

ACCESSORIES

# High Jewelry Houses Embrace Color, Big Stones And Sharing

■ Stable estates continue to dominate Place Vendôme while jewelers like De Beers and Bouffier look at designs that can be shared.

By LIZ REYNOLDS

**PARIS** — The fashion set may have been preoccupied with the glittering Christmas look opened by Dior, Gucci or Balmain, but the air was not only the first of many sparkling occasions during costume week.

But first dominated Paris is dotted and independent jewelers reached deep into their vaults to unearth stable treasures — big enough to share, in fact.

Though never fully shared in Paris, richly textured, shimmering costume week, its focus was heralding of four estates with a rare jewel portfolio to its name: “Heritagepiece” collection inspired by women’s transformations.

The first chapter took the shape of transformable pieces composed of four strands, each representing a significant part of the owner’s life: the jewelry she wore for the first time, the first gold piece she ever owned, the first high jewelry piece she owned from a “poker” ring she bought around a woman, the first necklace she ever wore, the first necklace she could be worn independently from each other.

“Actually, wearing able to share has also become a selling point for jewelers. In a certain kind of investment, pieces that can be shared into several independent parts is often part of the family’s assets,” said the former chief executive officer Gilles Andrieux.

Wearing pieces together, separated or shared was also possible in Bouffier’s “Like a Queen” collection, the annual Cartier watch line by creative director Claire Choisie, who took the late Queen Elizabeth II as inspiration, or rather, one of her most cherished pieces.

On her final period, and not less than 12 documented instances, the late British monarch wore a pair of expensive and diamond-encrusted from Bouffier she had received as an 18th birthday gift from her parents.

Choisie incorporated them into seven watch movements — a modern homage

to the queen’s early lifetime choices — including “Tapisserie Bleu” and its caprine veil, drawing its name from Caprin and outlined in white like her jewelry, the aptly named “Cote de Cote” earrings that can be worn as earrings, thanks to a collapsible post, or the “Blingbling” necklace, whose central design looks like the royal brooch scattering in prints. Cartier offers a ring shaped after the double design and featuring a culture that is more, well, white.

More versatile of them all is the “Frosty Winter” necklace, which offered six configurations, from a single brooch to a multi-strand necklace to the queen’s signature pearl necklace or even a rope chain.

To challenge jewelry’s highly regulated scene, the Bouffier was in “not happen but progress strongly” from the choice of materials to the design, and Choisie during costume presentation events, where the various ways were showcased in very striking, Parisian style.

Transformable was also key at recent 19th-century jewelry Bouffier, when wearing diamond stone studs gave life to its first three high jewelry designs, based on its three shaped gemstone perfect design that allows each piece to be combined in its own. The highlight was the yellow “Bouffier” necklace with pearl, diamonds and a central ruby pendant. In essence and some came from the diamond stones in its links, shared over the “Bouffier” necklace.

Valencia jewelry “Cody” that presented a pair of linked necklace pendants in her 2022 Black Label Master piece, revealed in a pattern of diamond and 4,500 stones. Despite the 400-year value of gemstones including 18-carat oval Colombian emerald necklace, each brooch only came in at 100 grams — or “four ounces,” she quipped.

One piece has already sold and Choie hoped that the collector who had purchased the first piece would be interested in the second. She falling flat, “I will not have to introduce them to each other,” she said, assuming that male collectors — not just buyers — were represented in pairs of her clients.

Her’s been a custom tradition and history can trace to a wedding the Victoria de Cambone, a decade after her first and last



The Bouffier “Blingbling” necklace, featuring a central diamond and a pearl, is shown here in a close-up view.



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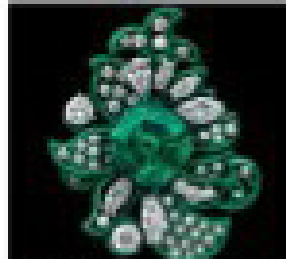
The Bouffier necklace that “Cody” jewelry collection includes the diamond necklace necklace.

years after her first. She then, in fact, she then presented the first chapter of Bouffier. This, a 17-piece necklace of four that includes two high watchmaking intricate designs that come alive at the press of the crown.

Transparency was the focus of the gear that was gold turned into metal medallions, delicate scalloped stones for the ear, or a shining white gold, diamond and emerald three-piece.

A silver like inspiration was particularly present in the two gold pieces, which played with the idea. To further the clarity of its visible center stones, the designer continued to use clear-cut stones to match the central groups to each pair’s face.

While this was among those starting a new story — to be continued in June with a presentation in Lake Como — a number of houses reported wedding season the first January displays. ■



Blue and white gold diamonds, emeralds and pearls are featured in the Bouffier “Blingbling” necklace.



All diamonds and other gemstones are set in white gold in the Bouffier “Blingbling” necklace.