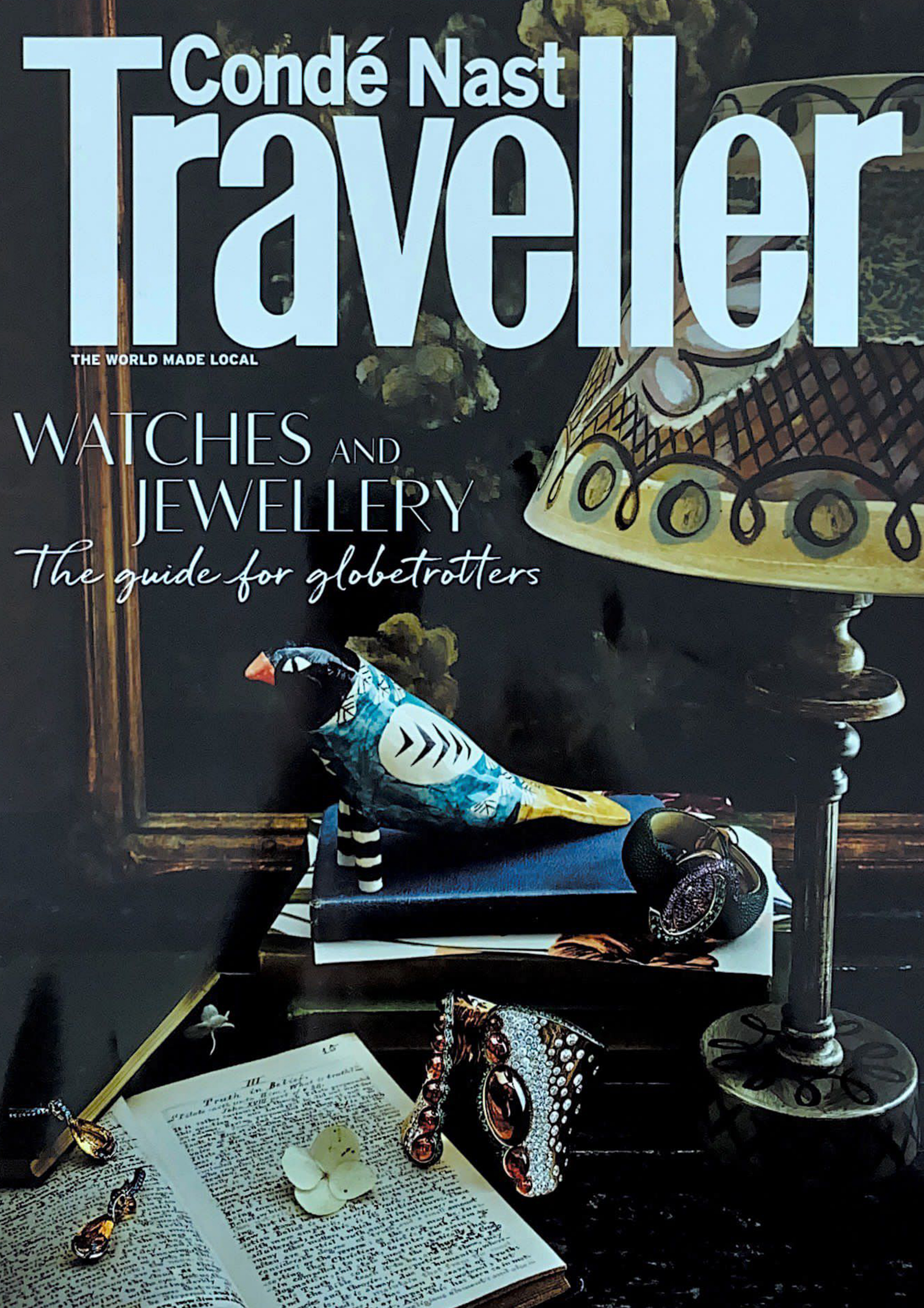


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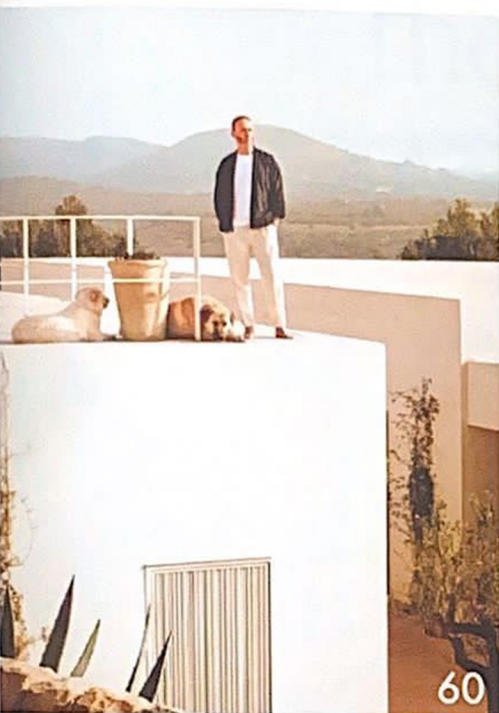
THE WORLD MADE LOCAL

WATCHES AND JEWELLERY

The guide for globetrotters



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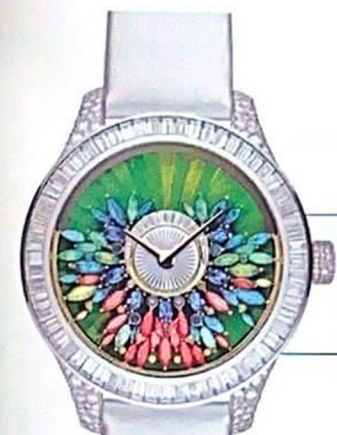
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ON THE COVER: Colorissima earrings in white gold, tourmalines and citrine; cuff in pink gold, cabochon-cut amber, emeralds and diamonds; timepiece in rose gold, emeralds and amethysts, all POA, **Fawaz Gruosi** (fawazgruosi.com). Photographed by **Nato Welton**. Art direction by **Paula Ellis**. Styled by **Jessica Diamond**



SHINING THROUGH

BEIRUT'S JEWELLERS ARE BOUNCING BACK AFTER THE EXPLOSION. BY AVRIL GROOM

WHEN NEWS CAME OF THE BLAST THAT ROCKED the port area of Beirut last year, the first reaction of those who knew members of the city's design and jewellery community was to hope for their safety. Then, to wonder how they would rebuild.

They did, of course, because that is the way life is in Beirut. Even though there is now a more intractable crisis, including economic troubles and a government hiatus, the community remains indomitable. Many spend time abroad, but this is where they belong and where the spirit that drives them resides. It's a remarkable testament to resilience and the creativity of the place.

Nearly a century ago Beirut was sophisticated and glamorous, at the crossroads of historic trade routes and a vital centre for jewellery design, craft and stone dealing, led by family firms, some still active to this day. Take Selim Mouzannar, a senior statesman



Clockwise from left: Hotel Albergo in east Beirut; window panels at Liza restaurant; marble hall at Sursock Palace; suzani textiles at Orient 499



NADA GHAZAL



From top: Fuse drop earring, £2,715; Baby Malak Original Hug Champagne earrings, £8,290; Baby Malak Flourish Champagne ring, £8,140; Fuse Glamour earring, £2,310. All in gold and diamonds, Nada Ghazal (objetdemotion.com)

Clockwise from below: Mina Daisy rings in gold, enamel and precious stones, from £1,320; Gemma ring in gold, sapphire, enamel and diamonds, £11,510; Fish for Love earring in gold, enamel and rubies, £1,580; Fish for Love earrings in gold, enamel and diamonds, £11,690, all Selim Mouzannar (selimmouzannar.com)



Above, Istanbul bracelet in gold, diamonds and rhodolites, £1,710, Selim Mouzannar (as before). Left, the gardens at Sursock Palace



SELIM MOUZANNAR



RALPH MASRI



Clockwise from above:
Modernist earrings in gold,
diamonds and emeralds,
£16,000; Arabesque Deco
ring in gold and rubies,
£1,895; Arabesque Deco
earrings in gold and
diamonds, £5,750,
all Ralph Masri
(modaoperandi.com)



Above, the dining room
at Liza, in a 19th-century
former palace. Right,
Modernist ring in gold,
emeralds and sapphires,
£19,650, Ralph Masri
(as before)



of Beirut jewellery, who initially fought against his heritage, 'because although from a young age I wanted to be a jeweller, I wanted to do it differently from my family. We all want to be different – the question is how?'

His hometown's situation has defined his creations. 'When I was 13 a bomb landed in our garden and it made me fear uncertainty and violence. My work concentrates on the beauty of nature, which is universal. I believe most of humanity is not antagonistic or extreme and the message of my designs is appreciated in all cultures yet inspired by my own.' His pieces explore nature and history through joyous hues. Translucent blue enamel on rose-gold bangles and rings, emblazoned with Ottoman multi-pointed stars in diamonds, suggest the Mediterranean, while daisy motifs in coloured stones with rich enamel reflect Lebanon's spring flowers. The Art Deco architecture of the area where he has his studio, which leads to his beloved garden, inspires daringly shaded emerald-cut stones, such as a crimson rhodolite outlined with green enamel.


In contrast, Nada Ghazal had a high-flying advertising career in Dubai before setting up her brand in 2004. 'I loved jewellery and collected from my teenage years but there were no university courses for it in Beirut then.' Returning took courage, she says, 'because life was harder here and I have no industry background. However, my family believed that I could do anything!' She started with gold wire and semi-precious stones, selling to friends, before growing the business into a global success. Her modern, delicately abstract shapes are snowset with diamonds or vivid coloured stones and are incredibly tactile. 'Beirut for me is as much an emotional connection as a place, and the emotions in my pieces resonate with women in any culture,' she says.

For Ralph Masri, who trained in London and started his business in 2013, the international approach was equally natural. Despite both his parents having careers in the jewellery industry, it wasn't

until foundation year at Central St Martins that he decided to become a jewellery designer: 'I realised this was my path.' He takes great pride in his heritage and often references it, for instance in his intricate, gem-set pieces meticulously outlined in diamonds, or centred with large, geometrically cut stones such as emeralds, but says, 'I am designing for modern women so I interpret my culture in a contemporary way that feels more universal.' His new boutique was destroyed in the blast, which forced him to concentrate on foreign markets, yet business has thrived.

Masri still focuses 'on the incredible craftsmanship of Lebanon – I produce everything there and always will'. This is the magnet that draws all three to their home city. While designers habitually travel to sell and be inspired, the artisans on whom they depend do not always have that opportunity. 'We expect war

at any time but the blast was different,' says Ghazal. 'At a stroke we lost half the city, where we lived, worked and socialised. One reason I returned was to work with wonderful craftspeople here, but we lost the studio. We rebuilt, but it's hard to run the business.'

Mouzannar agrees. 'I feel for our artisans – their structure is gone and the challenge is to keep at such a high level when spending time searching for fuel. But finding solutions brings out our creativity.' The others are equally irrepressible. 'We've always made the best of it, found a market and created our own solutions,' says Ghazal. While Masri finds it hard to plan ahead in such volatility, he also believes 'the incredible talent here finds a way to shine through. International commerce has been in our DNA for generations. It's something we're good at. Jewellery is Lebanon's top export – with good reason.' And it richly deserves support. 

TRAVELLER'S TREASURES



1. Bespoke, artisan jewellery lovingly made by designer **GEMMA ROSE**. Each hand made piece is blessed with a loving intention to help you on your journey through life. Seen here is the beautiful "Faith" necklace, created from one of a kind Granddierite and Tourmaline. Visit gemmaRosejewellery.com or follow on IG @gemmaRosejewellery

2. **ARI GISELLE FINE JEWELLERY** is a unique collection of contemporary pieces designed by Rubie Park. Established in 2018 with a vision to create a new, edgy, effortless brand inspired by her love for her daughter, Ari Giselle. Visit arigiselle.com to view the range or follow on IG @arigisellejewellery

3. Inspired by the ancient world, Mary Blum of **MARY BLUM JEWELS** creates jewellery that melds motifs from antiquity with a timeless aesthetic perfectly suited for the contemporary woman. She personally hand-fabricates her jewels from recycled precious metals and ethically-sourced stones. Featured here is an 18K Yellow Gold, Silver South Sea Pearl and Lolite Necklace from her current collection; this versatile piece may also double as a wrapped bracelet. Visit maryblum.com and follow @maryblumjewels on IG.

4. **ILLI** is an environmentally and socially responsible fine jewellery brand. Launched in July 2021, the collection is made from 100% recycled, solid precious metals and lab-grown diamonds and gemstones. On a mission to create elegant jewellery that is kinder to the planet, illi create timeless, minimalist designs. Seen here are the classic Lisbon earrings; shop at illifinejewellery.com and follow @illifinejewellery

5. **HANNAH FAYE JEWELLERY** pieces are a little bit refined, a whole lot tactile and entirely handmade. Organic elegance is at the forefront of each design, aiming to add a touch of chic into your everyday lifestyle. These 18ct gold vermeil textured curved earrings are perfect for the party season and boy do we need a party! Visit hannahfayejewellery.com or follow on IG @hannahfayejewellery

6. Inspired by an undeniable love of exotic cultures and colours, **LALOU JEWELLERY** handcrafts fine jewellery that is unconventional and bold yet timeless and trendy. Pictured is an eternity ring from the Pas-de-Trois Collection, handcrafted in 18K yellow gold with custom-cut trillion sapphires. Visit laloujewellery.com and follow @laloujewellery on IG.

7. Seen here are the 'Florence Cow Print' earrings by **CAITLIN DAW**. These Jesmonite earrings are a perfect statement piece! Each item in her collection has been hand-cast and can have endless colour and pattern combinations. No two pieces are the same! Visit caitlindawstudio.square.site to view the full collection or follow on IG @caitlindawstudio

8. Introducing 'The Lily Collection' by **NADINE JEWELLERY**. The Lily flower resembles dedication; the collection is crafted combining diamonds with blue, yellow and pink sapphires communicating serenity, joy and affection. Visit nadinejewellery.com to view the full collection and follow @nadine_jewellery on IG.

9. Uniquely crafted from one continuous line of 18K white gold, the Fishbone earrings are the latest addition to the Black Ocean collection of the London fine jewellery brand, **DEMENTIEV**. With the ethically selected diamonds and unique baroque pearls set within the gold wire, they are a distinct yet versatile year-round staple. Visit dementiev.co.uk or follow IG @dementievfinejewellery

10. **OBJET D'EMOTION** presents jewels and objects from contemporary designers, each with a beautiful story to tell. Imagined by industry expert Valery Demure for art lovers, people intrigued by provenance and process. Pictured are Nada Ghazal's 'Baby Malak Original Drop Ice Small Earrings', £3,500. Moments, thoughts and sensations are conveyed in smooth gold curves that are contrasted with scattered diamonds and precious gems. While her jewels are in essence deeply personal, they express universal emotions, allowing the wearer to embrace them as part of their very own story. Explore this curation of wondrous jewels and objects at objetdemotion.com and follow @Objet_d_emotion on IG.

11. **MERI LOU JEWELLERY** is an elegant fine jewellery brand created by New York-based designer Meri Kohen Gershman. Meri Lou's master craftsmen at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar mold timeless 14 kt gold into poetic, elegant pieces that convey a message, an action, a lifestyle. The line is deeply rooted in sustainable practices and brings awareness to environmental care. Visit merilou.com and follow @meriloujewellery on IG for more.

12. Seen here is the Nicaea necklace by **INSIEME JEWELLERY**. Exquisite design, inspired by ancient civilisations, handcrafted in silver, plated with 24-carat gold and natural precious stones. Visit insieme-jewellery.com to discover the full collection or follow on IG @insiemejewellery

13. At **VANESSA E MARIA** they create fine jewellery for modern women to indulge in effortless luxury and timeless fashion. Founded in the heart of London, their creations are manufactured locally in the United Kingdom by a team of skilled female goldsmiths. They aspire to uphold the highest quality standards while building a better world through their commitment to sustainable materials. Their jewellery is made from sustainable, 18 karat gold and responsibly sourced diamonds. Visit vanessaemaria.co.uk and follow @vanessaemariajewellery on IG to find out more.

14. **KSV JEWELLERY** is a Stockholm-based fine jewellery brand by award-winning goldsmith and designer, Kristina S. Vučković. She handcrafts sustainable and largely unisex jewellery, with a mixture of statement and minimalist pieces. Working with both geometric and organic shapes, she uses many angles to create interesting silhouettes. Visit ksvjewellery.com and follow on IG @ksvjewellery

NADA GHAZAL

FINE JEWELRY