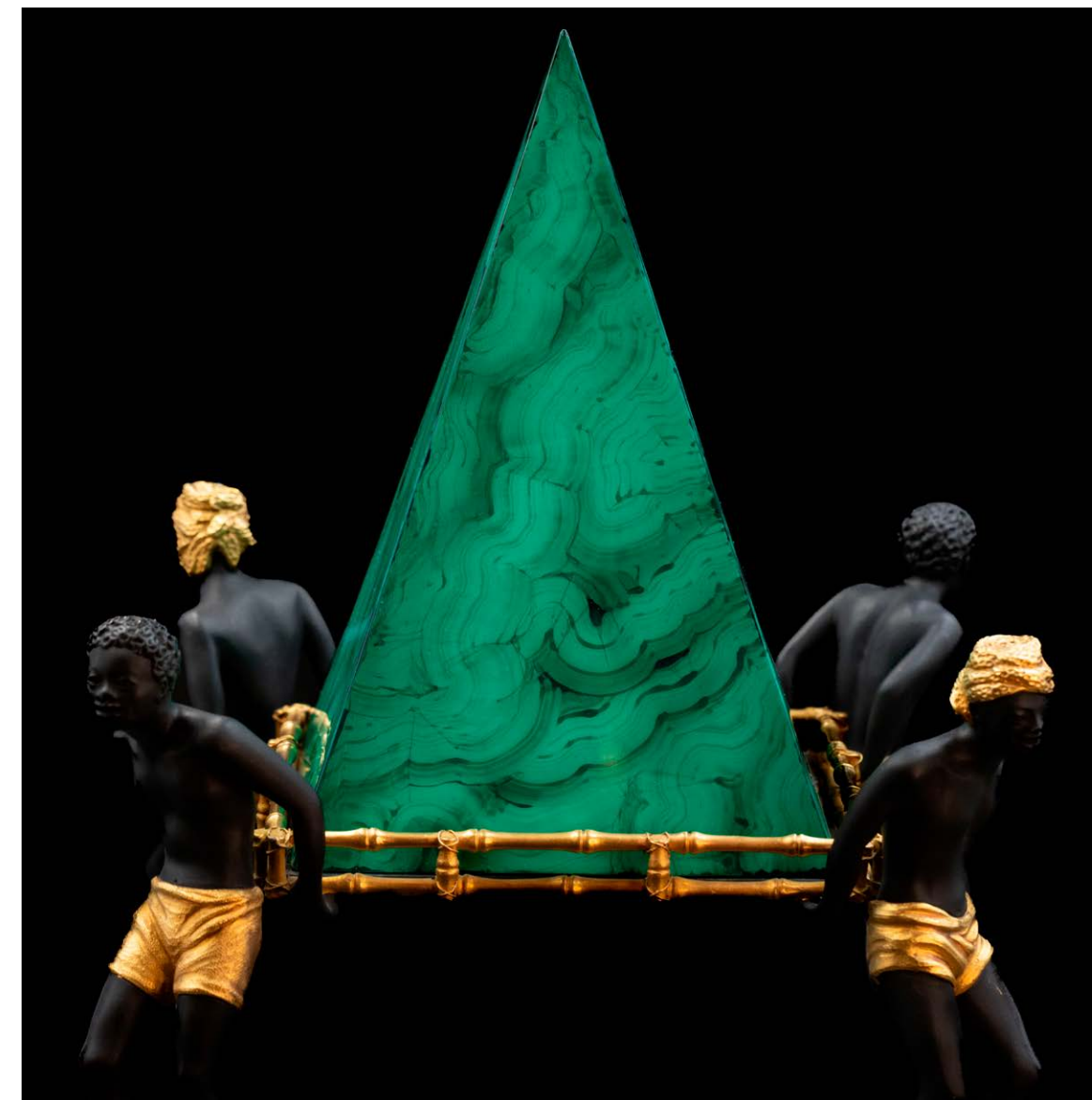




HISTORICAL TREASURES

With her spell-binding jewellery, Rebecca Ardesi takes people on a journey through history. Created with the utmost craftsmanship, each creation honours the beauty and antiquity of the gem it bears, drawing attention to all the awe, mysticism and magic radiating from the stone's flawless facets.



Rebecca Ardesi grew up surrounded by antiques. For three decades, her parents owned and ran an antiques boutique in Zürich at the Bahnhofstrasse that housed precious and historical collectables, including French, Russian and English furniture and objects d'art from the eighteenth to twentieth century as well as an extensive Fabergé collection. Her youth amongst these august artefacts endowed Rebecca with a keen eye for all things antique, especially those rare and beautiful. Driven to deepen her knowledge and learn the tricks of the jewellery trade, she furthered her education by completing various courses and gaining experience in the professional world. First, she pursued a degree in art history and gemology, then trained at Sotheby's, and finally, graduated from business school.

After honing her skills, she felt the time was right to forge her own path, but she didn't stray too far from

her parent's legacy. Fascinated by gemstones and their history, she combined this with her expertise in the antique market and opened her own jewellery shop in the heart of St. Moritz in 1995. Located within the esteemed Badrutt's Palace Hotel, her elegant, eponymous boutique perfectly melds into this exclusive setting, offering locals and internationals a window into the awe-inspiring world of precious gems.

Specialising in antique jewels, precious old mine stones, natural pearls and objects d'art, her expansive selection encompasses historical treasures from the nineteenth to twentieth century. She also has select important signed pieces from this time, such as items from notable brands like Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Chaumet, Bulgari, Belperron and more. What really draws Rebecca to these beauties is the wonderful history embedded within each of them; they all tell stories of the past in their own distinctive way and are an enduring time capsule to a bygone era. Also part of her

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collection is unique jewellery that she's hand-created using old mine stones. Exuding an abundance of sophistication and style, these creations are an exquisite testament to Rebecca's immense skill and attention to detail — and are sure to impress even the most discerning clientele.

Beneath the glimmer of these gems lies the mystery of their previous owners; from royal families to public figures, these jewels have graced some of society's elite — and they carry all this magic onto their new owners, continuing to tell a tale for the ages. It's this exact majesty that Rebecca aims to translate through her carefully selected jewellery; each piece is as unique as the gem's history and as distinctive as the wearer themselves.

More than just beautiful objects to look at, jewellery also has the ability to lift the spirit. Gemstones are renowned for their links to the natural world, mythology and well-being; their significance is not just defined by their size, colour, weight or shape. Their power and potency should be given prominence, too — which is precisely what Rebecca



encourages. A prime example is a ruby, which has long been synonymous with strength; some even say it has the capacity to regenerate the liver. Gemstones have also shared a bond with astronomy for millennia and are widely regarded as a manifestation of the planets in Earth's solar system. Sapphire represents Saturn, while pearls — the mother of all stones and a symbol for femininity — are seen as the moon incarnate. With all this profound meaning, it's clear that gems should not be simply seen as just a jewel on the ear, neck or finger— instead, they should be viewed as collector's items that mirror the needs and personality of those who choose to wear them.

For Rebecca, her stone of choice is alexandrite. This rare and enigmatic gem has an enthralling relationship with light, changing its hues in response to differences in the environment's lumination. Alexandrite also personifies the gemologist herself, representing the characteristics of love, empathy and confidence, all of which are intrinsic in Rebecca.

Perfectly matching each stone's essence and beauty with its owner is something Rebecca takes great pride in doing. Home to remarkable pieces of gemology art, her exclusive boutique is a shining homage to her family legacy, her passion for antiques and her profound connection to the world's most extraordinary gemstones. ■