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—Stefan Friedemann



Above: Ted Noten's Lady K bag—half Prada, half Lucite-encased handgun; above right, Phillip Sajet's Matador necklace made from horn, palladium and red glass.



## READY TO WEAR

Contemporary jewelry makes its first appearance at Design Miami and promises to wow with an exhibition that pushes the medium to its limits.

BY JOSELLE GALIS-MENENDEZ

**F**or the first time, Design Miami delves into the world of jewelry, hosting an exhibition from New York contemporary jewelry gallery Ornamentum. But these aren't your grandmother's pearls. “Jewelry is an incredibly exciting field with some great artists making some very interesting work, but until now it hadn't been granted the platform to be exhibited,” says Ornamentum's co-owner and founder, Stefan Friedemann. “Now is really a time when jewelry is hot. You've got, in the last year and a half, major collections acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Houston, and the Met and Museum of Arts and Design in New York. It's about time it also got the same attention in more commercial venues.”

With this Design Miami show, Friedemann and his wife and Ornamentum co-owner, Laura Lapachin, go from spectators to card-carrying insiders. “We've been excited by the world of design and see it running parallel to what's happening in the world of jewelry. You are definitely seeing in the last few years a lot of these designers making work that has a foot in fine arts” he says. “We feel that is the case with the jewelry we represent. What's important is the story, the experimentation and the pushing of bound-

aries.” No one does that more than their featured designer, Ted Noten. His pieces for Design Miami blur the lines between installation art, sculpture and jewelry. His most recognizable work, the Lady K bags, are actual pistols (Friedemann had to file for a weapons permit to have them created) and bullets encased in a solid Lucite base that's then attached to the top half of a handbag. As far as Friedemann is concerned, it's jewelry. “Like a necklace, this serves no function other than to adorn you,” he says. Noten is also showing a solid black block of Lucite, mounted on wheels like a rolling suitcase. Behind it is an x-ray showing what is inside.

Ornamentum brings nine other artists to Design Miami. German designer Gerd Rothmann creates rings, bracelets and such, adorned with either his, or a custom, fingerprint. Friedemann and Lapachin wear his designs as their wedding bands. Another artist whose pieces are more within the traditional confines of jewelry is Sergey Jivetin. He makes sculptural brooches from thousands of watch hands. The whirlwind of tiny black hands adds depth and mystery to his brooches, and is indicative of a larger trend in jewelry design that itself seems to be becoming deeper, more mysterious and thankfully, a bit more in fashion.