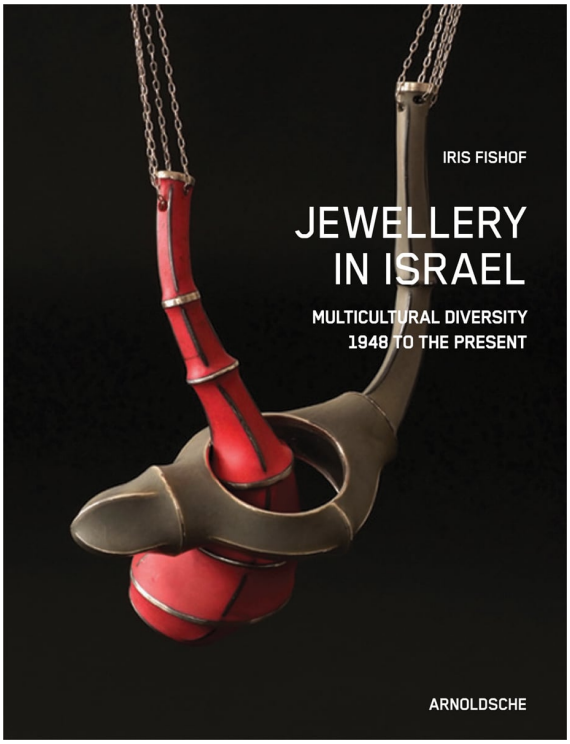
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Jewellery in Israel

Multicultural Diversity 1948 to the Present

Iris Fishof

ISBN	9783897903968
Publisher	Arnoldsche Art Publishers
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	8.66 in x 11.42 in
Pages	200 Pages
Illustrations	340 color
Price	$65.00

- A comprehensive presentation of Israeli art jewelry, its history and its development, from 1948 to the present

"For Iris Fishof, a piece of jewelry is not merely an ornament but it can be a reflection of societal history. Her extensive, beautifully illustrated history, "Jewellery in Israel Multicultural Diversity 1948 to the Present" is the first book of its kind. Fishof, an Israeli art historian and curator, begins with folk artists who worked in pre-state Israel and covers the establishment of the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts in 1906 and the role of immigrants, like the Germans who brought the modernist Bauhaus tradition with them in the 1930s and Yemenites who brought their own intricate silversmith traditions in the 1950s. She describes contemporary internationally recognized artists working in various materials and styles, still with a 'distinctly local flavor'." – **The Jewish Week**

In Israel East meets West. Their jewelry traditions blend, resulting in creative innovations. In the 1930s, European immigrants introduced the spirit of the Bauhaus, while oriental craftsmanship was invigorated in the 1950s and 1960s by immigration from Islamic countries. State jewelry companies preserved traditional crafts, while at the same time developing a new and elegant style, designed to express the national identity of the still young state of Israel. There are important links between native jewelry makers and European and American jewelry artists, who were guest lecturers at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in the 1970s and had a lasting influence on Israeli artists. The transition to art jewelry was finally completed in the 1980s, paving the way for artists who are now internationally renowned. A further chapter is dedicated to contemporary works by some outstanding young artists. Although their works are part of the global jewelry scene, they are also dedicated to their homeland, for example through unequivocal references to local political tensions.

Artists (a selection): Bianca Eshel Gershuni, Esther Knobel, Deganit Stern Schocken, Vered Kaminski, Attai Chen.

Dr. Iris Fishof studied Art History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From 1983 to 2003 she worked at the Israel Museum, in Jerusalem, as Chief Curator of Judaica and Jewish Ethnography. Since 2005, she has been a Senior Lecturer on jewelry at the Shenkar College of Engineering and Design in Ramat-Gan.

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Published 30th Dec 2013