

The Best Jewelry for Spring 2017 Gets Personal



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Contributor

As a fashion writer and market editor, I like to keep abreast of the newest and greatest in the worlds of fashion, beauty and home décor. I live in New York City and can't seem to find enough closet space for all these shoes.

The author is a Forbes contributor. The opinions expressed are those of the writer.

How To Save For Sabbaticals As Well As Retirement

Fine jewelry designers are offering a pile of personality and optimism for Spring 2017, continuing the trend that has been going strong for the past couple of seasons. Colored stones and intricate settings fashioned into smile-inducing motifs have dominated the market. And judging by the new collections that are currently hitting store shelves, looking on the bright side seems to be the message jewelers are promoting—and, more importantly, what consumers are gravitating toward in these trying times.

"Shoppers coming out of the election cycle, who are bogged down by current world issues, are looking for happy things to lighten the mood," says fashion and jewelry consultant Amalia Keramitsis. "If you have a bad day, or are going through issues, a great piece of jewelry will make you feel better."

With the price of jewelry being steep, and with more and more consumers wearing pieces throughout the day as a means of bolstering their frame of mind, a single stone on a traditionally-shaped setting is not going to cut it any more. From clusters of color to familiar shapes from childhood to symbols of strength and prosperity, the best designers are perceptive to what shoppers are eyeing; how they are looking for bling with more bite.

Check out the best jewelry for Spring 2017.

Alison Lou

Women's rights are a hot-button issue in today's political climate, and the sartorial set is up in arms. Leading the way on the fine jewelry front is Alison Chemla, the designer behind Alison Lou, who launched a capsule collection titled Girl Power, which will donate 30 percent of its proceeds to Planned Parenthood. The collection of yellow gold and pink enamel pendants, single studs, and small huggies feature the symbol for women—and is as empowering as it is charming. The pieces range from \$195 to \$390, and are available on Alisonlou.com.



Alison Lou

Alison Lou's Girl Power collection

Jennifer Meyer

Jennifer Meyer's brand is marked for its cutesy, delicate quality, and how it utilizes lucky charms (shamrocks, wishbones, hearts and flowers) in a prominent way. It only makes sense that she'd include a five-point star into the mix, as it is symbol that many, including Meyer, look upon for good fortune. "Since I was a little girl, I was told to wish upon my lucky star, which is why stars have always been a meaningful staple in my line," the designer said in a statement. Aptly named Open Star, the new collection consists of 18k gold necklaces and earrings that are inlaid with diamonds, pink sapphires, or turquoise. The line launched exclusively at [Barneys New York](#), and ranges from \$1,175 to \$6,500.



Jennifer Meyer

Jennifer Meyer's Open Star collection

Me&Ro

Me&Ro's Robin Renzi built her brand on talismans and charms with an Eastern bent. This time, however, she is looking in the opposite direction. Her new Astrology collection examines the Western zodiac and the motivations of individuals that fall under a particular sign. It is comprised of siloed symbols in sterling silver that are priced at \$150, and 18k gold medallions that feature original art work that go for \$2,875. The line will be available on Meandrojewelry.com in April.



Me&Ro

Me&Ro's Astrology collection

Noor Fares

Like Renzi, Noor Fares is also examining a heavenly chart. The Lebanese, London-based designer introduced her seventh line, Akasha, which means ethereal space in Sanskrit, and draws inspiration from ancient mandalas and the cosmic qualities they possess. Spirituality has always played a big role in Fares's designs, but this collection takes it to new heights. It comprises of an assortment of baubles shaped into circles and triangular grids with proportions that signal sacred geometry. She also uses nine gemstones—including rubellite, amethysts, citrine and blue topaz—cited in Hindu astrology. The collection ranges from \$2,500 to \$18,000, and information for purchase can be found on Noorfares.com.



Noor Fares

Noor Fares's Akasha collection

Fernando Jorge

Bloom is the latest collection by Fernando Jorge, the Brazilian-born, London-based designer that has amassed a great deal of buzz in the industry. His sinuous, colorful pieces are as bold as they are dainty (a juxtaposition that is certainly hard to come by), and have caught the attention of major retailers. For Spring 2017, Jorge created forms inspired by the botanical world. This is certainly not a novel idea in the least, but the way he combines digital technology with traditional hand cutting and finishing techniques results in a line that is fresh and cutting-edge. The line is available at Fernandojorge.co.uk and Modaoperandi.com, and ranges from \$3,210 to \$65,120.



Fernando Jorge

Fernando Jorge's Bloom collection

Mish New York

Mish Tworkowski knows how to bring on the glamour. For the spring season, the New York designer introduced his collection of Comet Tail earrings, which come in blue sapphires, black diamonds, and white diamonds. The length is dramatic, the execution is on point and, more notably, it shimmers brightly—even at candlelight settings. The line is available at [Mish New York](#) on Bond Street, and ranges from \$38,000 to \$46,000.



Mish New York

Mish New York's Comet Tail collection

Bahina

Sisters Annick Jordi and Noëlle Vieillard-Jordi founded Bahina on a clear principle. “We want to appeal to women who are active, committed, open minded and self-confident,” explained Vieillard-Jordi in a statement. And their recent pieces certainly do that. Using bright stones, from blue topaz and lavender jade to red garnets and tourmalines, the designs are intended to be playful, versatile and bring delight to the wearer. “Joy of life and individuality—this is what Bahina jewels stands for,” continued Vieillard-Jordi. A highlight of the line comes from their Antigua collection, which gives a modern twist to cameos by making them out of Venetian glass. The prices range from \$520 to \$6,250, and information for purchase can be found Bahina.com.



Bahina

Bahina's Antigua collection

Pomellato

Pomellato's M'ama non m'ama is the most recent collection by the Italian firm, and perhaps its most delicate and intimate. To wit: its name translates to "loves me, loves me not." The line is comprised of an assortment of thin rings, bangles, earrings and necklaces in 18kt rose gold that feature amethyst, peridot, London blue topaz, moonstone and garnet highlighted by a pavé of white diamond. Each gem is meant to convey a series of emotions, including passion, desire, jealousy, tenderness, love, joy, hope, pleasure, and nostalgia. The pieces range from \$1,200 to \$4,150, and is available at Pomellato.com.



Pomellato

Pomellato's M'ama non m'ama collection

Ileana Makri

Greek jeweler Ileana Makri's designs speak to her heritage. Her Evil Eye and Crying Eye collections are inspired by talismans from ancient Greece, where the evil eye symbol was said to ward off misfortune and malevolent spirits. And though neither of these lines is new to her brand, Makri continuously adds pieces that keep to her traditions, but are refurbished for modern times—such as a pendant made of turquoise, pearls and diamonds. Her pieces range from \$815 to \$20,200, and are available at [Net-a-porter.com](https://www.net-a-porter.com), [Barneys.com](https://www.barneys.com) and [Twistonline.com](https://www.twistonline.com).



Ileana Makri

Ileana Makri's Evil Eye collection