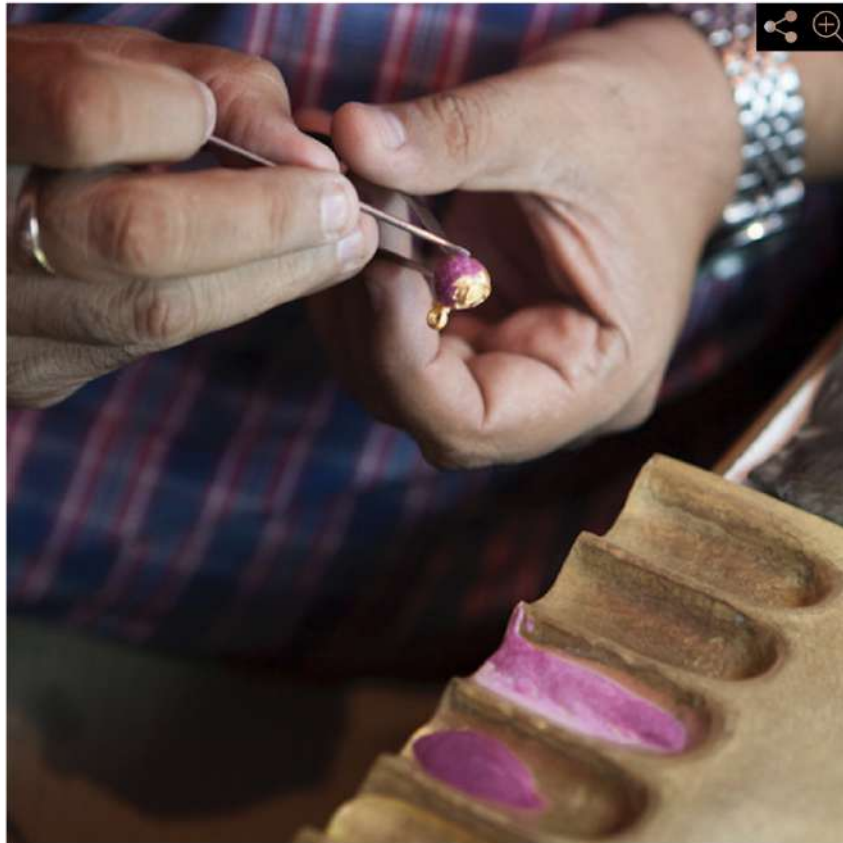


THE JEWELLERY EDITOR

Enamel in jewellery making: an in-depth look at an ancient art form

We take a closer look at the different types of enamelling that are bringing vivid colour to the world of jewellery design today.

05 October 2022 | by CLAIRE ROBERTS (/about-us/team/#author_12)



An ancient art form that has been used to decorate everything from classical Byzantine religious objects to Fabergé's iconic Imperial eggs, enamelling has been revered throughout history. Practiced for centuries as a form of artistic expression, it is the jeweller's art that enamelling is perhaps most closely associated, be it India's colourful meenakari jewels – coloured using a technique that originated in Persia more than 5,000 years ago – or the floral Art Nouveau jewels of France's René Lalique.

Alongside established enamel jewellery designers like Cicolini and Ilgiz F., others are just beginning to experiment with vitreous enamel, with beautiful results. [Nada Ghazal \(https://www.nadaghazal.com/en/home\)](https://www.nadaghazal.com/en/home) is best known for her sensuous, curvaceous jewels decorated with undulating waves of coloured gems, but she has taken a different direction with her My Muse Glory pieces – part of the new My Muse collection. Inspired by the patterns on the ceiling of the Grand Theatre in Beirut, her home city, Nada's craftspeople have used the champlevé technique to introduce colour to necklaces, ring, earrings and pendants, carving the gold and filling the cavities with vitreous glass powder, which transforms in the kiln into glossy purple, red and pink accents.



Nada Ghazal 'My Muse' Glory enamel pendant. The colourful accents are hand-painted using the champlevé enamel technique.

The vivid beauty of lacquer enamel

Because of the artisanal nature of hot enamel – even after years of practice, it is so temperamental that you never know what might happen in the kiln – jewels decorated using this technique are often one of a kind, with a price tag to match. Easier to apply is a technique known as lacquer enamel (also referred to as cold enamel), which is proving popular with designers who want to incorporate flashes of colour into repeatable collection pieces. While it can't replicate the beautiful iridescence and depth of hue of hot enamel, cold enamel is an exciting material to work with because you can achieve intense colour in a rainbow of hues.



CLAIRE ROBERTS

Claire has worked in luxury publishing for 20 years as a magazine editor with a focus on watches and jewellery, so she is an old hand at roaming the Baselworld and Couture Vegas fairs, searching out exquisite things. Claire joined ...