

THE  TIMES

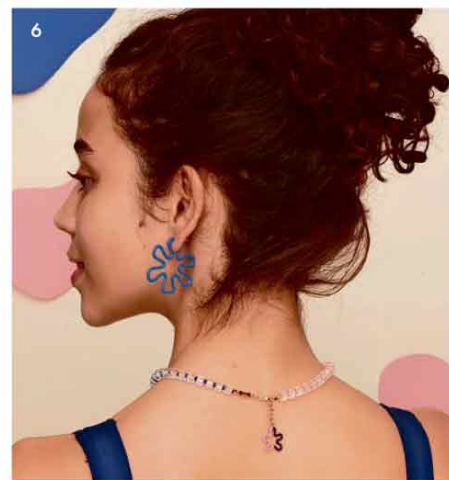
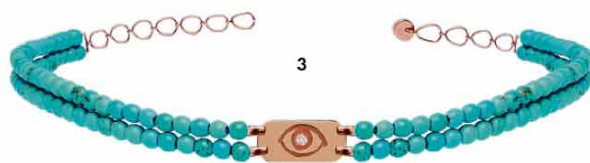
LUXX REPORT

JUNE 2022



Darling bud: diamond brooch, Hemmerle

WATCHES & JEWELLERY



HELLO, RAINBOW

Beads are the perfect statement jewellery for summer – the more colourful the better, says Jessica Diamond

You may associate beads with childhood friendship bracelets or hippy Seventies fashions, but they are the most ancient form of adornment. Archaeologists have discovered a set of beads made from drilled sea snail shells in a cave in western Morocco, which date from 150,000 years ago.

Today, beads are as popular as ever, although admittedly more luxurious in material and conception. They are the perfect choice for summer – casual, colourful, but also rendered in precious stones or carved agates and crystal.

Carolina Bucci is the queen of this. She launched her Forte beads, inspired by childhood holidays spent by the sea, in 2018. Customisable and strung on gold thread, they have been, in her words, “phenomenally successful”.

Bea Bongiasca has just launched her first beads, made from rock crystal. Known for her love of colour, she introduces a kaleidoscopic palette of alternate rainbow beads strung between colourless crystal.

Lots of jewellers are experimenting with hard stones, such as turquoise and malachite, which are fashioned into perfect spheres and drilled so they can be strung. Van Cleef & Arpels’ pieces are particularly luxe. Jade beads are threaded on salmon-pink silk and mixed with sapphires and rubies. Van Cleef & Arpels and Cartier, in particular, have a long history of incorporating beads into their designs, often arranged as playful tassels, while David Morris takes the rare conch pearl, a modern-day upgrade on those sea snail shells, and makes earrings in the prettiest gelato tones. Summer, we are ready. ■

1. Emerald and gold beaded necklace, £6,810; Azlee (matchesfashion.com). 2. Gold and labradorite ring, £2,470, gold bracelets with precious stones, from £450 to £3,020 (with flower) each; carolinabucci.com. 3. Turquoise choker, £1,870, dianekordas jewellery.com. 4. Etoile binaire transformable necklace in gold, jade beads, pink sapphires, rubies and diamonds, POA; vancleefarpels.com. 5. Gold necklace with precious stones, £1,540; harwell godfrey.com. 6. Gold, silver and enamel earrings, £510, gold necklace with crystal beads and enamel, £740; beabongiasca.com. 7. White gold earrings with pink conch pearls and diamonds, POA; davidmorris.com. 8. Necklace in rose gold, malachite beads and pink sapphires, £6,243; emilypwheeler.com