

## COUTURE SHOW 2021:

# Ones To Watch

Another batch of future stars of the jewellery world that we discovered at the recent Couture Show 2021 in Las Vegas.

Words by **Smitha Sadanandan**



**ONDYN**  
By **Tara Maria Famiglietti**

Born and raised in Manhattan, Tara Maria Famiglietti attended the Professional Performing Arts School and trained as a dancer. Strong influences at home sparked in her the love of creativity. With both parents entrenched in fashion, creativity seeped into all aspects of her life. Tara later studied jewellery design at FIT in New York and created her first major design, a pair of earrings,



while still attending college. “The earrings made it into New York Magazine.” According to Tara, a good designer knows how to have a vision and has a trained eye. Having watched her parents throughout the years, she worked hard at really honing those skills. “Both my parents always spoke of the quality of material and how the drape or hang of a garment was of the utmost importance, only to be achieved with the very best of fabrications and craft.” After designing for private clients, as well as other brands, when



the stars seemed to align, Tara knew it was time to start her own collection, something that evolved into an expression of herself.

The brand’s name is a take on the name of a water nymph from a French fable, Ondine, which also means ‘little wave’ – and rightly so, the 14k gold and diamond creations have minimalist

forms and sinuous shapes that draw on architectural influences and fluidity. Meanwhile, series such as Continuum, Dalliance, Wave, Spiralis, and Eminence encapsulates her jewellery. “I look for beautiful words that describe movement, light and shapes. Sometimes, they’re scientific and sometimes, they’re based off mythology.”

**Couture Debut:** The brand will unveil its Frisè de Diamant Collection – an elevated extension of both core pieces and their diamond fringe motif, which Tara has extended in a multitude of other silhouettes that swing and sway as you move.

[ondyn.com](http://ondyn.com)





**RENNA**  
By Renna Brown-Taher

Renna Brown-Taher is a certified gemologist and has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master's degree from the Sotheby's Institute of Art. During the five years with Sotheby's, she held a few different positions, but ultimately worked on the specialist team in the jewellery department. "I particularly loved researching the provenance and history of a jewel and the authentication process."

She started her label in 2018 with a handful of pieces that she showed around. As the interest grew, people began placing orders. "It was those first few, out-of-the-blue sales that gave me the confidence to put myself out there," says the emerging jeweller. The debut collection was inspired by a bracelet that was a graduation gift from her mother. "The bracelet was made from coffee bean shells that we had found on Salt Creek Beach in Laguna, when I was nine. I have always worn the piece every day and ended up becoming the inspiration for my entire line."



The Land and Sea collections drew on the natural world: The former featured branches, twigs and leaves that were transformed into elegant ear climbers, thread and needle earrings and cuffs, while the latter incorporated miniature gold shells with gemstones to dance on anklets, rings, and bracelets. Through her one-of-a-kind collection for Muzo, the designer pays "homage to the exotic tradition of carved gemstones." The exclusive pieces from 'Renna x Muzo' are set with emeralds from the famed Colombian emerald mine.

**Couture Debut:** The new collection, Through the Looking Glass, is very whimsical and less serious than her previous offering. The new jewels feature enamelling and carved gems and have hidden secrets.

[rennajewels.com](http://rennajewels.com)



**BARE**  
By Dries Criel

Dries Criel, the designer behind Antwerp-based Bare, delves into his background in classical ballet, modern dance, travels, and contemporary art. As a child, Dries took ballet lessons and soon devoted his life to modern dance. "It is a very specific and special world; I realised that I would have to be one of the best in Belgium and, perhaps, in Europe, in order to have a stellar career in dance," says Dries. However, he called it quits and went back to school. Dries decided to keep himself busy and landed a job working for a diamond dealer,



while pursuing his academics. "I had the opportunity to discover the fascinating world of diamonds in Antwerp – and it opened the doors to creativity and starting my own brand."

Bare was a gift to himself on his 25th birthday. The name of the brand stems from powerful connotations that embody his ideas for design: Naked, pure, and without boundaries. When living in Antwerp, an interest in all aspects of art, fashion and its derivatives comes quite naturally, he shares. His childhood obsession with ancient Egypt also runs like a thread throughout the collections, combined with distinct lines and forms traversing both modern and classic architecture.



Antique jewellery and architecture often segue into his creation as strong inspirations as Dries redefines and redesigns classic inspirations and shapes: Strong, triangular shapes and lines form an intrinsic part of his core works that are made in Antwerp and Valencia. "They represent the past, present and future and form a shield of knowledge, awareness and strength," he explains.

**Couture Debut:** Couture, for Dries, is the ideal platform to share a collective love and passion for jewellery and celebrate its rich history and craftsmanship. His latest works combine his love for both modern and classical dance. "The new 'flow' pieces 'embody' and represent the lines of body in active and inactive positions – think Martha Graham and Maurice Béjart."

[bare-jewelry.com](http://bare-jewelry.com)



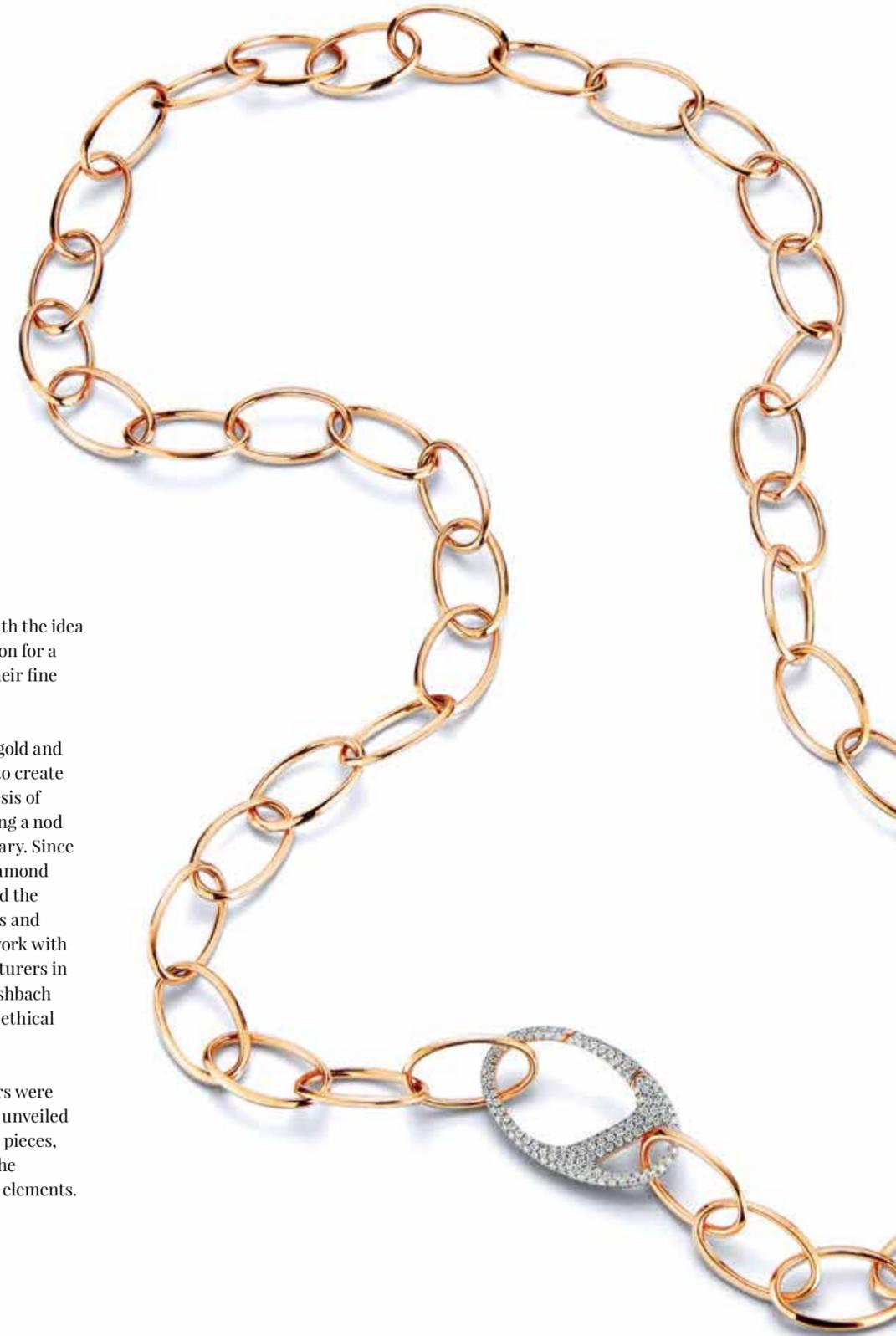


**WALTERS FAITH**  
By Mollie Faith and Stephanie Walters  
Abramow

Prior to starting Walters Faith with Stephanie Abramow almost nine years ago, Mollie Faith freelanced as a jewellery designer for other fine jewellery companies. Mollie knew from her college days that she wanted to be a designer and took courses in metalsmithing at the University of Michigan, along with design, diamond, and gemology courses at the GIA. “I hired Stephanie at a diamond company

we both worked for after she completed her GIA training. We both shared a love for big diamond jewellery, but also felt there was an opportunity to create a collection of accessible, everyday fine jewellery,” says Mollie.

While it took years to evolve, they knew that both of their skillsets lent themselves to creating a nice partnership – a combination of left and



right brain. The duo toyed with the idea of starting their own collection for a while and finally launched their fine jewellery brand in 2013.

The designers use fair trade gold and ethically sourced diamonds to create collections that are a “synthesis of bold and fine,” while also being a nod to the classic and contemporary. Since both of them worked for a diamond sight-holder, they understand the issues with conflict diamonds and corruption; therefore, they work with select jewellers and manufacturers in Manhattan, Bangkok, and Fishbach to ensure the pieces meet all ethical standards.

**Couture Debut:** The designers were thrilled to be at Couture and unveiled their newest Saxon and Clive pieces, featuring chunky links and the signature Clive fluted design elements.

[waltersfaith.com](http://waltersfaith.com)