

# VOGUE

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## The Jewellery House

On Saturday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 24, four international jewelry designers present their new collections in Lucia Odescalchi's showroom in Milan



6/10 Marie Khouri - Ring by Marie Khouri. Photo courtesy by press office

This is the first time these three jewelry designers – from London and Vancouver – will have shown their pieces in Italy. They will be guests for two days in the Milan showroom of the very Italian jewelry designer Lucia Odescalchi.

The event, which is called The Jewellery House, will open Saturday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. and close on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. It is a joint project with the Amusinggold.com web project, which selected the designers. What these designers have in common is they are great innovators whose style communicates an avant-garde message with shapes and materials that are decidedly unusual.

Lucia Odescalchi's one-off pieces are the cornerstone of her lines, but she is also coming out with the new Unika line focused on so-called 'druze', which are a crystalized agates plated in platinum or gold. There's also the Continuity collection, which plays with color and more squared elements. Lucia Odescalchi infuses her collections with determination and personality and is consistent in her use of a lot of metal, typically with cold shades like iron, steel and burnished gold.

Maria Piana's costume jewelry has a definite fashion appeal. The young London-based designer's pieces are quite spectacular. There are jewels in brass plated in gold and silver, such as the high-impact cuffs, architectural ear cuffs and linear necklaces that are part of the Motus collection. Concentric spirals and circular motifs are the leitmotif of the new Arcus collection, which features silver plating.

Artist Jacqueline Cullen, also from London, is an expert in working the Whitby jet fossil. The fossil can be found these days in old mines that are no longer in use. Jacqueline Cullen is the only designer to have been able to truly make use of this ancient material. She moulds it in a decidedly unconventional manner, maintaining its original 'imperfections' but making it more precious with irregular yellow-gold granulation and small diamonds.

Finally, there's sculptor Marie Khouri from Vancouver who got into jewelry almost on a whim just over a year ago. The spontaneous way that cuffs, rings and necklaces are made – modeled in wax and sculpted in bronze plated in 24-carat gold – make her creations true sculptures to wear. They stand out for their uniqueness.

This event highlights the differences in style and personality of these four designers that are so diverse. What brings them together is their respect for identity and the fact they create very exclusive pieces.

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