

GEMFIELDS



Coloured gemstone rings to shine at Journées de la Haute Joaillerie

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A playful new collection of rings, featuring Gemfields' emeralds and rubies, is set to be unveiled during the upcoming Journées de la Haute Joaillerie. Gemfields – a world-leading responsible miner and marketer of coloured gemstones – has partnered with high and fine jewellery designers who are similarly committed to transparency, legitimacy and integrity in the industry, and who recognise the show-stopping allure of coloured gemstones.

The fruits of these collaborations – stunning pieces featuring Zambian emeralds and Mozambican rubies from Gemfields' Kagem and Montepuez mines – will make their debut to the fashion world in Paris, from 3 to 5 July. This year's focus will be rings: from Bina Goenka's floral sparkler to

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Fehmida Lakhany's sleek design based on the Chinese concept of Yin and Yang, and ruby-focused pieces from the likes of AYA and Margery Hirschey, all seen for the first time at this moment in Paris.

Fehmida Lakhany's ring features pear-shaped emeralds from Gemfields' Kagem emerald mine in Zambia, surrounded by diamonds in the contrasting shades of black and white: "a reflection of the opposing but complementary forces of Yin and Yang in our modern lives". The piece, like all of the designer's work, was inspired by the simplicity of nature. "The conservation of our planet and wildlife is not only a business priority, but also a personal one for me," says Lakhany.

Also influenced by nature – in this case, the foliage of winter – Bina Goenka's flowery ring uses pear-shaped Zambian emeralds and fire opal to stunning effect. "Working collaboratively with Gemfields is always a pleasure as we are aligned in our views towards sustainable and ethical mining," says the designer. GFG Jewellery by Nilufer went for a pixelated effect, combining emeralds and diamonds, and explaining: "I chose Gemfields as a partner as I believe we all have a responsibility to give back."

"An emerald shines even when its value is unsaid," says House of Meraki founder Gargi Rathi, summing up the gemstone's subtle appeal. Zambian emeralds from Kagem were a natural fit for the striking ring that Rathi designed for Journées de la Haute Joaillerie, as she grew up in Zambia and was motivated to become a jeweller by the emeralds she saw being sold on the side of the road as a child.

Mozambican rubies from Montepuez also play a starring role in the new range of rings, whose launch is perfectly timed with ruby the birthstone of July. Shachee Fine Jewellery's Floral Ruby Ring uses them to evoke cherry blossom and hummingbirds, "the sweetness of nectar and romancing with the blooms". AYA's Three Stone Ruby Ring is simple and powerful. "We wanted to create something bold and easy to wear," says founder Chelsy Davy, adding: "We are proud to have Gemfields by our side, to ignite a deep love for colourful jewels in an ethical way."

Margery Hirschey's handcrafted ring, whose design was inspired by Modernist art, is one-of-a-kind, and made from recycled materials. "The collaboration with Gemfields is a nod to our commitment to be as responsible to the community and to the environment as we can," says Hirschey.

Fabergé's White Gold Diamond and Ruby Dragon Skeleton Ring from the Fabergé x Game of Thrones capsule collection uses a Mozambican ruby to depict fire coming from a dragon's mouth – a nod to the pivotal role these mythical creatures played in the series. The artist-jeweller's head

designer says: “This ring is highly symbolic: a powerful dragon handcrafted from 18k white gold and set with white diamonds that wraps around the finger, metaphorically breathing fire and showing that the dragons are back and full of life.”

And in a small departure from rings, the world’s first fine jewellery-eyewear house, Francis de Lara, has contributed a fun and funky pair of sunglasses. The new FDL Editions by Francis de Lara frames, called Ribbon Hearts, are made from gold-plated aerospace-grade titanium, with Zambian emerald ‘tears’. “I believe in the mission of Gemfields and, naturally, adore their stones,” sums up de Lara.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Gemfields

Gemfields is a world-leading responsible miner and marketer of coloured gemstones. The operator and 75% owner of both the Kagem emerald mine in Zambia (believed to be the world's single largest producing emerald mine) and the Montepuez ruby mine in Mozambique (one of the most significant recently discovered ruby deposits in the world), Gemfields believes that those who mine gemstones should do so with transparency, legitimacy and integrity.

Gemfields introduced a technologically advanced coloured gemstone sort house at its operation in Mozambique, with state-of-the-art equipment, like optical sorting machines. In addition, a proprietary grading system, a pioneering auction platform and an active marketing presence have all contributed to Gemfields playing a significant role in the rise of African gemstones. Underlying this achievement has been the strong belief that coloured gemstones should create a positive impact for the country and community from which they originate.

Responsible mining for Gemfields means implementing industry-leading policies and practices across operations, transparency in its auction sales process, an active role in working groups to modernise the sector, projects to improve health, education and livelihoods for the communities around its mines and conservation efforts (#conservationgemstones) to protect Africa's great wildlife and biodiversity.

Gemfields Foundation is the charitable arm of Gemfields, through which donors can contribute funding to directly support community and conservation projects in Africa, magnifying the scale of the work already carried out by Gemfields itself.

Fabergé – an iconic name with an exceptional heritage – is a member of the Gemfields Group. The beauty of Fabergé's designs and craftsmanship helps to raise consumer awareness of responsibly mined coloured gemstones.

As well as supplying a significant share of the world's rough rubies and emeralds, Gemfields initiates activations to build desire for coloured gemstones: for example, collaborations with international jewellery brands and other creative partners. Often surprising, unexpected and unique, these collaborations are chosen to promote consumer awareness and increase the appeal of coloured gemstones, raising their profile, and, in turn, providing greater benefit to their place of origin in Africa.

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