



Jewellery

# MODERN HEIRLOOMS

*Penny McCormick discovers new jewellery collections packed with personality*



Ellis Fanning wore a Cartier necklace to the 2024 Oscars. The necklace originally designed by Tiffany & Co. is composed of round old-cut diamonds in a multi-row setting.

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UMMER is the best time to visit Hillsborough Castle, Co. Down, when its historic 100-acre gardens are in full bloom. Visitors can wander the ornamental walled garden, take in the fragrant Granville rose garden, the serene Lime and Yew Tree walks and the formal jubilee Parterre (redesigned by Catherine FitzGerald). A focal point is Lady Alice's Temple, gifted as a wedding present to the castle's chatelaine Lady Alice Hill in 1867 by her brother, the 5th Marquess of Downshire.

For its latest high jewellery "Paice" collection, Boodles was inspired by the stories, details and gardens of six historic palaces – from Kensington Palace, London to Hillsborough Castle, Co. Down, the official residence of the royal family in Northern Ireland since 1925. Boodles has cleverly interpreted Lady Alice's Temple in a dazzling ring and pendant featuring Ashoka diamonds, aquamarines and mint-green tourmalines. A tassel of stones beneath the piece can be removed, allowing the jewellery to be worn in multiple ways for versatility and style.

Heirloom jewels such as these are trending, from post-modern silhouettes to Art Deco designs. Up for debate is whether this is down to Taylor Swift, whose vintage-inspired engagement ring brought the spotlight back to ornate and decorative designs. There's also been a resurgence of precious vintage pieces on the red carpet. Elle Fanning wore a stunning Cartier necklace from 1905 to this year's Oscars, the Wisteria design complementing the embroidery on her Givenchy gown.

"At our recent **Fine Jewellery & Watches** auction, we noted a strong appetite for signed collectible heirloom pieces, where hammer prices surpassed the estimates," says Claire-Laurence Mestrallet, director at Adams Auctioneers, Dublin. A 1950s Buccellati sapphire bangle estimated at €15,000-€20,000 fetched a hammer price of €50,000, a Bulgari Monete necklace from the 1980s estimated at €15,000-€25,000 was sold for €34,000. Rare



Princess Bird chrysoptase brooch, from the Blue Book 2025: Hidden Garden. Tiffany & Co.



Lady Alice's Temple, Hillsborough Castle.



1. Colour Blossom BO Star Pendant in pink gold with pink mother of pearl and diamond, Louis Vuitton. 2 & 3. Lady Alice's Temple ring and pendant with an oval shape aquamarine with Ashoka diamonds, and brilliant cut diamonds set in platinum, with green tourmalines, aquamarines, tsavorite and diamonds set in platinum. www.boodles.com. 4. Platinum and natural diamond Quatre pendant, Sam Lafford, www.samlafford.com. 5. A pair of early 20th century pearl and diamond pendant earrings which sold for €540,000 at Adams Auctioneers recent Fine Jewellery & Ladies Watches auction, www.adams.ie. 6. Oasiy enamel, Annushka, www.annushka.com. 7. Masal three band diamond pave ring, Marco Bicego, www.applehys.ie.

gemstones, from Kashmir sapphires to yellow diamonds, sky rocketed too but it was a pair of natural pearl earrings estimated at €25,000-€35,000 which fetched a hammer price of €340,000 and added to the sale total, just shy of €3m – the highest record for a jewellery auction in Ireland!

For collectors, an imagined garden where blossoms unfurl and butterflies take flight are some of the spectacular pieces in vivid yellow diamonds, pink sapphires, and aquamarines featured in Tiffany & Co's "Blue Book 2025: Hidden Garden" collection. The Tiffany Blue Book was first published in 1915 as "A Catalogue of Useful and Fancy Articles". Its modern iteration showcases one of a-kind pieces designed by chief artistic officer Nathalie Verdille. The collection also pays homage to designer Jean Schlumberger, renowned for his fantastical creations inspired by flora and fauna as well as the gardens of his friend Bunny Mellon. Within the Hidden Garden collection is a new iteration of Schlumberger's famous Bird on a Rock motif and brooch, first designed in 1955, when he joined Tiffany & Co.

Another instantly recognisable motif is Louis Vuitton's Monogram, created in 1890 by Georges Vuitton who was inspired by a love of Japonism. It's seen in the effortlessly elegant new Colour Blossom Fine Jewellery collection, made for stacking and available in pink and white mother-of-pearl, onyx, malachite and the eye-catching, navy blue hued sodalite (or salt stone).

It's summer jewellery is defined by floral motifs (from Diorrivers pretty Beush and Broom necklace to Alex Monroe's whimsical collections), it's also infused with travel symbols.

On my wishlist, a piece from the Marco Bicego Collection inspired by destinations such as Marrakech and the Masai Mara, Kenya. Launching on June 12 at Design Works, Dublin 2 is designer Sam Lafford's new Quattro collection, in 18ct gold and platinum with natural diamonds. The name comes from the four cardinal points, the direction of the compass. Sam explains, "A symbol of guidance and purpose, these pieces are a silent reminder and recalibration – a way of saying, I know which way I am going". ■