



# Jacqueline Diani

## Heirloom Treasures for Today

At first glance, we might think that the creations of Jacqueline Diani are estate jewels from another time or another century. Yet, as we look closer, there is a contemporary flair to these delicate pieces that brings them definitely into the 21st Century.

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Jacqueline Diani began her jewelry career some 25 years ago designing custom pieces for private clients. They would come by appointment to a midtown Manhattan penthouse where the pieces were presented in the magical surroundings of a lush terrace garden. But, after years of one-of-a-kind designing, Diani decided that she wanted to share her jewelry with a larger audience. Last year, her Heirloom Collection made its debut in the posh cases of New York's prestigious department store Bergdorf Goodman. And today, Diani's jewelry is gaining the attention of Couture jewelers worldwide. A tribute to her talent and success, she is present this year at the prestigious Couture Jewellery Collection and Conference Show in Arizona.

The key element of Jacqueline Diani's jewelry collections is 'femininity', the rich, mysterious, evocative femininity of the femme fatales of yesteryear, a femininity that

combines the romance of old-world style with an adventurous interpretation of the new millennium. The designer weaves her rich European design influences and art history background into each piece, creating jeweled treasures that can be passed down, as heirlooms, from generation to generation.

While Diani takes pride in the heirloom feel of her work, often evoking the Art Deco or Belle Époque period, her jewelry is more than simply a nod to the past. It is also a bridge to the present as witnessed by the refreshing use of color in her designs. She uses carefully selected diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones in combination with pearls to create vivid and sometimes unexpected effects. She not only has the ability to choose the stones, but also a talent for matching the colors. Rings might pair a yellow sapphire center stone with diamonds and blue sapphires, or an aquamarine center with dia-

monds and blue sapphires. "I am always on the lookout for good stones. I might buy one, and then spend a great deal of time searching for the right matching stones, but it is always worth the effort," smiles Jacqueline Diani.

It is perhaps, though, Diani's attention to detail that truly sets her designs apart from others and places each necklace, ring or earrings in a different league. "Every little thing counts," she insists, referring to the fine grillwork on the back of each hand-finished piece, making it just as beautiful and breathtaking as the front. Her designs are also versatile. Her delicate platinum and diamond floret earrings, available in three sizes, feature interchangeable drops made of pearls, briolettes and pear-shaped diamonds that can easily be changed to match other pieces in the collection. "The ability to change one's look on a whim is very important for today's jewelry wearer," Diani explains.

The designer's metal of choice for the Heirloom Collection is platinum, although for other collections she

also uses white gold. "Platinum is very strong and can be shaped very thinly, lending itself well to the Heirloom collection," she explains. No matter what the design, Diani strives to keep metal to the minimum in each piece.

"It cannot overpower the jewelry. It should let the stones and designs speak for themselves. The jewelry should be feminine."

Among the more remarkable pieces is the 'wedding necklace', shown here against a triple photo of Jacqueline Diani herself. Exquisite double stranded baby pearls come together in a garland of diamonds that is as rare as it is beautiful. Signing each piece personal-

ly, the designer says her goal is "to make each piece of jewelry a little work of art, art that draws on the historical appeal and complexity of the past to create contemporary heirloom jewelry for the present."

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