

David Yurman's South Sea Collection Pearls with Panache

One of the preëminent names in American jewelry design, David Yurman has turned his formidable talent to pearls. The designer's new South Sea Collection comprises more than two dozen styles of necklaces, bracelets, rings, and earrings, all artfully designed with cultured white Australian and black Tahitian pearls hand-selected and hand-polished to bring out their natural lustre.

Fully intending "to rock the traditional pearl boat a little" as he puts it, Yurman has used these remarkable pearls—each of which he considers a work of art—not just in combination with 18k. gold but with his signature sterling silver and diamonds as well. One-of-a-kind couture pieces round out the collection.

Says Yurman: "I am mesmerized by the unique beauty of pearls and they have always held a significant place in my heart. . . I am also fascinated by the science of the modern pearl and in awe of our ability to replicate nature to such a precise degree that not only do we fool the mollusk into doing what it does naturally, but with better, finer results than when left on its own."



The South Sea Collection in many ways represents a return to Yurman's design roots. He began his career nearly twenty-five years ago by working with pearls in combination with gemstone beads.

For this early work, Yurman was named "Pearl Designer of the Year" in 1982 by the International Pearl Association. More than two decades later, pearls are again a cornerstone of the designer's collection, where prices begin at \$1,000 and top out at \$25,000. "I believe that even the most precious of materials should have a certain accessibility and be a part of our relaxed, American luxury lifestyle," says Yurman. "Of course, fine pearls are beautiful, that's what first draws me—but it goes beyond that. Pearls are steeped in historical significance and romance. . . It's easy to admire their beauty. But to fully appreciate beauty, you must love and respect all forms of life."

For more information please visit davidyurman.com.