

5 ASIAN JEWELERS

YOU SHOULD KNOW

**Patek Philippe
Keeps Great
Time at
Auctions**

**TASMANIAN
WHISKY'S**
Rise from
Down Under

COLLECTORS
**MICHAEL AND
SEREN SHVO**

AT HOME WITH
THEIR "SHEEP"

THE CERAMICS REVOLUTION



The Poet

Without any formal jewelry training, Michelle Ong founded Carnet with the Hong Kong-based Israeli gem dealer Avi Nagar in 1985. Since then the avid collector of Art Nouveau and Art Deco jewelry has pioneered an East-meets-West fusion of bold designs that speak to a Chinese clientele, while also championing rose-cut diamonds for their ability to diffuse light.

With her starting point often being the principal stones, the self-taught jeweler likes to blend the vintage look of rose-cut diamonds with Asian motifs such as dragons, dragonflies, and floating clouds, as well as the quintessential Chinese stone: jade. Her creations rarely appear at auction, but a pair of diamond, tsavorite garnet, and seed pearl chandelier pendants sold for \$35,645 at Christie's Hong Kong last November, above the \$19,435-32,395 estimate.

"I really am open to all the beauty that surrounds us- nature, art, music I incorporate many of these elements in my jewellery - sometimes more literally, sometimes combining influences to create a synergy of presentation- an impression. It could be a beautiful flower, the pleasing continuity in an abstract pattern or a wonderful gemstone that leads me to my next design," Ong says about her sources of inspirations.

Ong's designs have garnered a strong following amongst A-List clients and accolades from fellow artist jewelers such as Joel Arthur Rosenthal, the elusive jeweler behind JAR who once described her jewels as "mouth-watering."



Top to bottom: Jadeite & white diamond brooch; white diamond & coral ball earrings white gold; Intense yellow & white diamond bangle in platinum & gold.

