



COUTURE
INTERNATIONAL
Jeweler
COVERING THE WORLD OF THE COUTURE JEWELER

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Italy's
Regions

Men's
Jewelry

Brazil
Revisited

Garavelli's
Glamour



It's a Dog's Life

Sculpted in 18K gold, enameled and set with diamonds, this little terrier is part of the Love Puppies collection.

And what a golden life it is! Created as a celebration of the timeless emotional bond between man and animal, the Love Puppies collection is composed of over a 100 breeds of dogs. Used as charms, pendants, cufflinks, rings or earrings, the little animals are individually sculpted from 18k gold, set with diamonds and then enameled in the true colors of the breed. Four artists are involved in the process of handcrafting a Love Puppy. If you don't find the breed you are looking for, the company will custom-make the pooch of your choice. According to owner Sol Basha, "Most of our business comes, in fact, from the custom market, where we create a special pet, which may or not be a pure breed. Our diamond-set dogs are the most popular." Not to leave other animal lovers out of the doghouse, the brand is now offering little sculpted images of cats and horses as well. (www.lovepuppies.com)

Zaffiro's Golden Granules

Granulation is an age-old technique that involves placing small spheres of gold onto a piece of a similar gold alloy, then heating until the spheres bond to the surface. Used as a decorative technique for centuries, the earliest examples were found in Minoan tombs in Crete, dating back to 2000 BC. The finest pieces of granulated jewelry were done between the 8th and 2nd Centuries BC by Etruscan goldsmiths. The modern day goldsmiths, Jack and Elizabeth Gualtieri of Zaffiro in Portland, Oregon have brought this difficult technique into the 21st Century in the form of custom-made pieces. In addition to the traditional 22K yellow gold, the couple has developed alloys and techniques for granulating in 22K rose and white gold, as well as platinum. "We wanted to do something that would change the way people think about granulation and set us apart from other artists," says Jack. (www.zaffirojewelry.com)



Art Nouveau inspired pin in granulated gold and platinum set with gemstones and pearls by Zaffiro.



Framed jewelry art made of tri-colored tourmaline from the new 'Picture Jewelry' collection by Kate's Jewelry.

Picture This!

The latest collection of Rio-based Kate's Jewelry, aptly called 'Picture Jewelry', was introduced at the recent 'Colors of Brazil' exhibition sponsored by Grupo CASA in São Paulo. It was held in parallel with Feninger, the largest jewelry fair in South America. For her picture jewelry art, designer Cathrine Clarke chooses unusual and colorful gemstones which she places in a textured gold frame. They can then be made into pendants or brooches. "These unconventional formats preserve the innate and unique characteristics of the gemstones," explains Clarke. In choosing jewelry as a form of expression, she adds that "art is a means, not an end, in my continual search for a genuinely creative and rewarding way of life." (www.katesjewelry.com.br)



Winc's Flavorful Treats

Luscious colors and freeform shapes of the Crystal Candy collection by Winc Creations (photo: JQ).

After a near sellout at the May Couture Show, Winc Creations, Honolulu, continues to dazzle the market with Crystal Candy, its new collection of necklaces, pendants and rings made of pastel, candy-colored crystals. Each piece is handmade around a freeform natural crystal, such as precious topaz, morganite blue and yellow beryl. Rings sit high above the finger in custom 18K gold settings accented with chocolate or black diamonds, pink, yellow and blue sapphire or tsavorite. Pendants are accented at the corners or along two sides with contrasting colored gemstones and suspended from coordinating colored silk cords. Bib necklaces are made of repeating slabs of crystals each specially cut to fit into the next. According to designer Robert Wander, each piece is unique and due to the natural colors and formations of the crystals, cannot be duplicated. (winc@aloha.net)