

Paris Fashion Week High-End Jewelry Abounds

As jewelry writers and industry watchers, we often consider the month of July as the time to discover new pieces in the mid- to high-end jewelry sector as this period is traditionally reserved for mesmerizing surprises. Yet, the new collections introduced by brands and designers, coinciding with Paris Fashion Week in January, featured dazzling designs by ten major French and global brands along with many independent designers.

Marie Chabrol reports...

Fashion weeks are key times for the fashion industry, a fact that has not gone unnoticed by the jewelry sector. Over the last few years, we have seen more and more jewelers introducing new collections during fashion weeks in special showings at hotels or other venues.

The new jewels we viewed alongside Paris Fashion Week in January were truly interesting, exhibiting not only quality, but also the dynamism of the jewelry industry.

Let's begin by noting that the global color authority, Pantone, announced *Ultraviolet* as the 2018 *Color of the Year* for fashion and, overall, we saw varying degrees of influence of this purple color on jewelry. For the most part, however, most designers showcased other fabulous colors in the gem spectrum, mainly pink, orange, yellow and red hues.

The new Lydia Courteille collection looks through rose-colored glasses with *Rosa del Inca*, a line that incorporates the beautiful and warm pink gem rhodochrosite in a variety of original designs. We were also delighted to see the marvelous imperial topaz and vivid heliodores in Chanel's *L'Esprit du Lion*.

Chaumet chose to unveil the first chapter of *Les Mondes de Chaumet*, a new opus inspired by Russian winters, yet entirely dedicated to the colorful and luminous Padparadscha sapphires from Sri Lanka and Madagascar (a 7-carat oval-cut, a 3.11-carat cushion-cut and—most importantly—a 16-carat pear-shape, all natural, non-heated and loupe-clean). Dior also displayed a few pink tourmalines in their last Versailles-inspired opus.



Pink gold and silver ring with peridots and a rare 40.66-ct orange tourmaline by Suzanne Syz.



Earrings with unheated Burma sapphires and diamonds by Alexandre Reza.



Chandelier earrings in white gold, Brazilian Paraiba tourmaline, and pink and white diamonds by David Morris.

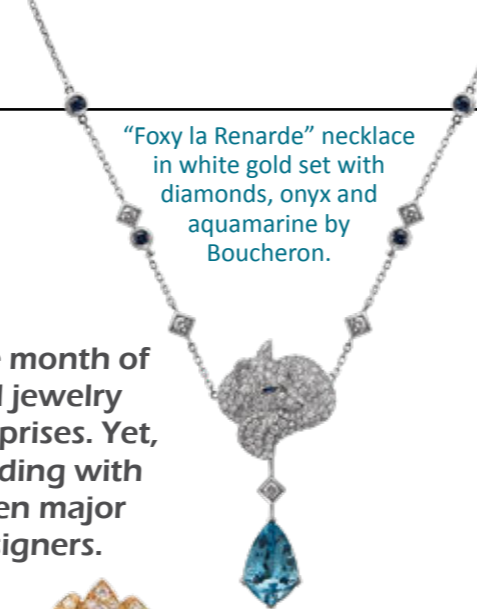


"Passionate" yellow gold earrings set with orange topaz and African sapphires by Chanel Joaillerie.



"Dazzling" bracelet in 18K yellow gold set with 15 oval-cut yellow beryls (31.65 ctw) and 220 brilliant-cut diamonds by Chanel Joaillerie.

"Foxy la Renarde" necklace in white gold set with diamonds, onyx and aquamarine by Boucheron.



"Vanité Indigolite" ring in yellow and white gold, diamonds, and indicolite tourmaline by Dior Joaillerie.



"Passionate" cuff in 18K yellow gold set with one orange topaz, 1 round-cut diamond and brilliant-cut diamonds by Chanel Joaillerie.



"Unconditionally Diamonds" ring in white gold and enamel with a Type IIA 5.46-ct diamond by Suzanne Syz.



Ring featuring one of the most important rhodochrosites in the "Rosa del Inca" collection along with colored sapphires and spinels by Lydia Courteille.

"Loup" gold necklace with diamonds, lacquer, onyx and tanzanites by Boucheron.



Ring featuring colored sapphires, rubies, morganite and an important rhodochrosite by Lydia Courteille.



White gold chandelier earrings set with diamonds, Paraiba tourmalines and opals by David Morris.



"Lucky clover" gold earrings with Akoya cultured pearls, and colored gems by TASAKI by MHT.



Ring in white and pink gold, set with a 3.11-ct cushion-cut "sunset color" Padparadscha from Sri Lanka, accented by marquise and brilliant-cut diamonds by Chaumet.

One of the most discreet and remarkable Place Vendôme jewelers, Alexandre Reza, selected vivid spessartite garnet for its collection, exhibiting a rare boldness given the company's predilection for the most perfect rubies, sapphires and emeralds. Geneva designer, Suzanne Syz, attracted attention with a rare orange tourmaline (more than 40 carats) from Africa accented with peridots.

For those who love long chandelier earrings, this trend is definitely not over. And the master for these pieces is David Morris, a company now run by his son Jeremy. By launching new models richly set with diamonds, opal and Paraiba tourmaline, this London-based brand is proving that women want jewelry with a strong personality.

Other companies realize this as well. Marie-Hélène de Taillac for TASAKI has designed colorful pendant earrings offering a wide range of fine gemstones. Syz has chosen colored aluminum and diamonds in her pieces and Chaumet and Boucheron have both introduced lovely cascade earrings. Statement earrings will continue to be OnTrend for 2018 and beyond.

Let's continue our look at the January jewels with beads. You read right. Beads! Often denigrated as poor quality,



“Prisme” gold necklace with a magnifying glass and diamonds by Goralska.



“Allégresse” yellow gold earrings with unheated pink Sri Lankan sapphires and tourmaline in quartz matrix by Goralska.



“Born to be Daring” earrings in white gold and silver with enamel, sliced diamonds (8 cts; 5.67 cts), spinels and diamonds by Suzanne Syz.



“Lierre de Paris” gold necklace with diamonds and black spinel beads by Boucheron.



“Precious Sweet Night” earrings in yellow gold, South Sea cultured pearl and colored sapphires by TASAKI by MHT.



“Cachette Tiroir Opale Claire” ring in yellow and pink gold, diamonds and opal by Dior Joaillerie.



Transformable necklace in white and pink gold, set with a 16.31-ct pear-shaped “sunset color” Padparadscha sapphire and a 9.03-ct cabochon-cut Padparadscha sapphire, both from Sri Lanka, a 1.13-ct oval-cut D VVS1 diamond, a 0.45-ct brilliant-cut D VVS2 diamond, and marquise and brilliant-cut diamonds by Chaumet.



“Les Eternelles de Chanel” featuring the secret watch, “L’Esprit du Lion,” in 18K white gold set with a 37.41-ct yellow carved beryl and 541 brilliant-cut diamonds by Chanel Joaillerie.



“Cachette Bérlyls Verts” earrings in white and yellow gold, diamonds and green beryls by Dior Joaillerie.



The masterpiece of the new “Rosa del Inca” collection, this cuff features colored sapphires, rubies, morganite, spinels and hand-carved rhodochrosite by Lydia Courteille.



Pink coral and diamond tassel earrings in yellow gold by David Morris.



White gold ring set with a 5.82-ct oval-cut E VVS1 diamond and marquise and brilliant-cut diamonds by Chaumet.

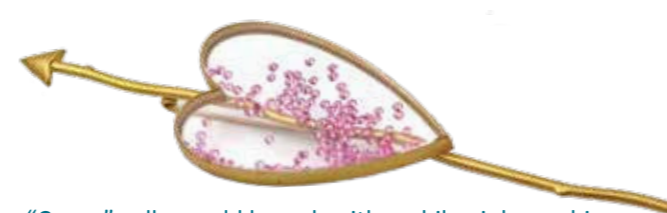
beads are making an impressive comeback in the latest jewelry offer. Used in tassels, earrings and necklaces, they come in so many different gems: blue chalcedony at Morris; black spinel, lapis-lazuli and tanzanite at Boucheron; cultured pearls and garnets at Alexandre Reza.

Pieces seen in January also confirm a trend glimpsed at Van Cleef & Arpels in July 2017. Far from full-pavé traditional diamond jewelry, beads give a whimsical touch to pieces and are another way to see high-end creations. And, maybe this is a way for companies to introduce less expensive, but not less qualitative types, of jewelry with a more creative and lighter touch.

In the Winter 2018 issue of *InColor*, we wrote about unusual materials and gemstones being used in the jewelry industry. Customers are looking for something different and unique. Brands are listening as can be ascertained from their recent and sometimes bold collections. Lydia Courteille is a good example of this shift in design. Her impressive rhodochrosite pieces, in varying cuts and polish, include long necklaces, large rings and an impressive statement cuff with a truly crazy mechanism.



Pop Series “NO” aluminum and pink gold earrings with diamonds by Suzanne Syz.



“Coeur” yellow gold brooch with mobile pink sapphires by Goralska.



“Ruban” white gold necklace with diamonds and sapphires by Alexandre Reza.

Then, there are the Type IIA diamonds used in a mesmerizing set of jewels by Syz, including a 6-carat center ring. The international brand, Goralska, scheduled its first Parisian public store opening during this fashion week. Founded two years ago by the talented Corine Evens, this brand is out of the ordinary with some atypical and thrilling creative options, such as unheated pastel sapphires, floating gem rings, and the use of black rhodium in all its creations. Goralska’s jewels are quite different than what customers would normally find on the Rue de la Paix where the house just established its boutique. Evens has unveiled something fabulous in her inspiring contemporary designs—earrings and a ring featuring sliced-cut Paraiba tourmaline in quartz matrix.

We end this review of jewels introduced during Paris Fashion Week by noting how many (non-emerald) beryls we saw. They seem to be everywhere in demi-fine as well as fine jewelry. We wonder... is beryl about to become the next hot stone?

These beryls include heliodore (yellow), bixbite (red and amazingly highlighted in the last Caratell collection), aquamarine (blue, one of the favorite stone in the last TASAKI by MHT collection), morganite (pink) and even green as we saw in the last Dior opus by Victoire de Castellane. Let’s see what the collections in July show. Is beryl a real trend or a flash in the pan!

All images are courtesy of the brand featured.