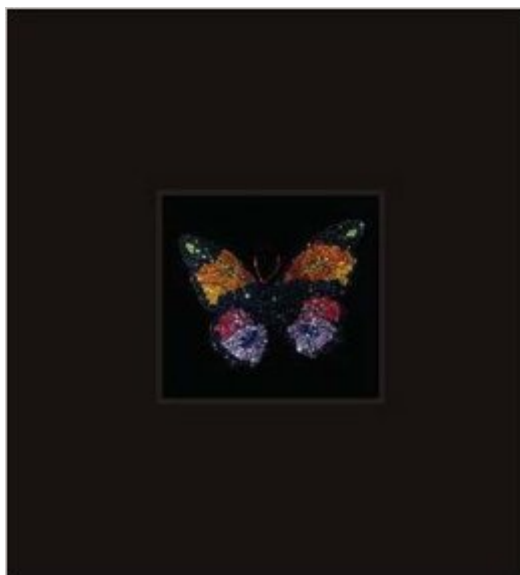


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Jewels By JAR (Metropolitan Museum Of Art Series)



Synopsis

Called "the Fabergé of our time" by Diane von Furstenberg, Joel A. Rosenthal, who works in Paris under the name JAR, is one of the most acclaimed jewelry designers of the past thirty years. JAR is known for his use of precious and semi-precious stones resplendent with myriad shades of vibrant color and set in organic shapes: one brooch, for instance, features lifelike petals in subtly differentiated hues, made from a thousand pavé sapphires and amethysts. The New York Times has described his jewelry as "ebullient, stubborn, audacious, funny, contradictory," while JAR himself has characterized his work as "somewhere between geometry and a bouquet of flowers." This book, featuring nearly 40 pieces from throughout JAR's career, provides a concise, accessible, elegantly designed retrospective of the best of his jewelry creations, and is the only book of its kind on his work available in English.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The good: Finally, more than just a handful of images of JAR's work finally collected into a single volume that most people can afford. Unless you have \$1,400 to spend on that other two-volume set, I don't know of any other substantial print collection of the artist's work. The bad: It's a very limited look at JAR's portfolio, in a small format. The images used aren't always the highest quality, and the angles at which pieces were photographed are often odd and don't allow you a full view of the piece, which can be frustrating. I've seen much better illustrations in auction catalogs. Regardless, if you're a fan of JAR, you'll have to have this book, simply because, for most people, it's the only

option. The day after it was released, it was already "temporarily out of stock" - and given the high level of interest in JAR's work, I'm sure it won't be available for long, and will become a sought after collector's item. Until I can convince myself that the other thousand-dollar books are a worthwhile investment, this will have to do.

One of the most gorgeous jewelry books Ever. I own them all--Tiffany, Faberge, Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Yard, Flato, Art Deco jewelry, etc. you name it, I have it. Hands down--this is the most scrumptious, gorgeous, delicious book of them all. Pieces of jewelry so creative, humorous, colorful and ingenious as to literally leave you gasping with surprise and delight. Truly, I have never seen anything like these oh-so-precious witticisms both in terms of design and craftsmanship. My only criticism (well, there are two), is that it wasn't long enough and the book was smaller than expected--about 9" x 9". Even so, I'm glad to have it, having been wait-listed for almost a year on the original book only to have my order cancelled, after which the price sky-rocketed into the thousands-of-dollars stratosphere. A fabulous addition to any collection!

I was looking forward for this book, but I'm slightly disappointed. I was hoping for a much larger coffee-table book with a wider selection of objects. However, the book has a medium-size square shape, and housed in a thick cardboard sleeve. The photographs are generally good but needed more light and different angles. All the pieces are set against a black background which works fine for some pieces but not quite effective with others. However, given that this book is the only available account on Jar that is reasonably priced, then I can't complain that much. Glad to have the book and would recommend it.

I cringe when people compare JAR to Faberge. Faberge was a great jeweler and artist but it's like comparing a sculptor (Faberge) to a poet (JAR). The work similar themes but their outcomes are completely different. As a dentistry student in the 80's (I love jewelry but work silver and gold in other ways) I first saw JAR's baubles thru specialized magazines. I was mesmerized by the colors, techniques and beauty of the pieces. Tantalizing hobby to follow him as his jewels made rare apparitions. Then the exhibition in England with a magnificent catalog but, alas, could not be shipped to PR. Now this book give us a glimpse of the beautiful work of this master. If you love jewelry (and these jewels are as rare as hen's teeth) don't pass this opportunity. I know I'll never will own a piece of JAR jewelry but at least I saw heaven.

Don't waste your money on this book. It is a compendium of JAR's lesser known, and not very lovely, jewels. Such a pity as I was really looking forward to this book. Although the pictures are professionally taken, the jewels that were chosen to represent JAR are quite inferior to his better known jewels and not a good representation of his brilliance.

Understanding the secret world of Jar is not easy because there simply isn't a great deal of information, photos etc around on the Internet, magazines or newspapers about him and his work. So I took a chance on this book. I must admit that although the jewelry is beautiful and inspiring, the format is disappointing. Many of the photographs are "just OK", and the book is smallish in size. I never understand why, when given an opportunity to create something great, people choose to settle for mediocre. When the material you have to work with is as great as Jar's work, the book should be spectacular as well. That simply isn't the case here. If you are interested in this type of jewelry I would recommend Dior Joaillerie instead. It is a fabulous book, large in format with spectacular pictures. I bought that one here on also and I am not at all disappointed.

This man's jewelry creations are over the top in creative ideas and expressions. Then add the quality and workmanship, and you have a piece Museum worthy. I have followed his career and seen him finally get the attention he deserves. He is a genius living in our time! And the book reflects it. If you feel you need to see more, there is a huge collection in a more comprehensive book of his work. Worth the price, indeed!!

As a Master Goldsmith and Certified Gemologist, as well as an avid collector of books about fine jewelry; I can state that not only is JAR a modern day Faberge, but this simply gorgeous collectors book of his exhibit at The Met, will more than quadruple in value from its price now. An amazing book, and an excellent art book investment- I bought two; one to enjoy, and one to re-sell in the future. ENJOY!!

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