



aishti magazine

Love & live in style

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Bombshell Beirut

MAKING LOVE TO THE WORLD'S SEXIEST CITY

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Jewels of San Francisco

NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN THE CITY BY THE BAY, VISIT SOME OF ITS MOST DAZZLING INDEPENDENT JEWELERS

Sure, you could duck into Tiffany & Co., saunter into Cartier or dash into Bvlgari (or any of the fine jewelry chains that reside in San Francisco) and pick up a brilliant bauble. But why not discover the smorgasbord of local high-end jewelers and designers who reside here? There are handfuls of interesting and gorgeous gems to be had, just waiting to woo you and, perhaps, induce a swoon or two. Nothing makes a better souvenir than a beautiful ring, bracelet or pendant.

Adorna Bella

Tucked amidst the old-time cafés, Italian eateries, bakeries, clothing boutiques and bars of San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood sits an equally scrumptious haunt and local favorite: Adorna Bella. An enticing window hooks passersby at once with its gallery-cum-candy-shop display of colorful baubles. Owner and jewelry designer Natalee Thomas has built a reputation for stocking her charming Art Deco-esque space with necklaces, bracelets, rings and dangles by local artisans, including many one-of-a-kind creations. The gems are as eclectic as the artists themselves, ranging from modern and sleek to ornate and delicate. DIY-ers take note: you can design your own custom pieces with Thomas' help – no doubt, creating a personal keepsake you (or she) will wear forever.

552 Columbus Ave., tel. 1.415.262.9992.

Hand in Hand

Mark Stiglitz grew up in awe of the love and devotion his grandparents shared. So when he finally found the woman of his dreams, he couldn't wait to buy the rock. Unfortunately, he was frustrated with the same old,

me-too engagement rings he saw at the many retailers he frequented in San Francisco and beyond. Clearly, there was only one thing to do: design his own. He did, she said yes and a new business was born. At Hand in Hand, it's exclusively about custom-designed jewelry, including engagement and wedding rings, and special-occasion fine jewelry. Stiglitz himself works closely with the client to design each piece. He chooses the highest quality natural diamonds and fancy gemstones, which are then handmade by old-school bench jewelers with meticulous hands.

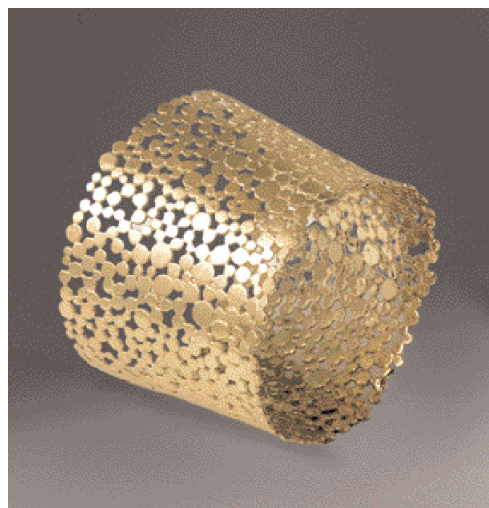
3150 18th St., tel. 1.415.282.4370.

Manika Jewelry

If the city that thrives on peace, love and celebrating individuality could conjure up a jewelry store, it would be Manika Jewelry. Located on Maiden Lane, one of the city's most charming shopping streets (more like an alley), the warm and welcoming boutique features sophisticated and unique gems from "non-mainstream" Bay Area and international designers. A diverse lineup of artisans creates covetable cuffs, earrings and necklaces in small numbers, ensuring many one-of-a-kind pieces (a big plus for individualists). While all of the designers – many of whom work with eco (recycled) gold and silver – have a distinct aesthetic, each one shares an obvious passion for their work along with topnotch talent. Add to that the fact that a percentage of all sales are donated to local and international charities, and you have the perfect formula for guilt-free shopping.

11 Maiden Ln., tel. 1.415.399.1990.

Gail Goldberg



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Manika Jewelry



Hand in Hand



Adorna Bella