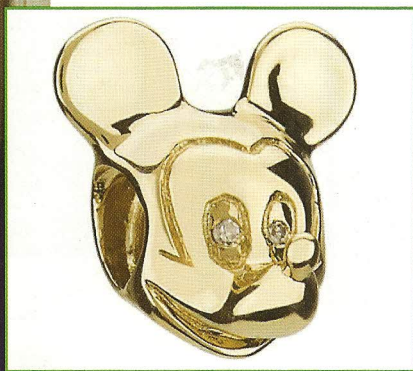


Janet Fitch

On all that's caught her eye this month



That was the summer that was, and all my thoughts now are on the autumn and winter season – the trends, and the strategy to deal with the looming crises in retail that is being busily forecast. Well, money may be tighter but we are not just a nation of shoppers now, but a whole globe of shoppers; travelling, experiencing and searching for the new – we are born to shop now. Barring catastrophe, we may change our shopping habits but shop we will.

In jewellery buying we should encourage customers to look for quality, and to buy special pieces that reflect their own individuality. Lately I have seen an increasing amount of jewellery that has an intimate, keepsake element to it – modern but with a nostalgic twist – and also bolder designs that cater for the confident woman who wants to express her own style and will be wearing the coming season's cleaner, starker lines.

Galante Visconti's jewellery, sold in an elegant space-age boutique in Milan, and also in Tokyo, was launched in the UK at a celebrity art exhibition in London. The collection is exquisite: delicate and minutely detailed, using only gold in every colour, natural stones, crystal and diamonds. The handcrafted gold has a sensual silky satin finish. Claudia Galanti and Mirta Visconti describe their jewellery as "a luxurious plaything, with exuberance," and also see each piece "as a talisman or a lucky charm that embodies the sentiments of the person buying it." www.galantevisconti.com

Also I discovered, at a star-studded fashion show for Chillihot at the Burlington Club, the designs of Simone Muzi which are intensely personal, and precious, but bold and imaginative. Simone is a former ballet dancer who turned to history of art and goldsmithing when his dance career ended. His showpiece ring, acclaimed by Vogue as the must-have ring, in gold, amethyst and diamonds, features a man and a woman in a reverse embrace supporting a huge amethyst, which symbolises their love, with twin hearts underneath. www.philosophyoflove.co.uk.

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A lot of the feedback I have is that there are more people searching for something unusual that can't be found in the high street. Kathryn Marchbank, working in traditional Hatton Garden, uses mirror Perspex, recycled Japanese TV screens, machine-engraved and laser cut, and oxidised sterling silver, with surface decoration. Her work portrays the movement and colour of break-dancers on the New York subway, or dancers leaping across stage, and is edgy and modern but wearable. www.designnation.co.uk.



