

# SOLITAIRE

THE FINE ART OF JEWELLERY AND LIVING

[www.solitairemagazine.com](http://www.solitairemagazine.com)

N°111

ASIA PACIFIC EDITION



*New Age  
of Design*





Agate, Kunzite, Natural Pearl, and Diamond earclips in platinum

**NADIA MORGENTHALER**

Nadia Morgenthaler began exploring her love of jewellery making at the age of 15. She joined the School of Decorative Arts in Geneva and after her graduation in 1989, trained for about five years with jeweller Phillips Bonet. There she honed her technical skills before joining Chopard as a designer in 1994. In the meantime, she enrolled at the Haute École d'Art et de Design (HEAD). "I went back to school so that I could forget the traditional ways of designing jewellery, learn distinctly personal methods, and explore various techniques," she says. After her two-year stint at Chopard, Nadia returned to Bonet's workshop drawn by the love of "constructing" pieces. The workshop, Arts Fusion SA, regularly made spectacular pieces for prestigious brands. Working closely with her mentor, observes Nadia, was very, very important – it aided a deeper understanding of execution and artistry. "He was very demanding; it was not easy but this instilled in me

greater confidence as a bench jeweller." When Bonet decided to retire, he asked Nadia to take over his workshop. This presented her with a great opportunity – one that would see Nadia launch her own line, continue working with prominent jewellery houses, and adding new ones to the list.

**Design:** Nadia launched her eponymous line in December 2013, which was spurred by the desire "to be free to do what I want, anticipating the evolution and finish in each piece." An avant-garde influence permeates her designs, while drawing on Art Nouveau and Belle Époque influences, architecture, and a poetic universe of gems. "My design philosophy is to do what I find right and make beautiful pieces bereft of commercial constraints that may limit my creativity. It is important that my jewellery is recognizable." Every piece – chandelier and garland earrings or delicate rings – is an exciting revelation of Nadia's genius and goldsmithing ability.

Nadia's design outlines an unmistakable three-dimensionality, achieved by "working the jewel on all its sides." The design code is equally nested in the aesthetics as it is in the quality of what is not necessarily visible. Infused with a certain romanticism, her meticulously engineered wearables integrate gems like spinels, kunzite, tourmalines, opals, rock crystals, and indicolites in dreamy pastels – blush pink, soothing greens, powdery blues. Nadia also loves to punctuate her designs with natural pearls. Visual drama is enhanced by blackened red or white gold, blackened silver, platinum, and single lines of diamonds. In her pieces, red gold is used to strengthen the jewellery and enables a perfect finish; it also serves to emphasise patterns with its colour and contrast. When the brand launched, Nadia points out that she mostly "drew the jewels first and sourced the stones afterwards – and it was often smaller stones." The latest pieces that



Tourmaline, Spinel, Diamond, and Natural Pearl earclips in red gold and silver

were part of 'Phillips Flawless X Vivarium – Showcasing the work of 20th and 21st Century Female Designer-Jewellers,' curated by Vivienne Becker, shows a marked difference – it sees the designer contemplating on sumptuous stones. "This series really stems from the stones that I found; it sparked my creative process. I have used brighter colours and bigger stones," adds the designer, who makes around a dozen pieces a year. ☺

[nadia-morgenthaler.com](http://nadia-morgenthaler.com)



Spinel, Diamond, and Natural Pearl earclips in red gold and silver