

JEWELRY

REFRESH YOUR SPRING LOOK WITH THE RIGHT FINE JEWELRY

By Anne M. Pokoski, CGA

Almost every woman I know has a “go-to” pair of black pants. When all else is failing in one’s closet, a pair of well-fitting, figure-flattering black pants can save the day and pull together an ensemble that feels comfortable, always looks polished and gives a boost of confidence. So powerful are the black pants that an entire wardrobe can be built around them, with options for the workplace, lunch with friends and after-5 events.

From my perspective, every woman should also possess at least one “go-to” piece of fine jewelry, the black pants of her jewelry collection if you will. A jewel that is well-fitting, is complementary to her face or figure and gives her a good feeling every time she puts it on. Although this may seem to contradict the American notion of throwaway fashion and here-today, gone-tomorrow trends, the right piece of fine jewelry will actually transcend the constant changes seen in clothing, can be worn with many of the latest looks, (gauchos anyone?), and be mixed with other jewelry.

And like those black pants, a go-to jewel will be versatile. It too can be worn in the workplace, at your child’s school, at lunch with friends and for cocktails. Jewelry designers today are getting smarter and creating pieces



An elegant take on stacking rings, the 18K hammered yellow gold “soft” stacking band by Vendorafa. Set with .77ctw. of diamonds, handmade in Italy, available exclusively at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$4,050.00.

with all of these occasions in mind. Some are reversible with diamonds on one side and polished gold on the other. Many necklaces can be adjusted to multiple lengths, some can also function as a bracelet, or a lariat or two short, nested strands. While fine jewelry used to mean fancy and formal, today it translates to modern luxury that is meant to be worn all of the time.

The good news is, this special jewel of yours can be anything: a strand of pearls, a pair of great earrings, a bracelet, ring or necklace. It needs only to be a delight every time you look at it, touch it and wear it.

Which leads into how well it fits. If your important ring is too tight and it hurts so much going over the knuckle that it brings tears to your eyes, this will automatically move it into that pile of “too much trouble to wear,” like those clothes in the back of the closet.

If the necklace is so short that it won’t fit over your favorite turtle-



Feminine, fun earrings of peridot, lemon citrine and iolite drops on 22K yellow gold wires by Laura Gibson, available exclusively at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$775.00.

neck, or conversely, so long that it’s hidden in every blouse, it’s not going to work either. Take the time to have your jewelry properly fitted, just as you have your clothes altered. Are you the owner of drooping earstuds, top-heavy rings spinning on your fingers, bracelets falling too far down onto your hands? Why own something precious if it doesn’t fit correctly? Your fine jeweler can almost always modify the piece to improve its comfort and wearability, many times with just a slight adjustment.

In terms of proportion, one need only watch one of the dozens of fashion makeover shows on cable to understand how a simple change in length or cut in a pair of jeans can make a major difference in how a person looks. It’s the same with jewelry. Dainty pendants and bracelets get lost on women of even average proportions. These same women are usually hauling around suitcase-sized handbags – what’s needed is a sense of balance, and maybe some professional help!



Jeweler to the stars Yossi Harari's "Rachel" link necklace handmade in 24K yellow gold, with oxidized gold links burnish set with 2.00ctw. of diamonds. A versatile clasp makes the length completely adjustable or it can be worn as a lariat, and the piece is reversible. Available exclusively at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$9,975.00.



A mini-mosaic for the hand, with 1.00ctw. of diamonds and a sophisticated palette of coral, spiny mother-of-pearl and other unusual gem materials, from Asch Grossbardt at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$3,600.00.



The updated gold bangle in hammered and brightly polished 18K yellow gold accented with sprays of diamonds; the "nest" bracelet by Vendorafa, available exclusively at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$3,200.00.



Platinum power . . . Michael Bondanza's mini "Discovery" bracelet of solid platinum links bezel-set with princess and round diamonds, accented with hand engraving is the ultimate heavy metal statement. Available exclusively at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$18,900.00.



Baroque Tahitian and South Sea cultured pearls with a simple ribbon tie . . . of black leather. Adjustable for any neckline, the necklace at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$900.00.



A dazzling wardrobe basic, the pave' diamond 18K white gold earclips by Mark Patterson, 2.90ctw., available exclusively at Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, \$7,400.00.

I recommend spending some time with your fine jeweler to try on pieces of various shapes and sizes to see what complements your best features. How many women have said to me, "I can't wear dangly earrings," to find that just the opposite is true. Depending on their shape, longer earrings may actually widen a narrow face, lengthen a neckline or give her eyes the sparkle she's been missing.

Go through your jewelry box to see if something could benefit from a little TLC. Like those clothes that sit there unworn season after season because they have "issues," your jewelry may be suffering the same fate. Visit a full-service jewelry professional, who will be happy to assess your pieces and make recommendations. I also have pulled together several great new looks from Elleard Heffern Fine Jewelers, shown

here, that would be terrific additions to a jewelry wardrobe and may become your new "go-to" piece.

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