

BASICS; - DESIGN STYLES

To design jewellery, especially to create a cohesive style - it is really helpful to first think about styles and ideas that appeal most to you.

There is of course plenty of cross over between these general styles - these are in no way set in stone, or rigid boundaries, and there are many, many more (think about styles or periods of art, architecture, as well as fashion styles) - but here are some ideas of different styles or types of jewellery to get you thinking - are you particularly drawn to one (or more) of these ideas, or something else?



GEOMETRIC

Circles, squares, triangles, - generally precise and angular. Think about artists like Piet Mondrian or Wassily Kandinsky, but also art and/or patterns like the patterns in ancient Greek pottery decoration.

FIGURATIVE

Figurative work is mostly that which is recognisable shapes - classical life drawing or still life is figurative art, creating your own impression of an actual form. Examples of figurative jewellery work could be - Eileen Gatt and Nicole Ringgold and Elsa Tierney.

MINIMAL

Minimal design can be geometric, organic or figurative, but it is simplified - using only the absolute essential lines / forms to create the piece that is needed. A simplified, purified design, stripped back to its purest function, prioritising the essential.

HISTORIAL INSPIRED

Many jewellers and designers look back to the designs fashionable during different eras in the past - giving their own new spins on these shapes, forms and materials. It might be using inspiration from ancient Roman designs, Art Deco style, Viking, or any other period.



CONTEMPORARY

Contemporary jewellery design is most often grouped as jewellery that is currently popular and eminently wearable - aimed towards the most popular fashions of the time. It tends to be fairly minimal, every day type wear, layering of necklaces, stacks of rings; currently gold colours are becoming more popular than silver.

BOLD AND COLOURFUL

Most often related to 'costume jewellery' or non-precious jewellery, as the best options for creating larger scale designs and bright colours, use paint, wood, plastics and similar items, but can also use traditional vitreous enamel. Bright and cheerful, fashion styles and pieces that make a statement. Examples include; - Tatty Devine, Sally Lees, Jenny Llewellyn

INDUSTRIAL

Industrial styles tend to be pretty geometric, larger and inspired by factories,

manufacturing and engineering machines and materials. Think steel, aluminium, rubber, ropes and springs but also plenty of other variations.

STEAMPUNK

Steampunk is a particular style inspired by both science fiction and Victorian style fashions. Mixing time travel, cogs, nuts, bolts, with rich Victorian Gothic style details.



BOHEMIAN

Informal, colourful styles, with a relaxed feel and inspiration from all around the world - bohemian jewellery designs often use raw crystals, micro macame, electroforming and more to give a fairly natural feel to the jewellery. Tamara Gomez creates fine jewellery with a bohemian feel.



WEDDING JEWELLERY

There are two types of wedding jewellery - wedding and engagement rings, which are usually precious and designed to be worn daily, and can also be described as fine jewellery; and decorative wedding jewellery to be worn on the day to complement the dress or hair styling. In western cultures, often dainty, floral or using pearls and diamonds/crystals, or adhering to other specific traditions in different cultures.

BODY JEWELLERY

Made specifically for body piercings, and implants. This is generally made from the most unreactive metals - surgical steel, titanium, or nylon, so as not to irritate the skin because these jewels are so closely on the body. Generally have closures that either clip into place, or screw on. Examples include; - Danilla Tarcinale, Wildcat Jewellery,

RELIGIOUS + SYMBOLIC JEWELLERY

There is of course a wide range of jewellery specifically made for religious purposes, as part of religious observance, or to signify your beliefs or belonging to a particular group. A typical example might be a Christian cross pendant, or a Jewish star of David.

FINE JEWELLERY

This can cover many different visual styles, but is high end, precious jewellery, made primarily using higher end gemstones, golds and platinum. Requires a high level of precision skills, and is often very finely detailed and intricately made. Examples include; - Yen Jewellery, Stelios Karantonas, Bobby White



ART JEWELLERY

Art jewellery is made more from a conceptual standpoint, in a similar way to creating art. The jewellery is used as a way for the artist to explore, or communicate a standpoint, to prompt discussion or questioning of a topic, or to give a narrative. This is wearable art, with the materials, form, colours chosen to give a specific message and to make a statement. Examples of art jewellers include; - Timothy Information Ltd, Jed Green, Karl Fritsch