

## The 13 Best Jewels At TEFAF Maastricht 2020



Anthony DeMarco

3/9/2020

From contemporary high jewelry artists to vintage fine jewelry dealers, there was no shortage of exceptional pieces on display at 2020 TEFAF Maastricht. Whether it was Bhagat's refined Indian themed pieces, Wallace Chan's elaborate creations, Cindy Chao's gem-encrusted works or the number of historic jewels that manage to catch one's eye while passing, 2020 was a very good year for high jewels at the annual art fair.

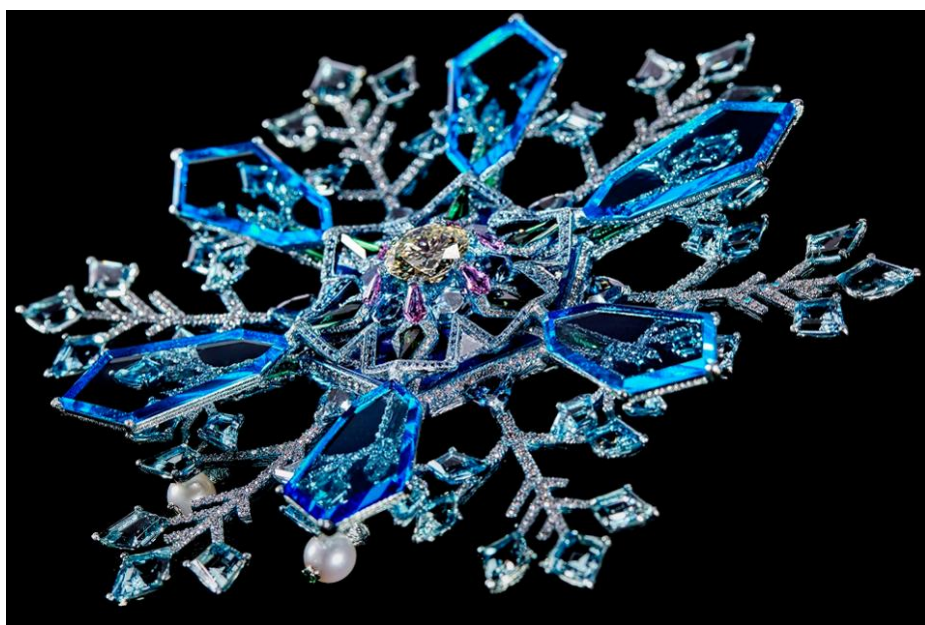
TEFAF Maastricht 2020 will run till March 15 at the MECC exhibition center.



Pine Cone earrings by Hemmerle ANTHONY DEMARCO

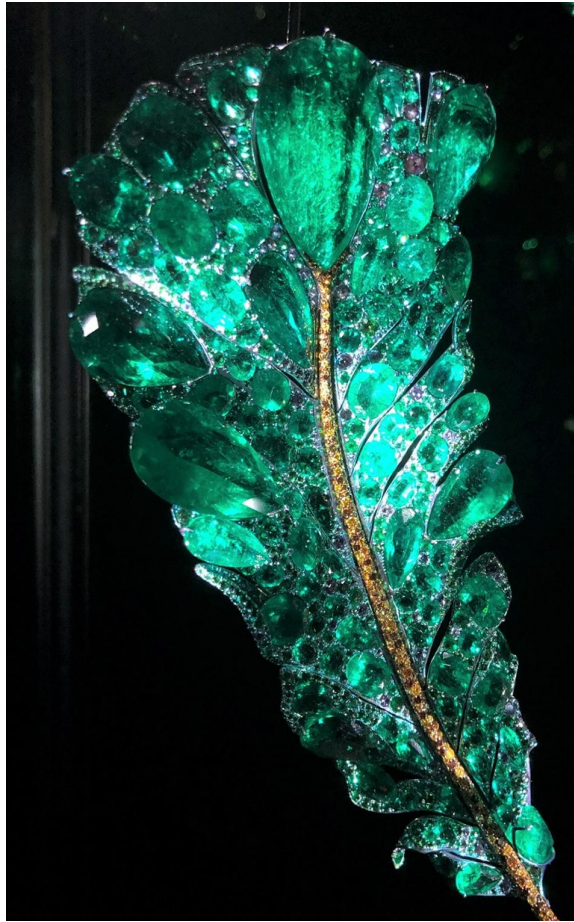
Hemmerle, the family owned Munich firm, brought a large collection of jewels with refined designs and traditional artisan techniques complimented by materials that span time. For example, one necklace featured an ancient Java bead framed by African blue sapphires. Each of the 89 tassel strands are made of agate beads completed with a dumortierite quartz bead. The strap for the necklace also made of agate is threaded together with silk in an old Austrian knitting technique. The same threading technique was used for the cord of pendant necklace centered with an 86.05-carat translucent aquamarine surrounded by circular rough aquamarines.

But perhaps the most interesting piece from Hemmerle was a pair of earrings that depicted pine cones. The two jewels are made entirely of small slices of aluminum anodized to a brown pine cone color that are combined to recreate this motif in exacting detail.



The Snowflake brooch by Wallace Chan WALLACE CHAN

Wallace Chan only brought three new jewels with him. He was planning to bring two more but they were sold before the fair began. The statement piece was The Snowflake, a large titanium brooch that combines yellow diamonds, aquamarines, green tourmalines, sapphires, and Chan's proprietary unbreakable porcelain set in titanium anodized to create several colors. The piece is centered with a 7.86-carat yellow diamond. The rest of the jewel is dominated by blue, white and pink colors. The piece is constructed in two layers. The top layer rotates changing the appearance of the snowflake.



Cindy Chao's 2020 Black Label Masterpiece III Green Plumule Brooch ANTHONY DEMARCO

Cindy Chao brought five new creations, each detailed in multiple gem combinations that exhibit vivid color and painstaking craftsmanship. Her favorite gem is emerald and one example of her use of emeralds and the craftsmanship it takes to produce one of her pieces, is her 2020 Black Label Masterpiece III Green Plumule Brooch.

This piece features 487 fancy-cut emeralds of several shapes and sizes, totaling 172.58 carats. Seventeen of them come from Colombia, with the largest being 30.06 carats. With each angle and height accurately calculated, the emeralds are set in an interlaced- and embossed-like manner to create a three-dimensional contour for the brooch that portrays its airy appearance. A total of 14 barbs, all linked to the yellow diamond-paved rachis with flexible joints provide motion. The rachis on the back of the brooch is painted with a layer of black enamel with diamonds and yellow diamonds. All of the gems are set on lightweight and strong titanium so despite being 15 centimeters long (6 inches) and filled with gems, it weighs less than 49 grams (1.7 ounces).





Opal and emerald earrings by Bhagat BHAGAT

The big news at the fair was the addition of Bhagat, the Indian high jewelry brand founded by Viren Bhagat. It's the first time the artist has participated in a public event. He produces no more than 50 jewels per year. For this fair alone he created 30 pieces. Among the items was a pair of circular earrings made of opal and emeralds. The white ball-shaped opals with a play of color are sized to gradually recede while the emeralds are set in a second circular row within the opals.



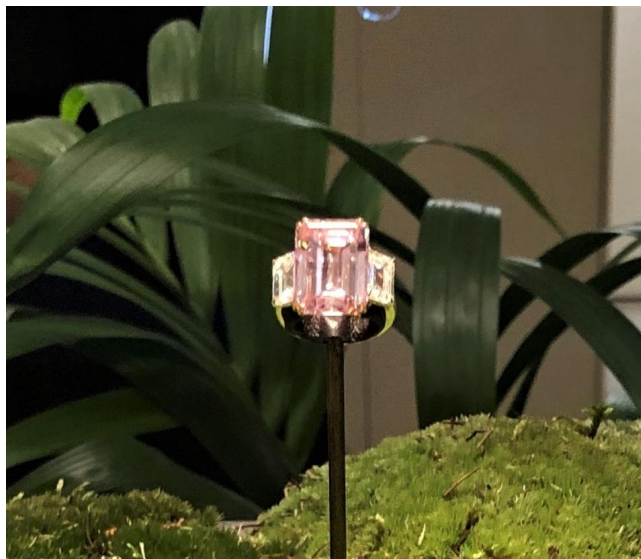
The Anglesey Tiara being held by Stephen Burton, owner and managing director of Hancocks London ANTHONY DEMARCO

Among the vintage jewelry dealers, statement diamonds and tiaras were the big show stoppers. Hancocks unveiled a diamond tiara owned by Henry Cyril Paget, the 5th Marquess of Anglesey (1875 – 1905). The tiara, circa 1890 is formed of a graduated row of more than 100 carats of old European and old mine-cut diamonds, which can detach to form a rivière necklace.



A yellow and white diamond tiara being offered by S.J. Phillips tiara ANTHONY DEMARCO

London fine jewelry dealer, S.J. Phillips, presented a circa-1900 tiara with yellow diamonds along the top of the piece and white diamonds below.



14.23-carat emerald-cut, fancy-intense-pink diamond being offered by Symbolic & Chase ANTHONY DEMARCO

Among the statement diamonds, London firm Symbolic & Chase featured an emerald-cut, 14.23-carat, fancy-intense-pink diamond that hadn't been on the market for 10 years. Known as the Perfect Pink, it last sold at auction in 2010 for \$23.1 million. It was originally unearthed at the Argyle mine in Australia, which is set to close by the end of this year.



A 20.20-carat, old-cut, pear-shaped, diamond of H color and VVS2 clarity being offered by Hancocks. ANTHONY DEMARCO

Meanwhile, Hancocks featured an old-cut, pear-shaped, 20.20-carat diamond of H color and VVS2 clarity, circa 1900.



Bronze age cuff being offered by Symbolic & chase ANTHONY DEMARCO



While the diamond at the Symbolic & Chase booth was quite impressive, the firm featured hundreds of other interesting jewels. One piece that caught my eye was a simple cuff, a late Bronze Age armilla (an arm band awarded as military decoration), circa 800 B.C. The ridged bronze torque is embellished with geometric motifs composed of concentric curves and lines. It was discovered on the Carpathian Basin of what is now modern-day Hungary, circa 800 B.C. The thing that struck me was that this same cuff could be designed as a contemporary jewel.



A 1970s sapphire and citrine bracelet by Jean Été on offer by A La Vieille Russie ANTHONY DEMARCO

Among the jewels and art objects on display at the A La Vieille Russie booth, the New York-based firm was offering a 1970s bracelet by Jean Été, made of cabochon sapphire, yellow sapphire and citrine set in gold.



Titanium and diamond earrings by SABBA on offer by the FD Gallery ANTHONY DEMARCO

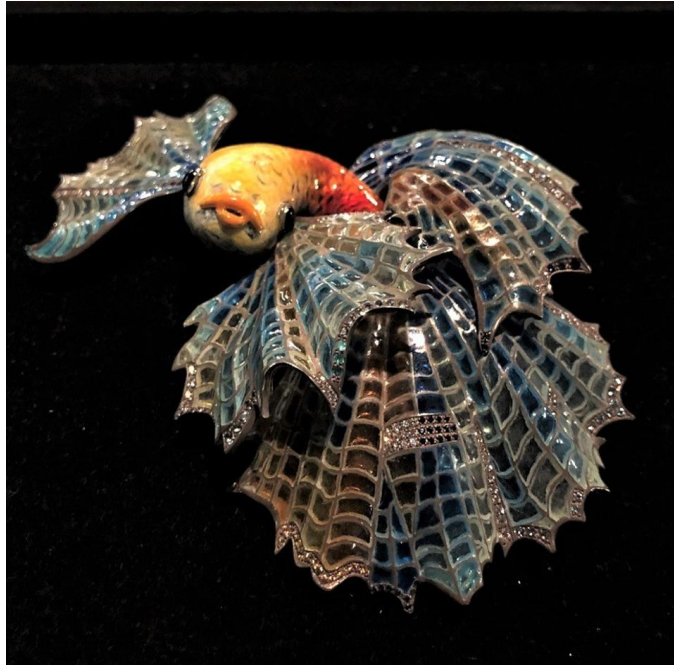
There were a few vintage jewelry dealers that also feature contemporary jewelry artists. For example, the FD Gallery in New York is the exclusive retailer for SABBA jewels, the Paris high jewelry brand founded by Alessandro Sabbatini. One notable SABBA jewel was a pair of large airy earrings made of titanium in its natural grey color and white diamonds.



Emerald and diamond earrings being offered by FD Gallery ANTHONY DEMARCO



Another piece of interest was a pair of ear pendants featuring two smooth translucent emerald beads weighing a total of 103.68 carats. The jewel also features two diamond briolettes totaling 20.17 carats. The earrings are by none other than Bhagat. The FD Gallery is one of few retailers in the world where one can purchase creations from the Indian jewelry artist.



Betta Fish brooch by Luz Camino on offer by the Deborah Elvira gallery ANTHONY DEMARCO

Meanwhile, Spanish dealer Deborah Elvira, who specializes in jewelry from before 1800, featured pieces from Madrid contemporary artist Luz Camino, who creates nature-inspired jewels that are layered, colorful and vivid. An example of this is the colorful Betta Fish brooch, which uses a translucent enameling technique. The piece is adorned with sapphires, diamonds, aquamarine and Paraiba tourmaline, all set in silver and gold.