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NOTEBOOK

METALS IN JEWELLERY

most durable or low-maintenance metal, its softness and malleability make it popular in designs such as handmade rings and necklaces, gothic, ethnic, edgy streetwear, and punk styles. Even though silver oxidises over time, many appreciate the vintage effect and it is easy to re-polish. This year's runways showcased silver jewellery layered boldly across futuristic silhouettes and streetwear looks. Brands like Coach, Marine Serre, Acne Studios and Carolina Herrera featured silver earrings and chokers in their latest shows, aligning with the clean girl aesthetic and quiet grunge. In recent years, fashion brands have increasingly used recycled gold and silver to meet consumer demand for environmentally responsible options, and runway styling represents this trend. For example, Dior's 2024 *couture* show showcased statement chokers made from reclaimed silver and found objects, blending high jewellery with eco-conscious storytelling.

Platinum. Say yes!

Valued for its strength and rarity, platinum is the preferred choice for bridal jewellery. This rare metal occurs in some nickel and copper ores as well as in certain native deposits in South Africa. Like gold, it is dense, malleable, ductile and unreactive with elements such as air, water, or other chemicals, contributing to its durability and corrosion resistance. In high fashion, platinum remains the go-to metal for its icy brightness; think statement cuffs and architectural rings at events like the Met Gala, where designers use it to contrast with delicate fabrics.

Titanium. Futuristic fashion

With its lightweight and corrosion-resistant properties, titanium has gained popularity in men's jewellery and *avant-garde* designs. Its featherlight feel and ability to be anodised in vibrant neon hues make it a preferred metal for futurist fashion. Brands like Delfina Delettrez and Tiffany & Co. Men have embraced titanium for sculptural rings and cuffs. But only a few have pushed the boundaries of titanium quite like Iris van Herpen.

Between 2020 and 2023, she integrated 3D-printed titanium and laser-cut metals into her signature fluid, organic silhouettes. A standout moment came with her *Shift souls* collection, unveiled at Paris Fashion Week in 2019, where she debuted a series of 3D-printed facial ornaments titled *Cellchemy*. Each piece was custom-designed using facial scans of the models, resulting in intricate, lace-like masks that explored themes of human-animal hybridity.

Osmium

Osmium is the rarest non-radioactive element on Earth, with only about 300 kg of crystalline osmium ever known. Not only is it rare, but it is also valuable, with a market price of around €1,700 per gram. Each piece of crystalline osmium is unique. Like a fingerprint, it offers precise identification at a resolution 10,000 times greater per square millimetre. This makes it unforgeable, traceable and ideal for certified jewellery and tangible investments. Each piece is ESG-M compliant, documented and recognisable without laboratory tools. Crystalline osmium is not processed like traditional metals; it is treated more like a gemstone. It is neither melted nor cut in-house. Instead, the Osmium Institute supplies pre-cut, pre-registered shapes, including customised ones with ultra-high precision. It can be set, glued or laser-welded. Although slightly brittle and best handled like emeralds, it is surprisingly durable and compatible with standard gemstone-setting techniques. The result is jewellery with an otherworldly shimmer, often more reflective than platinum, and biocompatible despite being toxic in its raw form. Will it replace gold or platinum? No, due to its rarity and inability to be mass-produced. However, it will redefine prestige and exclusivity in jewellery. Crystalline osmium represents a new generation that values science, sustainability and storytelling. Whether worn as couture, stored as wealth or admired as a work of nature-meets-art, osmium is the future of high-end, responsible jewellery.

Osmium is now present in over 40 countries, partnered with more than 1,200 collaborators. Cultural perspectives vary: in Germany, osmium is embraced primarily as a long-term tangible investment; in Korea, it is celebrated as a luxury fashion material; in the Middle East, both aspects are fully appreciated, with osmium seen as a hybrid of style and value. Worldwide, osmium has already attracted the attention of luxury brands and visionary designers. Ulysse Nardin, Hublot and Czapek were the first watchmakers to incorporate it. Designers such as Myriam Soseilos with her *Aqua wave* ring in London, Anthony Garcia's *Supernova* ring in Brazil and Tania Chan's *Palais* collection in Hong Kong are expanding the creative boundaries of this rare metal. These designers also serve as judges for the Osmium Visionary Contest, with the winners being unveiled on GemGenève 2025.

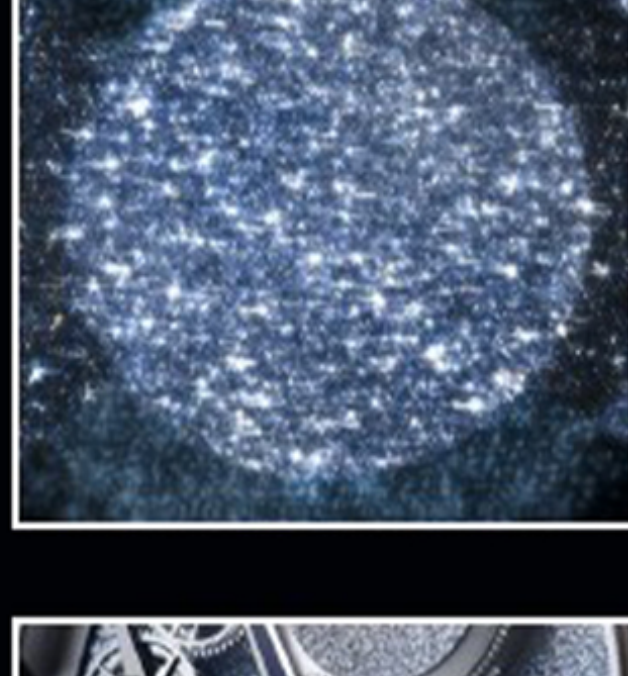
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