that melds rare gems with innovative designs. The White Label collection is inspired by her core design concepts, encapsulating the same principles, again in a multi-layered manner — and are an alternative to the exclusive Masterpiece creations. Phoenix Feather brooches in fancy coloured yellow diamonds danced in delight with Winter Leaves brooches that shimmered in diamonds. The high jeweller's charming Peony brooch – in astounding proportions set with rubies on purple-coloured titanium and accented with gold – bagged the award for the 'Outstanding Object.'

MOUSSAIEFF

Alissa Moussaieff, managing director of the brand that has a legacy spanning back to 1850, opted to exhibit red-carpet showstoppers.

Infusing Hollywood glamour into high jewellery chandelier earrings, Moussaieff's interpretations were irresistible: pink and white pear-cut diamonds cascaded down daintily, while half-moon Colombian emeralds and diamonds, punctuated by emerald and diamond briolettes set in white gold was enough to turn you green with envy.

Stepping back in time, Alissa chose to draw upon 18th and 19th century Girandole design, and adapted the motif in the new earrings that were unveiled at the Masterpiece fair: the Girandole-inspired platinum earrings featured natural fancy vivid yellow diamonds set in contrast with white diamonds. A gorgeous bangle that sparkled with voluminous emeralds (28.37 carats and 23.21 carats), emerald beads, Paraiba tourmalines and diamonds was among the alluring pieces displayed by the brand.

Moussaieff
Platinum earrings set with natural fancy vivid yellow diamonds and white diamonds.



Moussaieff
White gold earrings with a half-moon Colombian emerald and diamond, teamed with emerald and diamond briolettes.



Grima
Yellow gold 'Bird's Nest' set with baguette-cut diamonds and an oval citrine, 1969.

GRIMA

Decadent jewels infused with a distinct personality — the late Andrew Grima had always taken a revolutionary approach to breathe life into his designs. Recognised as one of the great modernist jewellery designers of the 20th century, handmade treasures by Grima have been a big draw at auctions and fairs alike.

Since his death in 2007, his wife Jojo Grima and daughter Francesca Grima have continued the tradition of creating original handcrafted jewellery that are limited to 20-30 pieces a year. "Only a handful of goldsmiths, most of whom have been employed by Grima for over 40 years, possess the skills required to make these unique pieces."

Grima Jewellery, offering bespoke designs and vintage pieces, put together a glorious selection of Andrew's works, including a yellow gold and diamond brooch (1968), a brooch with cinnamon sticks cast in yellow gold and set with an oval fire opal and a diamond (1970), citrine geode necklace in yellow gold from his 'Rock Revival' collection (1971), a fascinating yellow gold Bird's Nest adorned with baguette-cut diamonds and oval citrine (1969), a stunning 'Greenland' watch from the 'About Time' collection for Omega. This fascinating yellow gold timepiece featured a pink tourmaline glass (1970).



Grima
Yellow gold brooch cast as cinnamon sticks set with an oval fire opal and one diamond, 1970.

TIMELESS JEWELLERY
that sets our heart aflutter.



Boghossian
Kissing Gems emerald and
diamond ring.



Boghossian
Art of Inlay - diamond
inlaid into lavender spinel
and siderite ring.

BOGHOSSIAN

For over a century, six generations of Boghossians have been bringing something new and divine to the world of gems and jewellery. The high jewellery house knows what it takes to craft dazzling pieces set with unusually cut gems and innovative mounting techniques. Famed for its designs featuring the Art of Inlay and Kissing Gems, Boghossian chose to highlight its savoir faire through marvellous jewels like the ring featuring a diamond inlaid into lavender spinel and siderite, and another with a sumptuous diamond 'kissing' an emerald, held in a semi-cage setting sprinkled with diamonds. In the Kissing Gems, the culet seems to skim over the gem beneath, while the art of inlay involves laying one stone on top of another – both with barely a hint of visible metal.

Chopard Garden of Kalahari earrings
Earrings in 18-karat white 'Fairmined' gold adorned with two exceptional D-flawless 25-carat pear-shaped and 26-carat heart-shaped diamonds and fully set with pear-shaped (4.55 carats) and brilliant-cut diamonds (4.35 carats).



SOME MORE BEJEWELLED TREASURES

Rare antique jewellery from Cartier, Boucheron, Faberge were curated by SJ Phillips, Hancocks, Epoque Fine Jewels, Simon Teakle Fine Jewelry, Veronique Bamps, while Verdura/Herz-Belperron unveiled its heritage masterworks and unique contemporary pieces.

SJ Phillips
Italian mosaic earrings, circa 1860.



SJ Phillips
Amethyst and diamond fringe earrings, French 1925.



Simon Teakle Fine Jewelry

A tourmaline, garnet, emerald and diamond fibula brooch, designed as a series of articulated five multi-coloured crosses suspended at one end of the pin, the other end with a tourmaline, emerald and diamond terminal mounted in silver and gold, by JAR, Paris, circa 1991.



SJ Phillips
Tutti Frutti bracelet, French, circa 1931.



CHOPARD

At the 2017 Oscars, Charlize Theron dazzled in a pair of sensational earrings from Chopard's priceless Garden of Kalahari collection, which were part of the main collection.

Here's the backstory of the earrings: the Queen of Kalahari diamond, discovered at the Karowe Mine in Botswana, was an exceptional 342-carat stone of perfect colour and absolute purity. Caroline Scheufele, the creative soul of the maison, got the diamond skilfully cut into a variety of shapes – cushion, brilliant, heart, emerald and pear – and it yielded 23 diamonds, with five weighing more than 20 carats. Caroline envisioned poems in diamond around these five luminous stones, and the collection was thus entirely built “around the idea of a jewellery lacework like diamond guipure lace with a luminous cut-out motif.” Chopard's stunning necklace, earrings and ring – crafted in 18-karat white ‘Fairmined’ gold – from its Garden of Kalahari suite dazzled at the Masterpiece London this summer.

Chopard Garden of Kalahari ring

Ring in 18-karat white ‘Fairmined’ gold adorned with an exceptional D-flawless cushion-cut diamond of 20 carats and fully set with brilliant-cut (3.9 carats) and pear-shaped (3 carats) diamonds.



Epoque Fine Jewels
Pendant by Lalique.



Epoque Fine Jewels
Bird of Paradise brooch by Cartier.

Verdura
Byzantine peacock ear clips in gold set with coloured stones.

