

A spoonful of sugar

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It is a time of year to honour mothers with traditional gifts of flowers, chocolates and perfume. A day when mothers should be served breakfast in bed with a silver spoon — or even better, silver jewellery — or gold, glass, amber, resin and even stone.

Try breaking the traditional Mother's Day token of appreciation with the dynamic, dramatic and original jewellery by these four young designers.

ERIN TRACY

The extrinsic value between diamonds and beach pebbles is substantial but jewellery maker Erin Tracy, 28, sees beauty and worth in both stones. When she handcrafts her line, Tracy mixes and matches stones, crystals, diamonds, gold, silver, wood and acrylic, to create stunning combinations.

"I like to mix expensive materials like gold and diamonds with a piece of acrylic next to it," she says. "I like the combination of all the materials together and the balance it has."

Her unique Strata line offers thin, geometric-shaped rings and bangles that can be stacked on fingers and wrists in combinations of three and five. Even better, customers can create their own colour and material combinations for a personalized look.

Some pebbles that are picked up during Tracy's travels even make their way into her jewellery line. "I've always been attracted to the shape of stones and their journey. "There is something really tactile about stones in that you pick out your own stones on the beach and touch them and connect with them," says Tracy. "It made sense with my philosophy about jewellery in that it is something you can connect to with the materials and the shapes."

erintracydesigns.com

JACEK OSTROWSKI

Based in Gdansk Poland, 32-year-old Jacek Ostrowski was discovered by Ania Healy while he was selling his geo-

metric amber jewellery on a table at a local crafts festival. Healy, the owner of Baltic Bijoux, was astounded by Ostrowski's talent with the resin.

"I saw so much traditional amber in Canada," Healy says. "I was petrified with how traditional and unattractive it was...I asked him if I could represent him in Canada."

Now Ostrowski's striking jewellery designs are being shown in 85 stores nationwide including the Storm, Trove and Corktown Designs in the Distillery District.

Instead of using only plain amber, Ostrowski creates colourful designs by mixing amber with acrylic. The sterling silver base of his jewellery line is also a sight to see, as the designer tends to use dramatic graduated shapes that elevate the amber. "Since the fall of communism, a lot of these artists are becoming more creative because they have to compete on a world market...my mission was to find truly interesting design instead of just a piece of amber."

balticbijoux.com

EHME GLASS

You know a relationship is good when you are willing to take it long distance. When silversmith Cynthia Archer, 32, moved to L.A. four years ago, she and her business partner, Amy Johnson, 27, continued to collaborate on their stunning glass and silver jewellery line called Ehme Glass.

"We would have to meet up a few times a year and discuss what we wanted to do next," says Johnson. "The entire process would take longer because we would continually be sending jewellery back and forth between Toronto and LA."

The good news is that Archer returned to Toronto last month which makes it easier for the team to produce their award-winning jewellery line that includes the popular black or white Double Dutch rings, a shapely piece that has the bodies of two women



moulded into the glass.

"It has a lot of humour to it," says Johnson. "People aren't sure that it is bodies of naked women...we've sold them to both men and women."

Other pieces include colourful glass necklaces with shapes inspired by coral and tubing.

Organic and strong, their work has even caught the eye of Drew Barrymore who picked up one of their Juicy rings. ehmeglass.com

KVELL DESIGNS

Everything 25-year-old Elana Ginsberg touches seems to turn into gold, even if she is working with silver or precious metals.

Within a few months, the young goldsmith has already established herself as the one to watch in the west end of the city. Ginsberg owns and operates a café, jewellery store and goldsmith studio out of a Victorian house on Shaw St.

"I would never get this many people in the door if it was just a gallery," she says of her original approach to selling her Kvell Designs line in a café setting. "People will grab a coffee and walk around. It takes the edge and mystery off of a gallery setting."

Ginsberg's modern designs are easy to identify because of the high quality and extreme attention to detail, including handmade clasps and stone accents.

"The back should just be as good as the front," says Ginsberg. "If you flip it over to see the back, it should be just as beautiful."

Her 18k rose and green gold Blossom ring perches elegantly on the finger while her serenity line is a fine balance of sterling silver and gold set in an elegant oval form.

Even better, you can treat your mother not only to a beautiful piece of Ginsberg's jewellery line, but also a cup of cream Earl Grey tea at the Smith Café. kvellbyyente.com

From top: Jacek Ostrowski, turquoise resin and amber "take off" ring, \$85; Erin Tracy, facet stacked rings, \$400; Erin Tracy, triangle layer rings, \$40 to \$200 per ring; Ehme Glass white Double Dutch ring, \$275; Elana Ginsberg, 18k gold Blossom ring, \$1,380; Erin Tracy, Spun ring, \$180; Jacek Ostrowski, multi ring, \$185.