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## BIOGRAPHIES

### ABOUT LOOT CURATOR: BRYNA POMP



**Bryna Pomp** has spent her entire life in the jewelry business. She has been involved with LOOT for seven years—six as the exhibition’s Curator, in which role she has reviewed thousands of artists and designers to discover the most impressive wearable art for America’s jewelry lovers. A New York native, she grew up traveling the world, using her strategic eye to discover unique art jewelry showcasing craftsmanship, creativity, and innovation.

After graduating from Wheaton College with a double major in Art History and French, Pomp became an assistant buyer in the Fashion Jewelry Department at Federated Department Stores and later worked as a product manager for Trifari and Victoria & Company, honing her skills at the core of the jewelry industry.

### ABOUT HONOREE: CAMILLA DIETZ BERGERON



Camilla Dietz Bergeron achieved success on Wall Street as a Founding Partner of Furman Selz Mager Dietz & Birney. “There are many things in life that I wanted to achieve, and being on Wall Street was just one of them,” says Bergeron. “I love the challenge of starting something new and watching it grow and blossom.” Hence the founding of Camilla Dietz Bergeron, Ltd., a niche business that buys and sells antique, period, and estate jewelry, where she and her partner, Gus Davis, are assisted by a talented staff of four.

Through her years on Wall Street and active involvement in numerous organizations, such as the Committee of 200 and Vanderbilt University, Bergeron has gathered an extensive group of friends, many of whom have become clients. Today’s woman has a variety of needs both professionally and socially, which Bergeron seeks to address by offering special pieces at various price points.

Bergeron and Davis primarily prefer late-nineteenth-century and twentieth-century jewelry, with special emphasis on the Edwardian, Art Deco, and Retro periods. Pieces by the masters—such as Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Flato, Schlumberger, Mauboussin, and Belperron—are ferreted out whenever possible. Much of their jewelry is bought privately through their extensive contacts and has not been seen for many years. Davis is a specialist in colored stones, such as fine Burma rubies, Kashmir and Burma sapphires, and Colombian emeralds. Camilla Dietz Bergeron, Ltd., also specializes in older cuts of diamonds such as Asschers, cushions, and old Europeans.

Born in Covington, Georgia, Bergeron graduated from Vanderbilt University. Her first jobs in New York were with Chase Manhattan and Seiden & De Cuevas. In 1973 she founded Furman Selz Mager Dietz



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& Birney with four partners, to concentrate on medium-size growth companies that were often overlooked by the larger investment firms. In 1987, Furman Selz was bought by Xerox. When Bergeron left in March of 1989, she founded Camilla Dietz Bergeron, Ltd. She currently serves as Co-president of the American Society of Jewelry Historians and is on the board of Vanderbilt University.

## ABOUT HONOREE: FRANCINE LEFRAK



Francine LeFrak is a social entrepreneur and women's empowerment activist. She is the Chair Emerita of the Women's Leadership Board at the Harvard Kennedy School, which supports and promotes gender equality. In 2008, she founded Same Sky, a jewelry initiative that provides training and employment to female HIV-positive survivors of the Rwandan genocide. LeFrak offers women a hand up, not a handout, by providing them with the dignity of work and the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

Inspired by its work abroad, Same Sky now employs and empowers women who have recently been released from Hudson County Jail in New Jersey. To date, Same Sky has served over 150 Rwandan women and hundreds of female ex-offenders in New Jersey. In a country where national rates of recidivism hover just below 70%, Same Sky's rate of recidivism is 0%. The true value of Same Sky jewelry is empowerment. It is a ribbon that ties you to courageous women around the world – a beautiful piece of jewelry made more beautiful by the connection it symbolizes and how it makes you feel.

Same Sky aspires to grow and employ more women in impoverished areas, creating and inhabiting a global marketplace where the consumer can purchase beautifully made products from skilled artisan collectives. To learn more about Same Sky please visit [Samesky.com](http://Samesky.com)

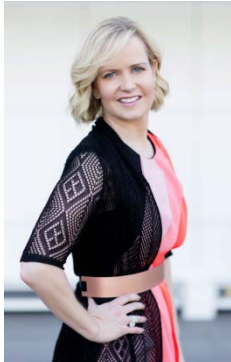
LeFrak has enjoyed a successful career on Broadway and in film and television as a producer. Her work has been marked by an impressive number of awards and recognitions, including a Tony Award for Best Musical for *Nine*. Other stage credits include *My One and Only*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *Noises Off*, to name just a few. In recognition of her work as Executive Producer of the film *Shot Through the Heart*, LeFrak won a Peabody Award. She is also the recipient of an Emmy Award for the NBC and Hallmark Hall of Fame film *Miss Rose White*. Other film credits include *Life of the Party: The Pamela Harriman Story*, *The Infiltrator*, and HBO's *Prison Stories: Women on the Inside*. LeFrak's productions have helped to turn the tide on a range of crucial social issues, such as AIDS, intolerance, women in war-torn countries, female prisoners, substance abuse, and neo-Nazism.

LeFrak holds Honorary Doctorates from Mount Ida College and Manhattanville College. She is the Chair Emerita of the Women's Leadership Board at the Harvard Kennedy School. She has been honored with awards including the "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor as presented by the French government; the United Nations Women for Peace Award; and the Women Together Award for microfinance presented at the UN. A frequent public speaker, she has spoken at the Forbes Philanthropy Summit at the UN, and in 2013, she was featured on the cover of *Forbes*. A contributor to *Forbes* and the *Huffington Post*, where she is a leading voice in cutting-edge philanthropy, LeFrak is fully dedicated to eradicating extreme poverty through job creation and promoting educational and employment opportunities for women and girls at home and abroad.



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## ABOUT HONOREE: KARA ROSS



Kara Ross fell in love with the art of jewelry making after traveling to Africa as a teenager and bringing home a native gemstone. Upon Ross' return to her hometown of Philadelphia, her mother took her to Jeweler's Row, where she designed a square-cut ring on an 18-karat-gold band with diamonds. Ross has said that creating something wholly original at a young age affected her greatly and has guided her vision as a designer.

Following graduation from Georgetown University and a short stint in advertising at *Harper's Bazaar*, Ross decided to pursue a career in jewelry. She became a certified Gemologist, and for many years she used diamonds, pearls, and 18-karat gold to create one-of-a-kind custom pieces for private clients. Her most famous private client to date is President Obama and the First Lady, for whom she created exclusive gifts made from magnolia wood that originated from the White House lawn. While the initial piece was created for visiting heads of state, the collaboration has continued, and Ross continues to design gifts for esteemed visitors and employees of the White House.

She launched her eponymous company, Kara Ross New York, in 2003, with the vision to create jewelry that has character and imagination. Ross finds inspiration in alternative materials like jet, lava, and wood, as well as precious and semiprecious gemstones in their raw, organic forms. The company debuted with a stunning fine jewelry collection, which received rave reviews from editors and clients alike. In 2013 she opened the first Kara Ross boutique, at 655 Madison Avenue. She partnered with interior designer and architect Tony Ingrao, who created an environment that highlights Ross' fine jewelry and handbags. The result is an urban feel with warmth: an excellent mix of function and style.

In 2014, while redesigning her own engagement ring, Ross found herself wondering why, with all of the change women's empowerment has wrought in today's society, do diamonds still have such an antiquated meaning? She made it her mission to create a brand that surrounds and supports a cause that she strongly believes in: women's empowerment. When you look at the adjectives that pertain to a diamond—beautiful, strong, multifaceted, unbreakable, brilliant—you see that they also represent women. Kara Ross takes the symbol of the diamond and uses it to represent women's strength. The goal is to have women think of *themselves* as diamonds.

In 2015, Ross launched DIAMONDS UNLEASHED, whose mission is to inspire confidence and create educational and microfinance opportunities for women and girls globally, because if you provide a girl with an education it not only changes her world, but the world of those around her. DIAMONDS UNLEASHED is a company with a social purpose; all net profits support causes that further its mission. The brand is currently working on collaborations in children's wear created by women in South Africa, as well as ready-to-wear and athleisure. In just nine months, the brand has garnered over five million earned media impressions.

Recognized as pieces of art, Ross' fine jewelry can now be seen at museums around the country, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Arts and Design; and the San Diego Natural History Museum. A special exhibition recently took place at the GIA Museum in Carlsbad, California. Her pieces have also been included in Ruth Peltason's book *Living Jewels: Masterpieces from Nature*. An award-winning designer, Ross received the GEM Award for Design from the Jewelry



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Information Center in 2014. In 2012, she was chosen as one of the International Designers of Distinction by the Silver Promotion Service and was also honored with the Women's Jewelry Association Excellence in Design Award. In 2008, she received Fashion Group International's Rising Star Award for Jewelry Design.

## ABOUT HONORARY CHAIR: DAME ZANDRA RHODES



Born in Chatham, Kent, UK, in 1940, Zandra Rhodes was introduced to the world of fashion by her mother, a fitter for the Paris fashion House of Worth and later a lecturer at Medway College of Art. Rhodes studied at Medway and then at the Royal College of Art, London, focusing on printed textile design. Her early textile designs were considered too outrageous by the traditional British manufacturers, so she decided to make dresses from her own fabrics, pioneering the very special use of printed textiles as an intrinsic part of the garments she created. In 1967 she opened her first shop, the Fulham Road Clothes Shop in London, with Sylvia Ayton.

In 1969 Rhodes set up on her own and took her collection to New York, where Diana Vreeland featured her garments in American *Vogue*. She subsequently started selling to Henri Bendel in New York, followed by Sakowitz, Neiman Marcus, and Saks. In the UK, she was given her own area in Fortnum & Mason, London. She was Designer of the Year in 1972 and Royal Designer for Industry in 1974. In 1975, she founded her own shop off Bond Street, London, and her own boutique area in Marshall Field, Chicago.

Rhodes' own lifestyle is as dramatic, glamorous, and extroverted as her designs. With her bright-pink hair, theatrical makeup, and art jewelry, she has stamped her identity on the international world of fashion. She was one of the new wave of British designers who put London at the forefront of the international fashion scene in the 1970s. Her unique use of bold prints, fiercely feminine patterns, and theatrical use of color have given her garments a timeless quality that makes them unmistakably a Rhodes creation. In 1977 she pioneered the pink and black jersey collection with holes and beaded safety pins that earned her the moniker "Princess of Punk." Her posters from this period have been a continuous inspiration for makeup artists and are now collector's items.

Rhodes has designed for clients as diverse as Diana, Princess of Wales; Jackie Kennedy Onassis; Elizabeth Taylor; and Freddie Mercury of the rock group Queen. She continues to clothe and design for the rich and famous around the world, from royalty to rock stars, including HRH Princess Michael of Kent, Debbie Harry, Bianca Jagger, Kylie Minogue, Anastasia, and Paris Hilton. Her dresses are the ultimate dress-up dress. Helen Mirren, star of *The Queen*, wore a Zandra Rhodes when she received her BAFTA Award, and Sarah Jessica Parker dressed up in a Zandra on *Sex and the City*. Her vintage pieces, which have long been collected by Tom Ford and Anna Sui, have been worn by Kelly Osbourne, Ashley Olsen, Kate Moss, and Naomi Campbell.

Zandra Rhodes collections are sold in the top stores and boutiques around the world, but her work does not stop with dresses and printed textiles. It encompasses various exciting licenses,



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including jewelry, wrapping paper, china for Royal Doulton, and furs for Pologeorgis in New York. She has also collaborated with MAC to produce a limited-edition makeup line. Since 2000, her career has diversified to include designing sets and costumes for the opera. Following work for San Diego Opera, which invited her to design costumes for *The Magic Flute*, she was asked to design both sets and costumes for Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, which has toured around the United States and Canada. Most recently, she worked with Houston Grand Opera on Egyptian-inspired designs for Verdi's *Aida*, which went on to show at the English National Opera and San Francisco Grand Opera as well as in San Diego.

Additionally, Rhodes set up London's Fashion and Textile Museum, which was officially opened in May 2003 by HRH Princess Michael of Kent. Mexican architect Ricardo Legorreta designed the museum, which is in stunning pink and orange, and already has a preservation plaque. Dedicated to showing the work of fashion and textile designers from the 1950s onward, the museum has created several notable exhibitions: *My Favorite Dress*, *The Little Black Dress*, and Rhodes' very own *Zandra Rhodes: A Lifelong Love Affair with Textiles*, a major monographic exhibition exploring the 40-year career of the iconic British designer. Since its original opening, the exhibition has shown in museums in cities across the world, including the Franz Mayer Museum in Mexico City; RMIT in Melbourne; Corso Como in Milan; the Mingei International Museum in San Diego; and, most recently, the National Textile Museum in Kuala Lumpur.

Rhodes was made a Commander of the British Empire in 1997 in recognition of her contribution to fashion and textiles and has nine Honorary Doctorates, from universities in both the UK and the US. In May 2010, she was installed as Chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, UK, and she was made a Dame in the Queen's latest honours list. In 2016, Pierpaolo Piccioli of Valentino chose Rhodes to create all of the textile designs for his spring/summer 2017 collection, which launched in Paris in October. In London, Rhodes has re-created some of her most iconic designs for her Archival Collection at [MATCHESFASHION.COM](http://MATCHESFASHION.COM).