

In the making Elizabeth Gage

WHEN I meet Elizabeth Gage in her Knightsbridge showroom, I find myself surrounded by her creations. Most are glistening away in cabinets, apart from a handful of delicious cocktail rings winking from a tray in front of me. As we talk, I try each one on, finding them so smooth and comfortable that I could easily imagine wearing a few at a time and building up a collection. 'I just love colour,' states the designer simply, 'and I work absolutely from the stone first.'

Although she sticks to designing rather than making these days, Miss Gage spent more than 50 years at the bench after training as a goldsmith. Her first major commission was for Cartier, in 1968, and she went on to win numerous awards, including the Queen's Award for Export and the De Beers Diamond Award for her Agincourt ring, described as an 'engineering masterpiece'.

Miss Gage won't buy a stone unless it speaks to her, and her cabochon-cut stones (smooth and rounded) are incredibly tactile, marrying beautifully with the yellow gold for which she is known: 'Yellow gold is my thing, it has never gone away and it is so much softer against the skin.'

Each new stone gives the designer fresh inspiration. She sketches everything and many of the drawings that line the walls of her showroom are works of art in themselves. Craft is key and all her pieces—from necklaces to brooches and cufflinks—are made in Britain with the help of highly skilled goldsmiths. She designs each element herself, from enamel painting to intricate carving, and can work with old stones from unloved pieces or create something bespoke, incorporating special symbols or meaningful colours. 'Everything has its own personality, no matter what it is.'

Miss Gage is a true artist, with an all-encompassing warmth and passion that has customers yearning to set off on a design journey with her. If you do, you are guaranteed to own something unique to be treasured and passed down through generations. ✨

From cocktail rings to bespoke pieces, Elizabeth Gage's jewellery is to be worn day and evening, piled up and celebrated for its boldness and vibrancy. It will draw attention for all the right reasons, exquisite craftsmanship ensuring understated elegance. Rings from £5,400 (www.elizabeth-gage.com)



‘I am not a fashion girl, I don't follow fashion, I follow what I like. Sometimes jewellery sells, sometimes it takes longer, but there is always someone who will really love it and buy it one day’

Elizabeth Gage talks to Hetty Lintell

Elizabeth Gage's gems of knowledge

- If you reuse a stone from an old piece, you will keep that stone with you and wear it close to you. It becomes a very personal thing
- Don't follow trends. Buy jewellery you truly love, otherwise you won't wear it and it won't stand the test of time
- Never make assumptions about jewellery until you try it on
- Jewellery should not be locked away. It can make you feel empowered and brighten your day, especially if coloured
- Try to buy jewellery from shops with a relaxed, but private atmosphere, which makes for a much more enjoyable service
- Men don't feel they have as much chance to be fun with jewellery, but jewelled cufflinks (or even rings) are a way to show some embellishment—it's about confidence
- Have courage, go for something you fall in love with instantly. If you love your jewellery, it will never be too bold