



museum of arts and design

## **50 JEWELRY ARTISTS FROM 20 COUNTRIES TO BE FEATURED IN LOOT 2013, MAD'S ANNUAL POP-UP EXHIBITION AND SALE OF CONTEMPORARY ART JEWELRY**

**Fashion Icon Iris Apfel and Renowned Fashion Jewelry Collector Barbara Berger Will be Honored with 2013 LOOT Award for Contemporary Art Jewelry On October 1**

New York, NY (September 16, 2013) – *LOOT 2013: MAD ABOUT JEWELRY*, the Museum of Arts and Design's annual exhibition and sale of one-of-a-kind, artist-made jewelry will return this fall from October 2–5, 2013. Now in its 13th year, *LOOT* has become the ultimate pop-up shop for contemporary studio and art jewelry, offering the public the rare opportunity to meet some of the most innovative jewelry artists in the world and directly acquire pieces from them. Over 50 jewelry artists from 20 countries are represented in this year's exhibition and sale. *LOOT 2013* will also showcase the work of two recent graduates from Pratt Institute's acclaimed studio jewelry program. Proceeds from the show benefit the Museum's exhibition and education programs.

"*LOOT* has become a premiere jewelry shopping experience in New York. There is no other event that offers the public a chance to see such a wide variety of expressive and original jewelry from around the world, meet the artists—and maybe take home a piece or two for their own collection," says Michele Cohen, *LOOT* Chair. "*LOOT* builds on MAD's longstanding history of presenting contemporary art jewelry. We are delighted to bring so many artists into the Museum and so much new work to the public through this event."

Returning for 2013 as curator of the exhibition and sale, jewelry specialist Bryna Pomp selected a varied mix of international jewelry artists on the basis of their originality, use of materials, and expert craftsmanship. Among the artists featured will be famed jeweler Eva Steinberg, known for her exceptional Art Nouveau-inspired jewelry; up-and-coming designer Stephan Hampala, whose intricately beaded jewelry evokes a textile quality; and Yoko Shimizu, whose bold and colorful work in resin is occasionally inspired by the organic qualities of wood. An important part of *LOOT*'s mission is to provide a platform and enhanced visibility for the next generation of young jewelers and *LOOT 2013* will feature stunning art jewelry by Pratt Institute alumnae Jenna Pierson and Samantha Nania from their senior thesis collections.

Countries represented at *LOOT 2013* include Argentina, Denmark, Indonesia, Japan, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. A wide variety of materials will be showcased, including traditional ones like 18K gold, sterling silver, bronze, titanium, aluminum, pearls, and semiprecious stones to more unusual ones like 3D

printed nylon, glass, felt, porcelain, volcanic lava, recycled rope, fossils, and industrial springs.

As part of this year's festivities, on October 1, the Museum will honor two fashion icons with the *2013 LOOT Award for Contemporary Art Jewelry*: Iris Apfel and Barbara Berger. At 91, Apfel continues to be a doyenne of personal style. Regarded as a fashion icon, she is often seen wearing elaborate and colorful costume jewelry as documented by style photographers like *The New York Times*' Bill Cunningham. As a young woman, Apfel began her foray into fashion and design working for *Women's Wear Daily*. While running a textile firm with her husband, Apfel established herself as an in-demand interior designer, with projects including design restorations at the White House for nine U.S. presidents. Her friend and fellow award recipient Barbara Berger is a well-known figure among jewelry and fashion enthusiasts. Berger has built an impressive collection of fashion jewelry, over 4,000 pieces, spanning the past five decades. Highlights from this treasure trove of jewels, which includes couture jewelry from Yves Saint Laurent, Dior, and Miriam Haskell, are on view in the exhibition *Fashion Jewelry: The Collection of Barbara Berger* at MAD through January 20, 2014.

A Museum-wide Jewelry Day will take place on the last day of the exhibition, Saturday, October 5 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and will offer panels on contemporary art jewelry, drop-in workshops, screenings, curator-led tours and a roster of some of the most exciting local artists and designers creating jewelry in the Open Studios.

## **ARTISTS**

"We are constantly looking for artists whose work shows original and innovative design, artistic expressiveness, and outstanding craftsmanship," added Pomp. "The process took us to different parts of the world and allowed us to meet a far-reaching group of artists and explore the latest trends and techniques in contemporary jewelry-making. We are very pleased to be able to bring such a diverse and exciting array of work together for *LOOT*."

A selection of participating artists in this year's *LOOT* includes:

- Michael Berger (Germany) – Berger's hand-made collections feature kinetic rings that move and spin on the wearer's hand.
- Dania Chelminsky (Israel) – Chelminsky works with contrasting materials, textures, and shapes, using pearl, gold, cameo and resin in unexpected ways to create elegant and modern pieces with a bold and feminine style.
- Fabien Ifirès (France) – Ifirès, who worked previously as a leather artisan for a luxury atelier, is known for combining modern and traditional saddler techniques to create his jewelry collection of cuffs, necklaces, and earrings.
- Claire Kahn (USA) – A former graphic designer for Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, and designer of innovative fountains such as the one in New York's Columbus Circle, Kahn's studio work now includes jewelry. She weaves beads, stone, silver and gold to construct a linear mosaic on long, flexible ropes, which allows the wearer to wrap them around in layers to make a necklace uniquely their own.
- Jane Macintosh (UK) – Inspired by the Bauhaus movement, Macintosh crafts one-off simple yet bold jewelry using traditional goldsmithing skills. She combines silver with gold or palladium and uses a matte finish to bring out the subtle tones and colors.

- Gerda and Nikolai Monies (Denmark) – The Danish duo makes dramatic, sculptural jewelry that amplify the materials they use. They work with a wide variety of materials including wood, semi-precious stones, horn and pearls.
- Michihiro Sato (Japan) – By meticulously carving, coloring, and stacking layers of paper, Sato creates pendants and adornments that bloom and burst with lines and soft curves.
- David and Roberta Williamson (USA) – The Williamsons are known for nature-themed jewelry that use ephemera and found objects, some of which were passed down in their families. Juxtaposing various objects, they build intricate jewelry to evoke personal histories and memories.

## **THE LOOT AWARD FOR CONTEMPORARY ART JEWELRY**

Each year, the *LOOT Award for Contemporary Art Jewelry* is presented to luminaries in the field of jewelry, including artists, collectors, and designers. This annual prize is in keeping with the long-standing commitment of the Museum of Arts and Design to presenting jewelry as an art form. MAD is the only American museum with a gallery dedicated to contemporary and modern studio and art jewelry, featuring both temporary jewelry exhibitions and installations from the permanent collection, which it began assembling soon after its founding in 1956.

The Opening Benefit Gala will take place on October 1 at 4:30, which will be followed by a dinner honoring Iris Apfel and Barbara Berger at Robert Restaurant at MAD. For tickets, visit: <http://thestore.madmuseum.org/collections/loot-2013>

## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

Images of work by all the jewelry artists, their bios, and further information about the opening gala event and Jewelry Study Day are posted on [madaboutjewelry.tumblr.com](http://madaboutjewelry.tumblr.com)

## **CREDIT**

*LOOT 2013* is made possible in part through the generous support of Barbara Tober, Chairman Emerita and Chairman Global Leadership Council, Museum of Arts and Design; and the Silver Institute: Silver Promotion Service.

## **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN**

The Museum of Arts and Design's collection of contemporary and modern studio and art jewelry documents the development of studio jewelry from its origins in the post-World War II era to the present day and includes over 600 jewelry pieces ranging from the pioneering work of early American Studio Jewelers, such as Margaret De Patta and Sam Kramer, to the groundbreaking and nontraditional methods of contemporary artists like Peter Chang and Joyce Scott.

The Museum of Arts and Design explores the value of making across all fields of contemporary creative practice. The Museum focuses on the ways in which artists and designers transform the world around us, through processes ranging from the artisanal to the digital. MAD's exhibition program is dedicated to creativity and craftsmanship, and

demonstrates the limitless potential of materials and techniques when used by gifted and innovative artists. The Museum's permanent collection is global in scope and includes art, craft, and design from 1950 to the present day. At the center of the Museum's mission is education. The Museum houses classrooms and studios for master classes, seminars, and workshops for students, families, and adults. Three open studios engage visitors in the creative processes of artists at work and enhance the exhibition programs. Lectures, films, performances, and symposia related to the Museum's collection and subjects across the full spectrum of making practices are held in a renovated 143-seat auditorium.

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