

Alternative Wedding Jewelry

Not your grandmother's gemstones....or maybe they are?!

It's been said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Weddings have been around for as long as marriage, and perusing over 100 years of wedding jewelry themes is not a terrible way to spend an afternoon. It's true that some styles really are absolutely timeless....in 1890, the style was a single old mine or European cut, round, white diamond, set in six prongs on a plain yellow gold band. Separate but complimentary anniversary bands hadn't been conceived of yet. Grey, included, or "dirty"

0.55ct chocolate rose-cut diamond in 14KT white gold with .044ctw accent diamonds \$1570

3.89ct natural diamond crystal in 18KT white and 22KT yellow gold, \$2100

0.97ct hex-shaped brown diamond in 14KT red gold and 0.13ctw accent diamonds \$1400

.095ct rose cut diamond in 18KT yellow gold \$3250

1.26ct green sapphire in 18KT white with 0.09ctw accent diamonds \$1850

0.56ct champagne diamond in 14KT yellow gold with 0.44ctw accent diamonds \$1535

0.16ctw white diamonds set in 14KT white gold \$860

0.91ct grey diamond set in 14KT white and yellow gold with 0.08ctw accent diamonds \$1200

diamonds were never considered for the main stone and were actually considered a by-product of the white diamond production process. Brilliant cut diamonds were invented in the late 1910's to maximize the dispersion of light.

Metals evolve, styles ranged from simple, clean and classic to extravagant and experimental....but one thing that didn't REALLY change is the shape of the diamond; round, white, clean, and ideally, the larger the better.

Somewhere around the 1960s, we see trends change, and alternative shapes became popular.... emerald, oval, square, baguettes. Even marquise shaped became popular choices, especially when

you consider that a diamond with a lower carat weight could, because of the length down the middle, give the illusion of being quite a bit bigger on the inside. Halos give otherwise smaller stones a lot more real estate as well. Somewhere around ten years ago, we finally see color entering the diamond arena in full force, and as more and more celebrities began wearing colored diamonds, the industry is giving those previously dismissed "byproducts" a second look.

Here we are, then, in the age of information. The power of the story means that consumers want to know the history of their purchase, and are willing to put time and resources behind wearing jewelry that is in line with the same values they use to for their food, clothing and transportation choices. We want our most expensive purchases to have the same personality and individuality that we value in ourselves. Many diamonds are being reused from family heirlooms, adding "upcycling" and sustainability to the jewelry's individual history. Alternative cuts such as the rose cut look larger because of their flat bottoms, meaning you get more bling for your buck. Brown, grey or "salt and pepper" diamonds are a great way to add personality and contrast. We've recently had a demand for natural, uncut diamond crystals in wedding jewelry, which possess an unprocessed beauty and energy that can't be replicated. Truly no two are alike. And if diamonds don't give the range of color desired, sapphires are a durable and affordable alternative.

Millennials are looking for an experience when shopping for jewelry, and knowledgeable, bespoke artisan jewelers can provide that. Your jewelry should have all the same personality that you do!



Spring Bead Sale!

February 19th - 22nd

All strands of beads and pearls

50% OFF

the single strand price regardless of quantity!

Buy 5 strands at once anytime before
the sale and get 40% OFF!



New Cabs!



Cabs are being priced as we go to press!

Pictured: (in no particular order)

Amazonite, jade, tanzanite, rainbow moonstone, charoite, Imperial topaz, labradorite.

Many are suitable for Silversmithing 1, the rest will be perfect for Silversmithing 3 or anywhere you practice making tiny bezels.

Come check them out when you are in for the bead sale!

Featured Jewelry



We get a lot of questions about our mokume gane rings and the process of making them. The metal starts as a billet, pictured top left - it involves rolling and pressing many types of metal into one. The billet is carved and rolled flatter and flatter until a pleasing pattern emerges. The middle photo shows the metal after its been soldered and etched to create a relief on the surface. (Dots are for future gemstone placement.) Finished rings are can be used as wedding bands or just because they're beautiful!

Pictured: black sapphire band, \$1995, bottom and right bands, \$1400