

STORY ROBERTA NAAS

Romancing Platinum



IMAGES: PLATINUM GUILD INTERNATIONAL



The romance between platinum and jewellery lovers is intense. Recognised for its true merits – it is the most rare and most precious metal on earth – platinum is coveted in jewellery of heirloom stature. Indeed, the jewellery industry accounts for approximately 40% of the world's use of this metal. What's more, according to the Platinum Guild USA, sales of platinum jewellery have tripled in the past 10 years.

Considered the most difficult metal to mine, it is estimated that all of the platinum mined to date could fit in an average-sized living room. What's more, it takes 10 tons of platinous rock – mined from a depth of 3,000 to 5,000 metres deep – to secure enough metal for a single watch or large jewellery item. This, too, adds to the allure of the metal.

Only the finest jewellery designers turn to platinum for their creations – often mixing it with coloured gemstones for sensational beauty. Additionally South Sea and Tahitian pearls are mystically beautiful when set in platinum, and of course, wedding and engagement rings are particularly preferred in platinum. Here's a selection of stunning platinum designs from America's foremost designers. **S**



1. Barbara Berk Interlocking Heart necklace featuring Baroque South Sea pearls, \$26,000
2. Blossoms on Crackling Ice rings by David Humphrey, \$48,000
3. Platinum fluted earrings from Claudia Endler featuring carnelian drops with four orange diamonds, \$7,000
4. Platinum and Burmese ruby right-hand ring by Karen Karch for Push, \$3,160
5. Judith Ripka garland necklace featuring diamonds set in platinum
6. Daniel K cufflinks set in a platinum cube, featuring 12.62cts of Ascher-cut diamonds, \$200,000
7. Daniel K necklace featuring diamonds and a large yellow diamond pendant, \$120,000