PINNING CEREMONY

Having evolved from the humbly utilitarian to the exuberantly decorative, fanciful brooches are enjoying an arresting fashion renaissance. Here, a look at the radiant breastpins, both past and present.
Finer Things

CHAMPIONS OF THE BROOCH

Five style luminaries who proudly marched the precious pins through history.

QUEEN VICTORIA
The 19th-century monarch pinned her beloved's gift—a large sapphire surrounded by 12 brilliants—near her heart on their wedding day.

Style icon Millicent Rogers adored Verdura's venerable nod to the Maltese cross. Ray brooch by Verdura, $28,500; 212-758-3388.

A dazzling boutonniere with 1930s-inspired élan. Gardenia brooch by Oscar Heyman, $76,000; oscarheyman.com.

Taking flight: more than 487 pieces of fancy-cut emeralds. 2020 Black Label Masterpiece II Plumule brooch by Cindy Chao, price upon request; cindychao.com.

A transformable triumph in rose gold, rubies, and diamonds. Ludo secret watch clip by Van Cleef & Arpels, $313,000; vancleefarpels.com.

White gold and diamond butterflies and flowers. Giardini Segreti brooch by Pasquale Bruni, price upon request; pasqualebruni.com.

Elizabeth Locke imagined citrine and peridot as the perfect autumn tweed. Lemon Citrine and Peridot brooch by Elizabeth Locke, $7,475; neimanmarcus.com.

With rubied tongue and tsavorite eyes, beware the femme fatale. Kissing Crocodile brooch by Sillam, $80,000; sillam.com.

A dazzling boutonniere with 1930s-inspired élan. Gardenia brooch by Oscar Heyman, $76,000; oscarheyman.com.


JOAN CRAWFORD
Defying demure with her broad shoulder pads and bold lip, this iconic 1940s movie star showed American women the power of an outsize piece.
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A squash blossom superpower with amethysts and gray pearls. *Amethyst Crescent pin by Sorab & Roshi,* $7,800; sorabandrosi.com.


This iconic Chinoiserie Pagoda was recently auctioned off to benefit Nashville’s Cheekwood Estate & Gardens. *Mish Chinoiserie Pagoda brooch by Mish New York,* price upon request and similar styles available; mishnewyork.com.


An exquisite reminder to persist: Schepp’s tiny turtle with a sapphire-studded aventurine shell. *Small Turtle brooch by Seaman Schepps,* $10,100; seamanschepps.com.

A sumptuous begonia with petals of white, pink, and yellow gold. *Prestigio brooch by Buccellati,* $33,000; buccellati.com.

VIVIEN LEIGH
A cultural omnivore, the glamorous British actress loved to mix historic pieces like diamond brooches with couture—a high-water mark of celebrity style.

ELIZABETH TAYLOR
Credit singer Eddie Fisher for turning this Bulgari into the most famous *en tremblant* brooch ever by giving it to his megawatt wife.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Rarely seen without a brooch, the Queen prefers to pin sensibly at the shoulder, as with this 1858 piece handed down from Queen Victoria.

VERANDA