

INDESIGN

May 2008 | For the retailer of fine jewelry design

generation next

ten jewelry designers to watch in 2008

es pitches watches / if i owned jon spoelstra / profile gregg ruth / bookshelf bill underwood

fan club

designers pick their favorite designers

atelier tom munsteiner

SELECTED BY **Claudia Endler**



Bernd Munsteiner

LIKE MANY IN THE JEWELRY INDUSTRY, Atelier Tom Munsteiner is a family business through and through. In fact, each family member contributes to every piece the company makes. The family patriarch, Bernd Munsteiner, was born in 1943, and at 14, he began his education as a stonemason. Three years later, he passed the precious stonemason's journeyman exam. In 1966, he graduated from the Prof. Klaus Ullrich School for Design in Pforzheim, Germany, and has run his own

workshop ever since. In 1985, his son, Tom, entered the family business, and had earned his master gemcutter's accreditation within 10 years. Tom married Jutta in 1997, and she brought design and goldsmithing expertise to the Munsteiner family business. Individually, each artisan has earned many industry-related awards and accolades. Collectively, they have created a workshop where expertly cut and carved gemstones come together with handcrafted gold and platinum settings, and works of art merge to become unique pieces of jewelry. Contact them at munsteiner@t-online.de. — STORY BY PAUL HOLEWA



Jutta and Tom Munsteiner



ATELIER TOM MUNSTEINER'S DESIGNS

Personalities ("Pemperton") 950 platinum necklace with a hand-carved faceted quartz. \$9,800

Platinum bracelet with 43.23-carat aquamarine. \$19,840



CLAUDIA ENDLER ON ATELIER TOM MUNSTEINER

"There is a harmony between the stone and the setting in these collaborative pieces. The setting is typically asymmetrical, yet there is a balance to each piece of jewelry. It's slightly off-center, but it still works as a design with strong angles, and the positioning of the center stone and its accents give each piece its harmony."

I don't know if it's just that German efficiency, but their jewelry is executed with a purity and exactness to it. When you look at a piece of their jewelry, if you added one thing or took one away, it wouldn't be the same piece. And, the color combinations are simply phenomenal.

Another contrasting aspect to their jewelry is having a minimalist look that is made up of a lot of small features. There's simply a lot more going on with each piece when you see each and every detail and how well they flow together.

This jewelry appeals to a woman who has a high regard for artistic and individualistic pieces. She's confident, and not afraid to wear a large piece with artistic merit. It's not about bling — wearing one of Munsteiner's pieces is about her alignment or her connection with art.

Even though the colored stones they use look flawless, I think stones are picked to allow for creative cutting skills. Each piece of jewelry is really combining two sculptures — a sculptured colored stone with a sculptured setting. *PS*

Claudia Endler

CLAUDIA ENDLER DESIGNS

Once a successful fashion designer representative, Claudia Endler transformed her passion for fashion and design into her own jewelry design firm. "Before making jewelry, I collected it. The Art Deco period was my favorite," Endler says. "As I started creating my own work, it came out with these streamlined, minimalist influences." Endler's designs have received critical acclaim, most recently a spot on *My Fox L.A.'s* Jewelry Designer Hot List and a nomination for *Colored Stone* magazine's favorite designer. Her pieces occupy the private collections of some of Los Angeles' top cultural leaders, including museum curators, architects, gallery directors, artists and other jewelry designers.