



*Pomellato
high jewellery*

FIVE TRENDS TO FOLLOW

This festive season and well into 2024, here's a host of ways to add an idiosyncratic – but oh-so-fashionable – sparkle to your ensembles.

Words: SMITHA SADANANDAN

CHAIN REACTION

Whoever told you never to mix metals hadn't the faintest idea that someday that would become the new style code. Warm yellow gold, sleek silver, white and rose gold and platinum are all perfect metals with which to create a happy jumble of chains. Layer up chains on your neck, snap them on to the wrist or wrap them around your ankles. The rule is to play it cool with chains – from oversized, chunky ones to delicate versions, and pearl strands and colourful ceramic-coated chains to gender-neutral styles and links redolent of signature aesthetics. Textural nuances also lend tangible newness to chains. Boucheron knocked it out of the park with its Carte-Blanche More-Is-More collection. It was a "Hallelujah!" moment for jewellery lovers: the *maison's* oversized flat orange and blue links necklace, decorated with blue, white and black hyceram in titanium and white gold, echoed quirky, cartoonish aesthetics, imbuing it with a feeling of lightness and modernity.

On a different register, jewellery houses such as Tiffany, Dior, Pomellato and Messika have increasingly opted to interpret links in fresh ways, and infusing more wearability to earrings, bracelets and necklaces. Contemporary designers, too, are scaling up their collections with links – whether by borrowing motifs from best-sellers, or dreaming up novel forms. Sculptor and jewellery designer Anna Khouiri, who showcased her newest necklaces at Christie's this summer, designed them as part torque-part oval links rendered in gold or encrusted with diamonds. Oval forms, according to Khouiri, symbolise the feminine. "My work conveys my feelings, my thoughts, my past, my goals for the future – every part of me that makes up my life," she explains.

Independent designers are starting to take links seriously. More than simply using existing link patterns, they've created their own. Vram's sculptural Chrona links, Brent Neale's chubby Knot links, Kavant & Sharart's architectural Origami links, Twist Kaleidoscope links, Fernando Jorge's Sync collection with integrated links, State Property's Markeli links accented with tiny golden orbs or the Bolton series with a twist on the popular mariner chain, Azlee's Greek patterned links, Sorellina's Capri link necklace and tiered earrings with stone inlay, Robinson Pelham's Chroma ceramic coated links in bright orange, yellow, turquoise – all are outcomes of countless narratives inspired by creativity. Walters Faith and Marla Aaron



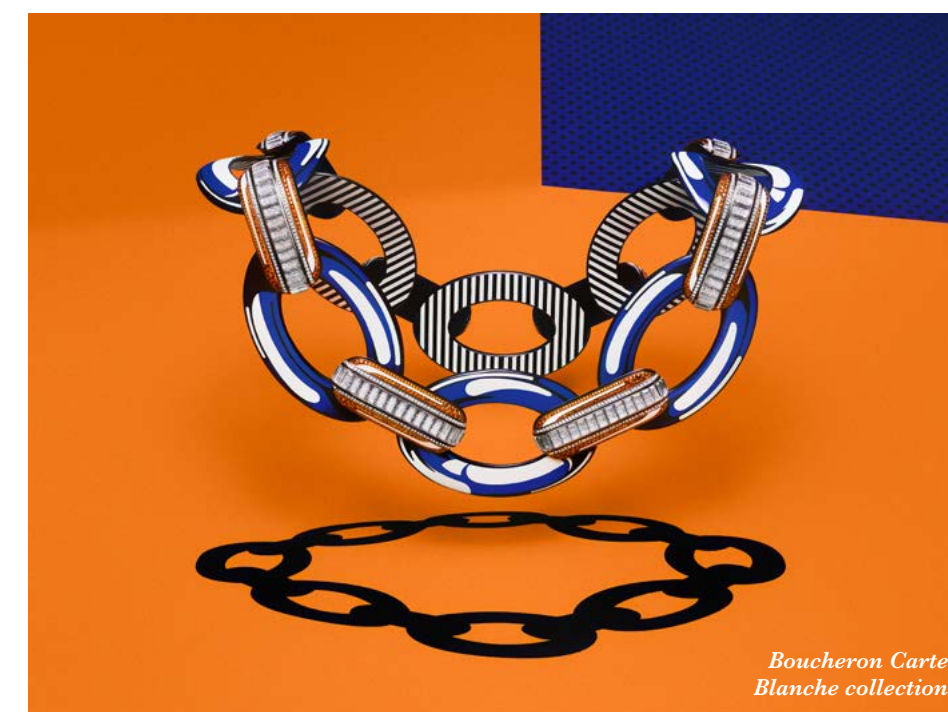
*Ana Khouiri diamond
necklace with pink
diamond*



Peruffo



*Nadine Ghosn
diamond bike chain*



*Boucheron Carte
Blanche collection*

Tiffany & Co lock bracelet*Ice Cube bracelet from Chopard*

THIS IS IT!

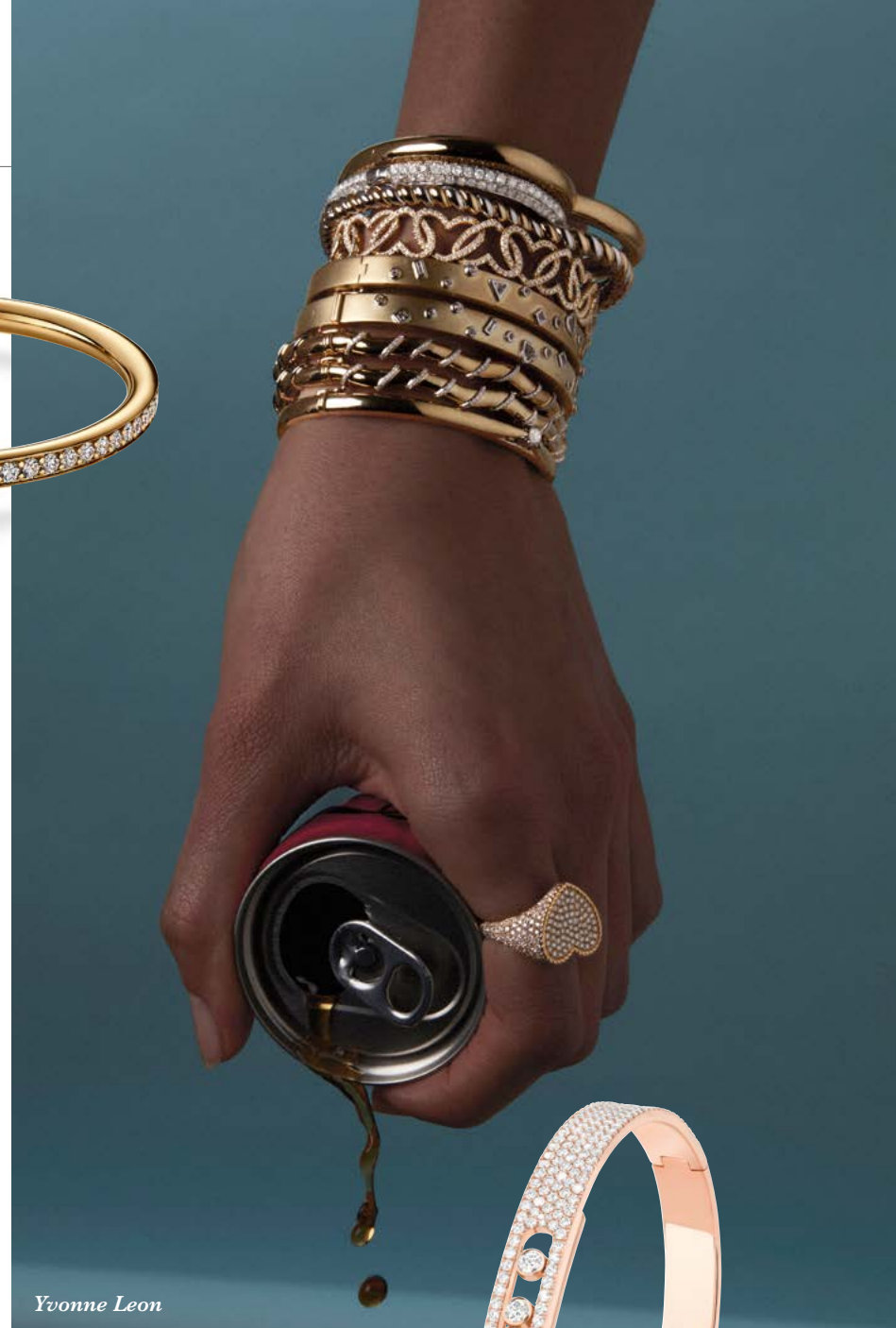
Slim bangles have cemented their status as the new It accessory, offering effortless shine from daytime to after-dark. Slim bangles are the perfect excuse to champion a party on your wrist. Stack up gold bangles with diamond- or coloured-gem-punctuated ones – and slide in a few enamelled bangles from a bunch of designers, if you're a fan of those. The It-bangles have become a jewellery staple for many. Roll up the sleeves of your chunky knits to show the sparkle or slide them on to the sleeves and glam up your winterwear.

The Cartier Love bracelets that come with a screwdriver, the Juste un Clou, are all-time favourites. Cartier describes them thus: "A love child of '70s New York, the Love collection is a symbol of free-spirited love." Inspired by a padlock, a renowned motif since the 1880s, the Tiffany Lock is a must-have if you love bangles: the design now comes sprinkled with pink sapphires. And be sure to have fun with Messika's Move Noa and Romane collections, Chaumet's Bee My Love bangles, Dior Bois de Rose, Chopard's Ice Cube bangles. Subtle or overly sparkly, the new It-bangles have significant loyalists.

The sentiment matters when you want to keep things personal: diamonds set into morse codes, or secret engravings – take your pick. Designers are happy to customise bangles with birthstones. Yasmin Tjoeng of Maison Tjoeng combines a soulful story with her Midnight Adagio collection. Her asymmetrical ridged bangle is inspired by a New York saxophonist in the 1960s who became jaded with the commercialisation

of jazz and playing in clubs. "He'd take his saxophone to the Brooklyn bridge in the middle of the night and play with abandon out into the night sky, just for the beauty and love of the music," Tjoeng says.

Jamie Books of Mason and Books has translated the idea of a "free-flowing ribbon finding its shape, just as we all discover meaning through the messy disorder of our everyday lives" into a hinged bracelet named Folded Chiffon. Pull your look together in chic slim bangles from Hearts on Fire, Nikos Koulis, Kwiat, Fernando Jorge, Jouer, Ippolita, David Yurman, Melissa Kaye, Yvonne Léon, Rainbow K, Anita Ko, Boochier, Dinh Van, L'Atelier Nawbar, Jemma Wynne, Sorellina and Emily P. Wheeler. Wavy, square, oval, round – choose a shape that best fits your wrist. Or just go crazy with designs you love.

Yvonne Leon*The Move Noa bagle from Messika Paris**Chaumet's Bee My Love diamond bracelet*

PEARL POWER

The new tribe of pearl designers rustle up minimalist, sometimes edgy and always uber-cool styles. The new mantra: transform pearls into adornments that prompt exciting purchases. Japanese designers Hirotaka and Yuta Ishihara use pearls in fun and sleek forms. The challenge with pearls, observes Hirotaka, lies in breaking away from their historical association with formal occasions. Since 2013, pearls have been integrated into more casual attire. He aims to blend contrasting values, infusing a rebellious spirit into his designs to make them distinctive.

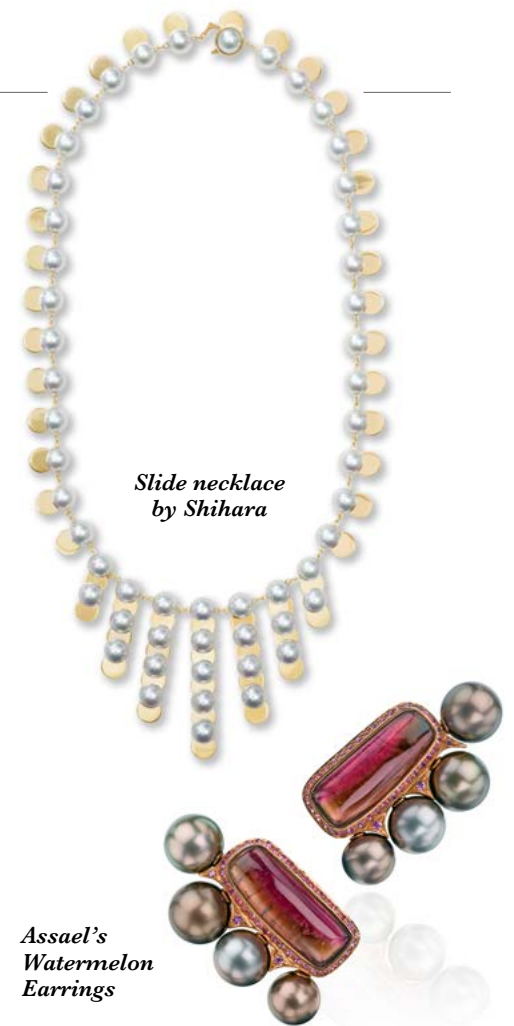
"My intention is to avoid excessive elegance and instead maintain a street luxury vibe," says Hirotaka, who works with a diverse range of pearls for his namesake brand.

Meanwhile, Yuta Ishihara offers sassy pieces in his Half Pearl collection, where pearls nestle in gold hemispheres. "A round Akoya pearl is encased in a half sphere of gold and set at varying angles, from zero, 45, 90 and 135 degrees to 180, so by playing with

the angles, you can choose to expose more of the pearl or the gold," he says. The Slide series, from his second brand Yutai, incorporates pearls that have been sliced in half and backed in gold to look as if they've slid apart. Ishihara's Modular collection is yet another example of his genius. He uses hollow gold hardware to deftly "break up" the string of pearls, which in turn permits a single string to be transformed into two or three strands within the design.

Another designer with a perennial love for pearls is Melanie Georgacopoulos, whose background is in sculpture and who works with pearls in unseen interpretations. Besides designing for her own brand, Georgacopoulos also collaborates with Tasaki on her M/G Tasaki line.

"Often in the M/G Tasaki pieces, the material follows the design rather than the other way around," she says. Recently, she evolved the very popular Arlequin Collection, by adding a thin layer of yellow gold to contrast with the white of the pearl.

Slide necklace by Shihara*Assael's Watermelon Earrings*

"The angle at which each gold cap is placed is a subtle but effective way to create a sense of fluidity in each piece. The eye flows from pearl to pearl effortlessly," she adds. Her latest M/G Tasaki piece, the Double Line Bracelet, is result of her quest for perfect balance in opposing elements. A line of pearls floats on gold disks outlined with diamonds. The hinges, which allow movement, are brilliantly hidden within the gold. For her own brand, the jeweller uses mother-of-pearl in minimalist as well as maximalist ways.

Indian brand Moksh, for its part, taps into its traditional proprietary pearl-weaving technique by using micro-seed pearls (around 0.7mm) for several of its designs. The pearls are deftly threaded, by skilled pearl weavers, using a needle, aided by magnifying glasses and microscopes.

If you're seeking out modern perspectives, Mikimoto, Tasaki, Austy Lee, Yoko London, Peruffo, Persée would be the go-to brands. However, there are others such as Renato Cipullo, Delfina Delettrezz, Sophie Bille Brahe, Pacharee, Sauer, Christina Soubli, Tejen, Kavant & Sharart, Eéra, Mason and Books, Mateo, Zeemou Zeng, Alexia Gryllaki, Marei, Halleh, all of which meld distinct perspectives on precious metals for pearl styles that you'd want to wear now.

*Austy Lee**Mikimoto**EÉRA*

