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A chat with

BRENDAKANG

Reviving Vintage Jewellery



A CHAT WITH

BRENDA KANG



YOU TRAVEL A LOT. IS THERE A PARTICULAR CITY OR COUNTRY THAT YOU LOVE TO SOURCE FOR RARE JEWELLERY AND ANTIQUES?

New York City, Paris and Geneva are my favourites.

ASIANS DO NOT SEEM TO APPRECIATE VINTAGE OR PRE-OWNED JEWELLERY ITEMS AND ANTIQUES COMPARED TO THE EUROPEANS. IS THIS BECAUSE OF THE ASIAN CULTURE AND TABOOS?

Yes, in the past buying vintage for some meant you didn't have enough money to buy something new. Perhaps with our parents' generation, who also grew up being more superstitious, to the bad vibes of vintage. I now see buyers in their 30's-50's more exposed, with frequent travel, studying abroad and with the influence of Instagram, Facebook etc, many are much more accepting of vintage pieces, just as more people are collecting art as investment than ever before, the same can be said of vintage jewellery.





DO YOU SEE THIS CHANGING WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION, WHO SEEM TO BE DEVELOPING A GOOD EYE FOR CREATIVITY, QUALITY AND DESIGN?

Yes, absolutely. The younger generation who grew up with instant internet access, knowing what is cool, hip and rare across the globe, are far more discerning. They want to be different and often shun mass produced so called luxury products.

IF WE GAVE YOU \$20MILLION WHAT PIECE OF RARE JEWELLERY WOULD YOU BUY AT AUCTION?

I would love to purchase any piece of Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Bulgari or JAR jewellery from Elizabeth Taylor's, Ellen Barkin's or Doris Duke's collection.

WHAT 3 IMPORTANT THINGS DO YOU LOOK OUT FOR IN A PIECE OF VINTAGE JEWELLERY BEFORE DECIDING IT'S A GOOD ACQUISITION?

Quality and condition of gems, workmanship and design of the piece and most importantly authenticity.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A YOUNG GIRL WHO WANTS TO OWN AN ENTERPRISE LIKE YOURS AND WANTS TO DO WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

Look at as much vintage jewellery as you can, only from looking and handling them can you get a feel for good quality, well made pieces. Read as many jewellery books as you can, old auction catalogues are also a good resource, but above all else, you will need to have a passion for vintage jewellery.

www.revivaljewels.com

