

SOLITAIRE

THE FINE ART OF JEWELLERY

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JEWELLERY SHOPPING: BANGKOK | PEARLS | ASIAN-INSPIRED JEWELLERY & WATCHES

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THE EDGE OF PEARL

Fresh look, the same timeless, elegant gem

Words by Smitha Sadanandan



THIS SEASON, WE ARE SEEING A RETURN OF THE CLASSIC PEARLS featuring modern designs that continue to revolutionise the silhouettes. We see creations that stun either with big and bold styles or with minimalistic yet fun and innovative concepts.

Early on, Greek jewellery designer **Melanie Georgacopoulos** discovered exciting possibilities by slicing and halving pearls. The imaginative designs for Melanie's signature line as well as her collaboration with Tasaki for the **MG Tasaki** collection are a nod to her commitment to reinvent the way pearls and mother of pearls can be worn.

French-Filipino luxury jewellery brand **Jewelmer** works around exceptional South Sea pearls to create both classic and lavish fine jewellery creations. For its latest Cruise collection, the brand takes inspiration from "an ancient ship that held men's weight as it glided into the water". The graceful silhouette of the sails of a boat is immortalised by 18K gold and diamonds in a pair golden South Sea pearl earrings.

Model wearing
Jewelmer's new
Cruise Collection
jewellery set

*Image courtesy of
Jewelmer*



Jewelmer works around exceptional South Sea pearls to create both classic and lavish fine jewellery creations

1. Baroque pearl and diamond ring, MIZUKI **2.** Pearl *Stick* earring, TEJEN
3. Drop earrings with Tahitian bicolour pearls and tourmalines, ASSAEL **4.** *Fruit Pearls* earrings, MING LAMPSON
5. *Grain* ring in 18K yellow gold and freshwater pearls, M/G TASAKI
6. Pearl ring, DINA KAMAL DK01 **7.** Pearl *Lily* earrings, ANA KHOURI

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For his debut high jewellery line, fashion designer Prabal Gurung blended surrealism with couture and took jewellery to new heights



Inspired by the Chinese lantern plants, **Ming Lampson's** *Fruit Pearls* earrings explore the connection between fruit and flowers. Rare with natural colour, lilac freshwater pearls hang from long platinum and diamond chains – above each pearl, light twisted leaves are set with no-heat sapphires and spinels that graduate from lilac to blue.

Ana Khouri dreams up the most gorgeous collections. Ana, who studied Fine Arts and specialised in sculpture before turning to jewellery design, accentuates her creations through organic and fluid forms. Her *Pearl Lily* earrings and *Pearl Time* ring feature pearls and 18K fairmined gold.

For his debut high jewellery line introduced in Spring 2018, Global Creative Director of Tasaki, **Prabal Gurung**, blended surrealism with couture and took jewellery to new heights. The unique curves and graphic lines of the **Atelier Tasaki** collection were designed with a couture approach and integrated the surreal. “The inspiration

Supermodel Gigi Hadid wearing jewellery creations by TASAKI Atelier by Prabal Gurung

Image courtesy of Tasaki Atelier



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This season, we are seeing a return of the classic pearls featuring modern designs

began on a trip to the Tasaki pearl farm in Nagasaki, where I learned about the AMA pearl diving mermaids of Japan,” he explains. Prabal loves “the juxtaposition of using beautiful, delicate jewels and precious stones with a more modern approach to the design”. His Tasaki Atelier line mirrors this very vision, resulting in a beguiling pearl high jewellery collection.

Another interesting use of pearls is evidenced in the designs by Russian jewellery brand **Podnebesnaya & Podnebesny**. Ksenia Podnebesnaya’s love for pearls stemmed from a memory during her stint in Tokyo many years ago. “One day, I saw my neighbour in the bus. She was nearly 100-years-old, had a wrinkled face, wore her hair in a classical Japanese style, and was dressed in a beautiful kimono. She had, around her neck, a strand of snow-white pearls and an amazing ring, with an enormous Tahitian pearl on her petite time-worn hand,” recalls Ksenia. From that moment on, the designer decided to focus on pearls for her timeless and modern designs. The *Sphere* collection uniting round pearls and gems is hinged on the principle that “circle and spheres are ancient signs of both absolute and perfection, while also symbolising harmony of the world.”

Long-time friends Isabel Encinias and Mark Kroeker joined creative forces to launch **Tejen**, a “conscious luxury brand”. Tejen’s *V.03 Sable Doré* collection featuring gold spheres and Japanese akoya pearls in loopy, diamond paved ribbons echoes a minimalist design. Inspired by the sand dunes illuminated by the sun, the moon and the stars, the jewels hint at discreet luxury.

Qayten’s Akoya pearl bracelet, Mike Joseph’s curvy pearl-adorned jewels, Belford’s golden South Sea pearl and yellow diamond bangle alongside creations by Assael, Mizuki, and DKor have ensured pearls are back on the style agenda. 

1. Bangle in 18K gold with golden South Sea pearls and fancy yellow diamonds, BELFORD

2. Embrace bangle in 18K yellow gold with baby Akoya pearls and diamonds, QAYTEN

3. La Perla spiral double-finger ring, MIKE JOSEPH