

Why Transformable Pieces Are the Ultimate High Jewellery

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Skill and conceptual mastery needed to design jewellery pieces, as multiwearability pieces are the most complicated creations.

The robot film Transformers revived the craze of turning one toy into another, and of creating two playthings in one. The high jewellery world is also used to such tricks, of transforming a large piece of jewellery – or components of it – into another. Thanks to fine craftsmanship, a tiara can turn into a necklace, and parts of that can also be used as earrings and more.

Such multi-role, transformable jewels are arguably the most complicated pieces a maison can make. However, these beautiful collectibles also inspire imaginative constructions in which diamond elements detach and attach themselves; doors reveal a hidden motif; or a hinge swivels to showcase something beautiful, such as the craftsmanship of feather marquetry. Here are some of the finest examples of maisons' transformable masterpieces.

Graff

By Graff: the bracelet's centre-stone can be taken out to fit into a ring

A multishape diamond bracelet set with the Graff Sunflower, a 107.46ct fancy yellow cushion-cut diamond. This piece transforms when the protagonist diamond is detached and



Chopard



The Garden of Kalahari.

The “Garden of Kalahari” necklace is playfully transformable in four variations. Two of its pendants – with the heart and pear-shaped diamonds – can be worn attached to the earrings in a short or long version.

Nirav Modi



Nirav Modi’s Mughal Brooch, which is also a pendant.

Indian jeweller Nirav Modi created a brooch to celebrate the opening of its first international flagship store in Hong Kong. The Mughal brooch design is in a contemporary setting, and can also be worn as a pendant.

worn as an important ring. In another fine piece, the central floral element can be separated from the 186.05ct necklace and worn as a brooch.

Van Cleef & Arpels



Van Cleef & Arpels' "Fleur bleue" ring.

A technical feat in high jewellery, the Van Cleef & Arpels Zip necklace was first produced in 1950, and it transforms into a bracelet, opening and closing like a real zip. The French maison revisits the art of playfulness in its latest Le Secret collection, with the "Fleur bleue" ring, whose upper section pivots and rises to reveal Oscar Wilde's gold-engraved quote: *"Une vie sans amour est comme un jardin sans soleil"*, which translates to "A life without love is like a sunless garden."

The Le Secret range also offers the transformable "Oiseau sur la branche" long necklace which can be worn three different ways. The central part of this fine piece contains a carved nightingale that is revealed by the sliding of a beautiful diamond door.

Cartier



Cartier's Hyperbole transformable necklace has a 140.21ct cushion-shaped Colombian emerald at its heart. Part of Résonances de Cartier, the maison's latest high-jewellery collection, the Hyperbole transformable necklace is impressive with a 140.21ct cushion-shaped Colombian emerald at its heart. The pieces undulating geometric patterns convert into a tiara.

Piaget



Piaget's Viva Arte ring in the Sunlight Journey collection. The top opens to reveal skilfully crafted feather marquetry embellished with purple sapphires, red spinels and diamonds.

In the latest high-jewellery Sunlight Journey collection by Piaget, the Viva Arte ring-top element opens to reveal a secret design of finely crafted feather marquetry embellished with purple sapphires, red spinels and diamonds.

Forms

Created by Hong Kong-based Forms, certified Mozambique rubies, weighing about 25ct, add a fiery, precious secret to this magnificent pair of reversible earrings, which uncover pear-shaped diamonds when worn on the reverse.



Boucheron

The vast stretches of land that go into making East Asia, the Russian Far East and Southeast Asia inspire Boucheron's new Hiver Impérial high jewellery collection, which debuted in July at the Couture Week in Paris.

The show-stopper was the Flocon Impérial diamond and rock crystal necklace comprising seven detachable parts.



Boucheron's Flocon Impérial diamond and rock crystal necklace.

This impressive piece can be deconstructed in seven ways. It continues to surprise when its multiple transform into a pair of earrings, a ring, a brooch, and four ornate hairpins.