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Cut Steel Jewellery

Edited by Petra Hölscher

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- 350 precious pieces of cut steel jewelry from private collections, published in their entirety for the first time
- Discover the history of steel diamonds, from the stars of men's fashion in 18th-century England to pieces more popular and expensive than diamonds in 19th-century France
- Designs that reflect technical and scientific innovations as well as political and social statements

Treasures from a bygone age, previously long lost to obscurity yet today as sparkling and radiant as they ever were: steel diamonds. In the mid-18th century, these small steel rivets with their faceted and highly polished heads were initially the stars of men's fashion in England, later becoming indispensable treasures also for women. In 19th-century France they were more popular and expensive than diamonds. Unlike almost any other jewelry type, technical and scientific innovations as well as political and social statements were incorporated into the designs of brooches, necklaces, earrings, chatelaines, bags, purses and shoes buckles that featured these jewels. Brought together from private collections of unique diversity and quantity, these 350 precious items are published here in their entirety for the very first time.

Text in English and German.

Dr. Petra Hölscher studied art history, romance languages, German literature and industrial anthropology at Christian-Albrechts-University, in Kiel. In 1999 she first worked at Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (State Art Collections Dresden), before moving to Munich to join Bayerische Verwaltung der staatlichen Schlösser Gärten und Seen (State Department for Bavaria's Castles, Parks and Lakes). In 2002 she assumed her current position as a curator—since 2007 senior curator—at Die Neue Sammlung – The Design Museum, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich. In this position she did and still does create exhibitions about international industrial design and studio jewelry. She has also written and co-authored numerous articles and books.

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