

Celebrating Twenty Years

BOOK



Neiman Marcus

Personal Articles

The newest launch from DIANE KORDAS is an intimate affair

Since her first collection of bracelets inspired by the evil-eye symbol, jewelry designer Diane Kordas has been drawn to ancient spiritualism, art, and architecture. For her latest collection, AMULETTE, the Parsons School of Design alum delved into the history of fragrance. "I wanted to create a collection encapsulating something very personal, something close to the heart," she says. "And for centuries amulets have been associated with luck, power, and protection."

The result is jewelry that holds a surprise: Each amulet, suspended on a chain necklace, is meant to hold a favorite fragrance. The pendants are crafted from 18-karat gold (shown in rose gold, \$3,215) and embellished with linear pavé diamonds and stars, the designer's hallmarks. The design is an intentional marriage of old and new—an ancient artifact filtered through a contemporary lens. "Originally, perfume amulets were traditional in shape, so I designed these to feel intimate and tactile with a cool, modern edge."

As for the name of the collection, Kordas chose to use the French spelling. "Along with being the center of European perfume creation, France is synonymous with romance and passion." Qualities also shared by jewelry and scent, she notes. "Scent is linked to our emotional system. There is beauty in capturing a personal scent and linking its essence to the jewelry itself."

Kordas suggests filling the amulet with a personally meaningful scent, either your own favorite or perhaps one worn by your partner. Her own choice: Omnia Amethyste by Bulgari, a sensory touchstone on her frequent travels from London to Greece and New York. —Michelle Padgett

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Your Signature

Online, two designers offer options to custom-build your favorite piece

A master of charm, Rosanne Karmes has been turning out playful baubles for her L.A.-based label, SYDNEY EVAN, since founding it in 2001. Fourteen-karat gold and a mix of precious and semiprecious stones elevate lighthearted (and often cheeky) pieces that reflect Karmes' personal dedication to spirituality and self-expression. This spring, put your stamp on a Sydney Evan beaded bracelet or necklace in our custom shop at NeimanMarcus.com/SydneyEvan. Choose from 16 bracelet charms and stones, or select from 12 necklace charms and three chain lengths, for the combination that speaks to you.

Also in the custom shop: JOHN HARDY. Choose the color of the clasp and other options to make the Bali-based brand's iconic chain necklaces and bracelets all yours. —Nicole Jordan

TIME TRAVEL

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS reinvents a classic

In 1935, Van Cleef & Arpels introduced a bracelet watch so distinctive it became an icon of the *maison*. Dubbed the Cadenas—French for "lock"—the "emblem of union and alliance" featured a double snake chain and padlock-inspired clasp. The dial was set at an angle—so discreet it was meant for the wearer's eyes alone. No doubt adding to its charm was a personal endorsement by one of the era's more notable "social influencers." A card from the VCA archives depicts a pen-and-ink sketch of the watch's clasp above the penciled notation *Roi Edouard VIII 7/4-3-36*. Yes, the British king's gift for Wallis Simpson just months before his abdication.

Decades later, the Cadenas has been revamped for a new century. The signature dial, still set at an angle, has been enlarged and given hour markers. An updated mechanism makes the U-shaped clasp more secure. Jeweled versions feature diamonds *serti neige*, or "snow set" in sparkling waves.

Find your favorite in the Precious Jewels Salon. Because sometimes the best things in fashion aren't fast at all. —Tracy Achor Hayes

