



HOTTEST HAUTE JEWELLERY

The Gem Finder

A FORMER CHRISTIE'S JEWELLERY EXPERT
CREATES A HAUTE NEW SERVICE FOR
HISTORICAL JEWELLERY AFICIONADOS

BY CHONGWAN TAY

Elizabeth Taylor, the incorrigibly bejewelled diva of all time, once said of her staggering collection of gems: "I'm here to take care of it and to love it, for we are only temporary custodians of beauty." It is a sentiment that Brenda Kang, founder of REVIVAL, Asia's first treasury of vintage jewellery and objects, shares.

One of only a handful of antique and vintage jewellery experts in the Asian region, Kang enjoyed a 15-year tenure with Christie's, where she worked on collections and auctions of the estates of Doris Duke, Harry Winston, Van Cleef & Arpels, Teresa Po Lau, Elizabeth Taylor and their ilk. In September this year, she established REVIVAL, which curates and purveys rare and timeless pieces of jewellery for erudite clients.

Kang scours the world's estates and markets for her interesting finds. Her trove includes gems as stately as a Georges Fouquet art nouveau choker circa 1910, a glamorous David Webb emerald, a diamond and gold bangle bracelet (circa 1967) from Elizabeth Taylor's collection, to quirky bracelet charms, antique brooches and a particularly remarkable 1960s William Ruser 14-karat gold-and-ruby hair comb in its original pouch. Each piece of treasure in the carefully curated collection tells a story, be it of whimsical fancy or historical significance.

"The vintage jewels and objects that we have give interested individuals a rare opportunity to own a piece of history," says Kang. "These rare finds are typical reflections of finesse and virtuosity of the artisans and craftsmen from the past that cannot be replicated today." Some major pieces come with papers that document their backgrounds and Kang will regale her clients with charming tales behind each piece and the journey she took to find it.

REVIVAL's first showcase at Malmaison, which ended in November, reflected Kang's impeccable taste and astute sense of what appeals to collectors and novices alike. Edwardian diamond pieces, Art Deco gems, vintage Cartier, Lalique and Bulgari mingled among antique show finds and quirky beauties such as an antique gold and gem-set pocket watch from the 19th century in the form of a bejewelled elephant.

Specially put-together showcases aside, what rare gem collectors will appreciate most about REVIVAL is Kang's ability to source pieces according to their unique specifications, not to mention her well-documented expertise in authenticating them. ■ WWW.REVIVALJEWELS.COM