

JEWELRY CONNOISSEUR

BY RAPAPORT

Colorful jewels that take us away to a fantasy wonderland are just the ticket after a dark and difficult year.

Warm sunshine, waves lapping the shore, the feel of white sand underfoot — such dreams of a palm-fringed paradise washing away life's stresses are an escapist fantasy that many have shared during the pandemic. Designers have realized that happy, colorful jewels are the perfect mood-boosting accessories for those who can finally jet away — and those who can't.

This year, summer jewelry is especially vibrant, invested with heartfelt messages of love and delight. There is plenty of joy to share, which is plain to see in the rainbow-beaded wrist stacks, gypsy bracelets, bright enamel rings, and shoulder-duster earrings currently on offer. Diamonds and colored gemstones that catch the sun's rays are summer favorites, from opals to lagoon-colored [Paraiba tourmalines](#) and turquoise.

A perfect example is the Floating Islands opal collection from designer Tayma Page Allies, owner of Tayma Fine Jewellery. Allies took her inspiration from a bird's-eye view of Australia's Lizard and Heron islands, with pieces reflecting the blues of the Great Barrier Reef.

Paradise blues

Opals, Paraiba tourmalines and turquoise are perennial summer favorites for Comolli and Allies. The combination of turquoise and yellow gold is a color sensation that Comolli says "celebrates that never-ending-summer feeling."

The desire to travel has always underpinned Comolli's "barefoot luxury" philosophy, a characteristic nurtured, no doubt, by her nomadic childhood. "I love the beach, and you can always find me near water, my very personal source of energy."

Meanwhile, a passion for blues anchors Allies's collections; she's spent most of her life in the tropics and is celebrating her 30th anniversary in Hong Kong. During the pandemic, she dreamed of going back to her Caribbean roots. "I remember swimming in the crystal-clear turquoise sea at Pigeon Point Tobago, where my future love affair with Paraiba tourmaline began, and collecting huge conch shells." Now, she says, "I'm thinking of designing a Caribbean collection with conch pearls and Paraiba, with gold flying fish, palm trees and hibiscus flowers."



Tayma Fine Jewellery Cobweb cuff in 18-karat yellow gold set with imperial topaz, Paraiba and multi-color tourmalines, yellow sapphire, rainbow moonstone, mandarin garnet and diamonds.