



Masters: Gemstones: Major Works by Leading Jewelers

Alan Revere, Curator

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You'll want to spend a lot of time with this book, scrutinizing the work and theories of 39 jewelers who, according to Alan Revere, make "some of the most wonderful, boundless, and original jewelry set with gemstones."

The 324-page book is ideally organized for study: Each chapter is devoted to a single jeweler and contains a brief introduction and eight generous pages of high-quality photographs of the jeweler's work, including both earlier and more recent pieces. The included quotes from the jewelers about their techniques and design philosophies are a mixed bag — at worst, they read like typical artists' statements; at best, they provide candid theories and technical information.

Some of the chapter introductions seem to be unnecessary filler, merely restating what's already discernible from the pictures and captions. The introductions that explain the jeweler's signature technique or design process are much more useful and interesting.

Ultimately, you'll buy this book for the inspiration. The longer I looked, the more detail I noticed, the more I asked, "How'd they do that?" And even though the book's purpose isn't to tell you how to make jewelry, you'll get great ideas about what you'd like to learn to do and about design exercises and practices that you can try. —KS