

COVETABLE JEWELS: TEFAF

BY SMITHA SADANANDAN

TEFAF New York Spring edition had a formidable line-up of jewelers, showcasing artistry and design of the highest caliber. A visual spectacle of covetable jewels that hacked tradition, pushed the boundaries of creativity, and exalted engineering prowess – unveiled by

dauntless defenders of the jewelry world.



Revered German jewelry house Hemmerle returned to the show with gorgeous creations that were a feat of construction. A pair of round earrings, speckled with 16 diamonds, held in place by bending lines of interlacing blackened silver

with domes of pavé-set diamonds: “Learning from our past is a part of who we are and distinctly informs our layers of knowledge, expertise and design principles. Materials are our starting point and drive our creativity. We experiment with unconventional materials not just to be different but to create a perfect setting,” observed Christian Hemmerle. The new series of Hemmerle jewels included an exceptional double cabochon Colombian emerald, set in bronze, that

mirrored a transcendent quality. The gem seemingly floated atop pavé-set emeralds to create a swirling pattern. “The emerald had an incredible clarity to it and when thinking about a setting for it, we didn’t want metal or skin to be visible through it – it was important to us that the pavé-set emeralds underneath were the same color as the double cabochon, so its true color wasn’t altered at all. The coloring of bronze and the patina, we created, works perfectly with the color of the emeralds,” mentioned Christian and Yasmin Hemmerle.

What defines Hemmerle is its otherworldly designs, including a pair of earrings vivified by two diamonds floating at the center of bronze spikes, and meticulously engineered to hold each stone securely in place with minimal pressure. Each bronze spike was accented with reverse set diamonds that capped each spike. “It took us five years to find two diamonds that matched perfectly and then over six months experimenting with the setting,” said Yasmin.

James de Givenchy, of Taffin, brought out a series of haute couture jewelry that reflected his increasing focus on exceptional and important stones as well as unusual materials. “It showcases a collection of materials that continue to highlight the house’s aesthetic, but unlike earlier works, there will be a more significant layering of



colors to allow the materials to be just as prominent as the gemstones used," said James de Givenchy. A spectacular necklace sprung to life with rare button corals splayed out on blackened stainless steel and rose gold, creating visual contrast. Carved jade and radiant ceramics gave a fantastic insight into his contemporary aesthetic and association of materials and color. Other standout pieces from Taffin included a 35.82-carats natural blue star sapphire cabochon, orange ceramic, green ceramic, grey ceramic and 18k rose gold ring, a 16.42-carats fire opal, red ceramic, black cord and 18k rose gold necklace and a 25.49-carats pear-shaped emerald, brushed slate gray ceramic and 18k rose gold necklace. So, what drew him to ceramic? "I am always looking for new mediums to work with; new ways to create outside of the expected. Specifically when I described the ceramic, I was drawn to its wide color range and the ability to work with it in a sculptural way, creating colorful volumes to play with the individuality of the stones," explained Givenchy.

Alessandro Sabbatini's designs for his brand, Sabba, are mold-breaking. His earrings are stunning, sensational, and huge as evidenced in a pair of sky-blue sapphire and diamond ear pendants mounted in titanium and yellow gold, and a pair of amethyst and diamond ear pendants realized in

platinum and yellow gold. "My main inspirations in design are nature and classic art. I love to play with various colors and materials. Generally, I start from looking at the stones and playing with them until I reach the shape and balance I want," said Sabbatini. The designer plays with dimension and shape, and "all of the designs are one of a kind, and they can be quite different from one another, because each of them has been imagined for a different woman." Jewelry magpies, be aware: Sabba is sold exclusively at FD Gallery, USA.

Paris-based artisan jeweler Reza's offerings came in splashes of red. Delicious jewels turned up in the form of the Grappes earring. As many as 22 pebble rubies formed a juicy bunch amidst emerald-cut diamonds, punctuated with a few brilliant-cuts on rose gold. Drawing upon a trove of flawless, untreated gems, the jeweler dreamed up one-of-a-kind rings set with Burmese and Troidia rubies. The Chose Troïdia ring featured an unheated Troidia ruby sourced from East Africa, weighing a generous 8.48 carats, set in rose gold alongside brilliant-cut diamonds. Another lovely ring, Ayli, featured an unheated oval-shaped Burmese ruby set in white gold and accented with tapered-cut diamonds.



Images Left to Right: Hemmerle, Taffin, Reza, Sabba