

Blasts from THE PAST

From ancient amulets to Eighties excess. contemporary designers look to the past for inspiration—there's an era to suit any style

CIVILISING INFLUENCES

Archaeologist turned goldsmith Loren Nicole's 22ct-gold pieces are a window into history. Bronze Age arrowheads and ancient Egyptian faience are showcased in satiny brushed gold, while smooth Roman rings and earrings featuring her fine gold granulation are based on the jewels worn by bygone civilisations. Also rehoming age-old artefacts is Francesca Ruggiero of Kiaia, whose pieces feature coins dating from the 5th century BC. Ruth Aymer Marten of Aymer Maria looks to the architecture of ancient Greece in her Pilastro rings, replete with the mathematically ingenious details of classical columns. And London-based Ming Lampson of Ming fuses past and present in her one-of-a-kind ruby pinky ring, inspired by ancient coiled rings. Wrapping the finger in polished gold, it's made instantly modern thanks to a border of black enamel.





I. Loren Nicole Goddess Faience pendant 2. Aymer Maria Pilastro VI ring 3. Kiaia

Vortex ring 2. Pragnell

Rainbow ring



DOWN TO A Fine Art

With a vast selection of antique, vintage and retro jewels across three showrooms, family-run jeweller Pragnell is spoilt for choice when it comes to creative stimulus. The Pyramid collection was inspired by the bold, modernist work of French jeweller Raymond Templier in the 1920s and '30s. Pyramids of glossy yellow gold are highlighted by diamonds and coloured stones; simple yet striking. Also channelling the geometric elegance of the Art Deco era is Lily Gabriella, whose Vortex ring riffs on the black-white-green colour scheme so emblematic of the time. A tsavorite is accented by diamond and enamel crescents, with a line of pink sapphires adding a playful twist.



Victoria PRINCIPLES

modernised take on Victorian jewellery is what Lucy Delius does best: "It was such a productive and inspiring period in terms of technique and design. I wanted to create something that felt modern but still used those strong silhouettes." Her debut line includes pavédiamond T-bars, originally tucked into a buttonhole to hold a watch chain in place, alongside gemstone-covered watch fobs and a modernised take on the Victorian trombone-link chain. Roxanne Rajcoomar-Hadden is also inspired by an antique aesthetic-her Matrescence range features an angular swivel pendant modelled on the swivel fobs that bore the wearer's intaglio seal. Snakes were all the rage in the 19th century thanks to Queen Victoria's serpent engagement ring; Jemma Wynne's contemporary iteration is bedecked with star-set diamonds, another antique trope.



I. Marlo Laz Southwestern ardinia necklace 2. Sean Gilson cuff

California Dreaming

The work of American goldsmith and jeweller Sean Gilson evokes the heady creativity of the Swinging Sixties. Coral, turquoise, aquamarine and rutilated quartz appear in bold, abstract designs that attest to his fine arts background. The era-defining paisley motif is pared back to a teardrop-shaped smudge of kunzite and two dollops of chrysoprase set atop a cuff of creamy lavender agate; a beguilingly retro colour scheme redolent of long hot American summers. Paisley also features on Marlo Laz's oversized Southwestern Charm letters, engraved into the gold as an ode to the designer's continued enchantment with the American West.