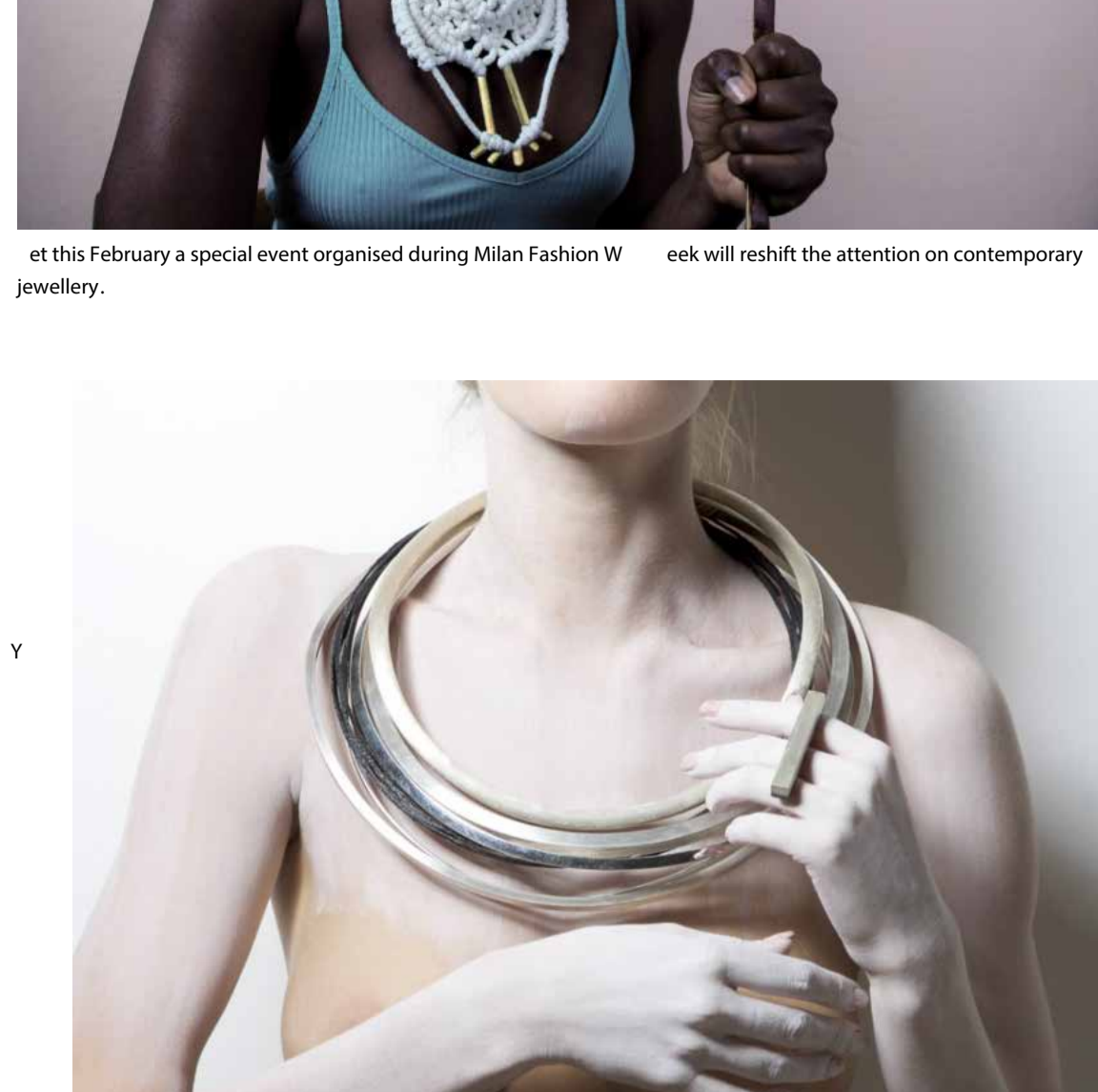


Irenebrination: Notes on Architecture, Art, Fashion, Fashion Law & Technology

[Home](#) [Archives](#) [Profile](#) [Subscribe](#)

Wearable Worlds: Artistar-Jewels 2018 @ Palazzo dei Giureconsulti, Milan

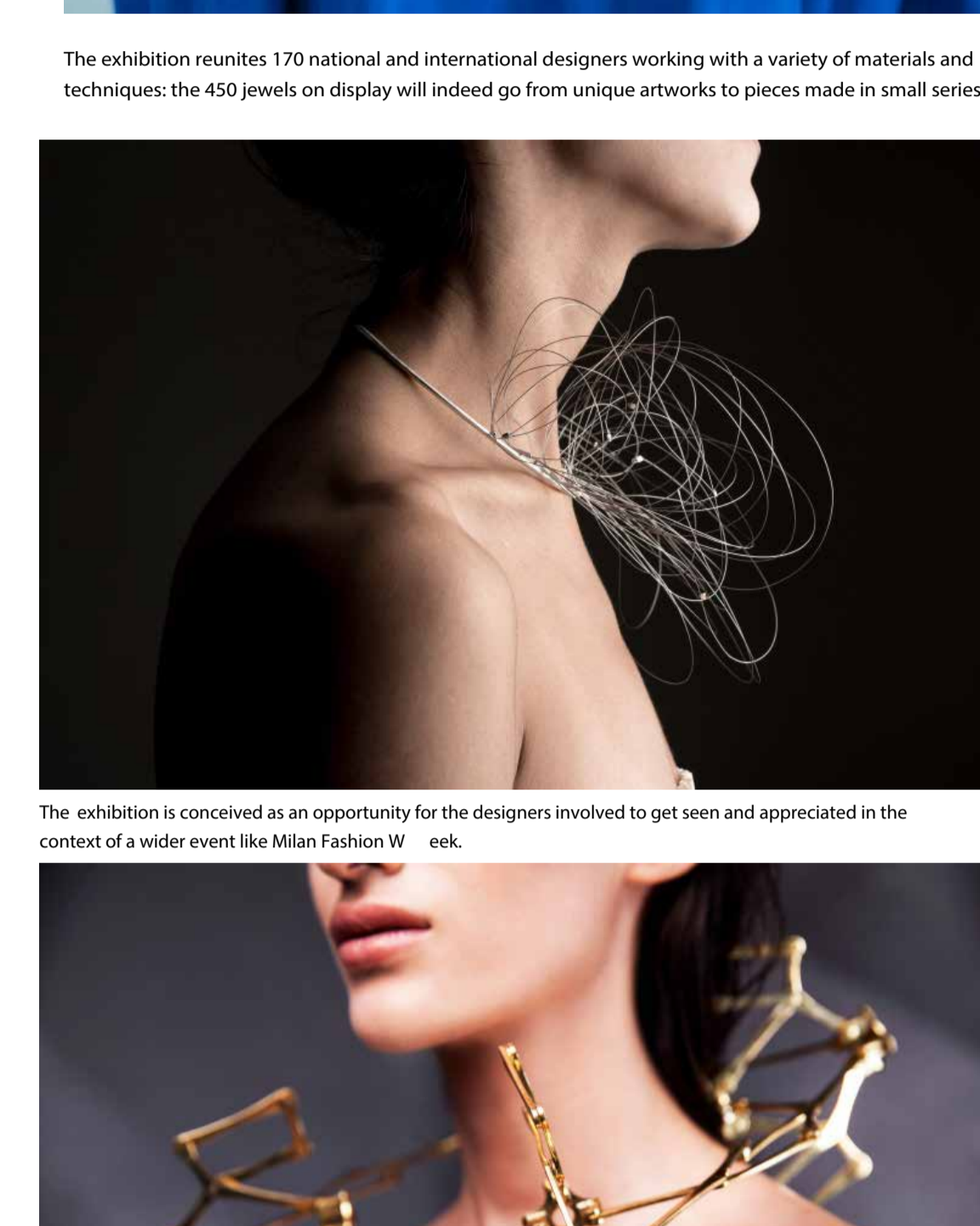
Quite often during the various fashion weeks in the main capitals the focus is on the garments. Accessories - especially bags and shoes - obviously get a mention, but in most cases there isn't too much space for jewels.



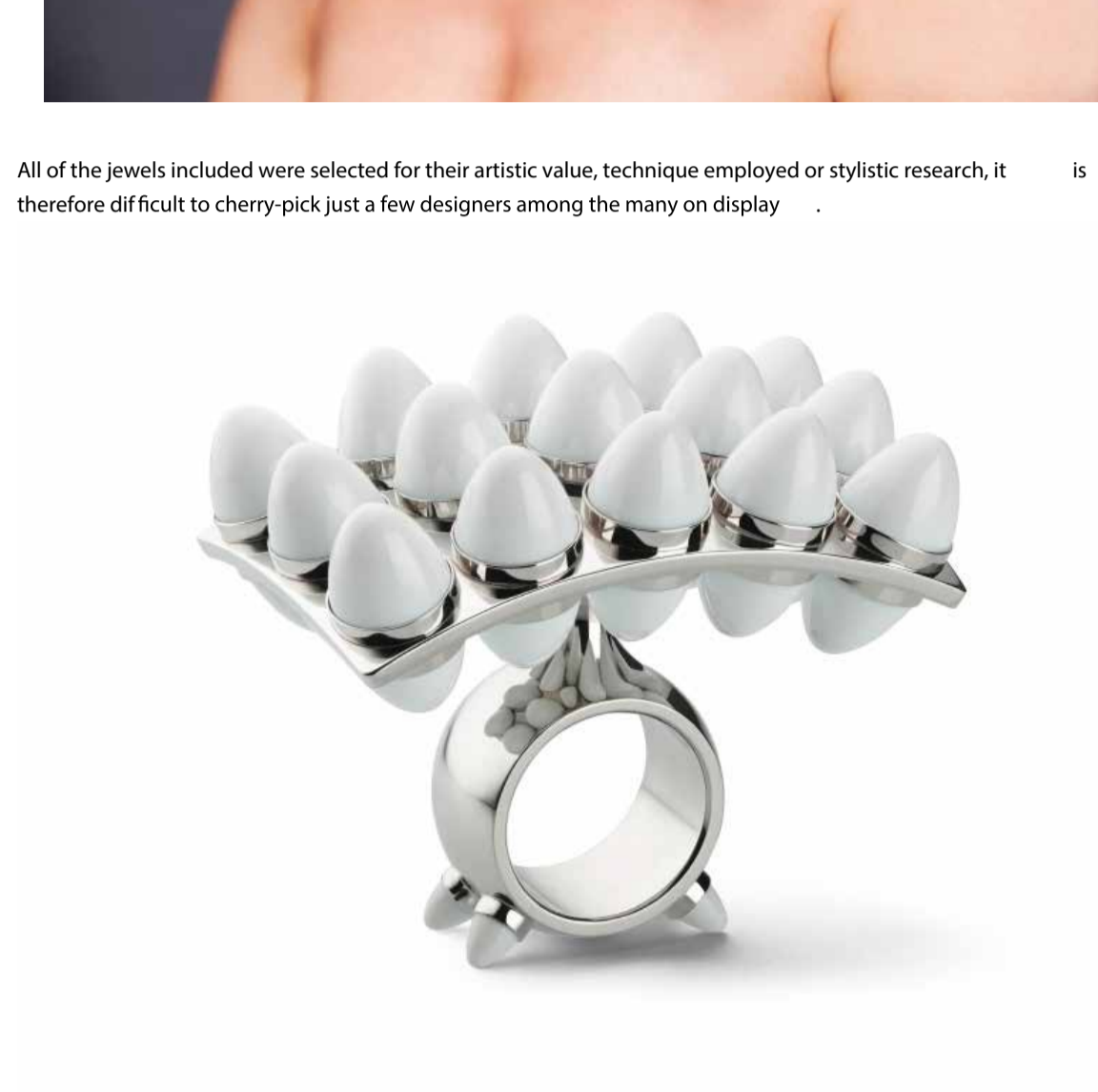
At this February a special event organised during Milan Fashion Week will reshift the attention on contemporary jewellery.



Opening at the Palazzo dei Giureconsulti "Artistar Jewels" (from 22nd February) is an exhibition dedicated not just to professionals working in this field, but also to designers, collectors and jewellery fans with a penchant for avant-garde creations.



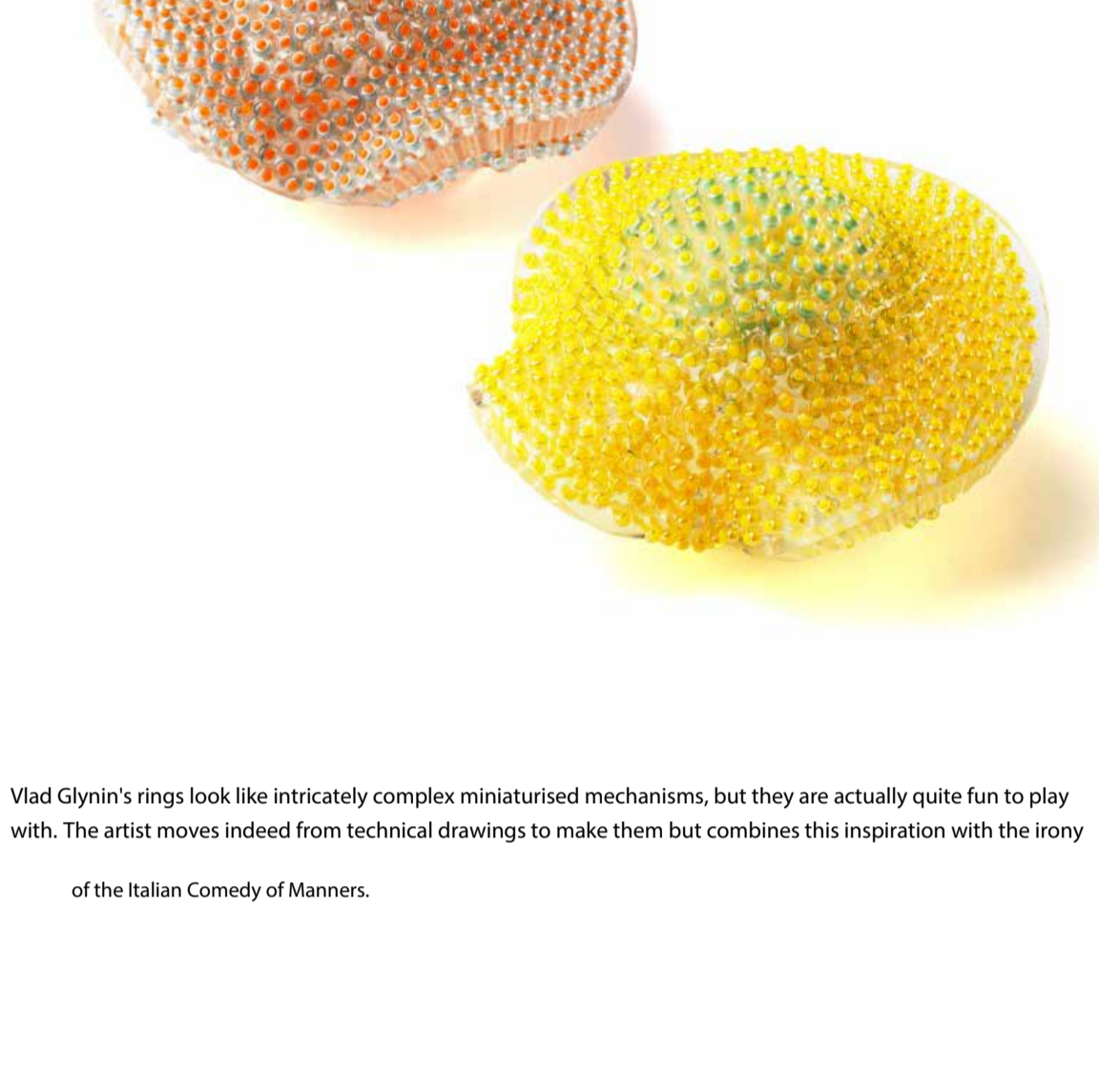
The exhibition reunites 170 national and international designers working with a variety of materials and techniques: the 450 jewels on display will indeed go from unique artworks to pieces made in small series.



The exhibition is conceived as an opportunity for the designers involved to get seen and appreciated in the context of a wider event like Milan Fashion Week.



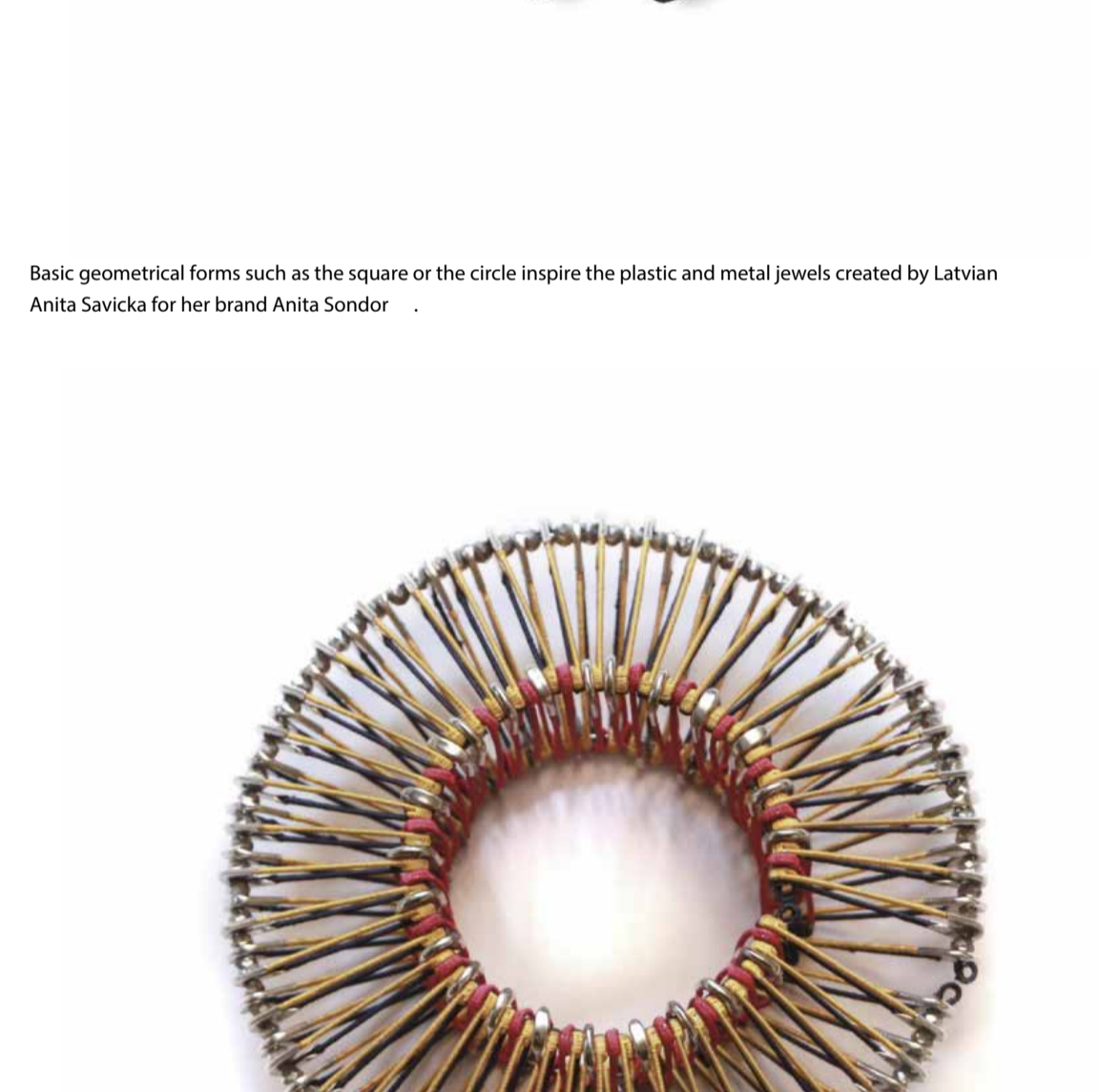
All of the jewels included were selected for their artistic value, technique employed or stylistic research, it is therefore difficult to cherry-pick just a few designers among the many on display.



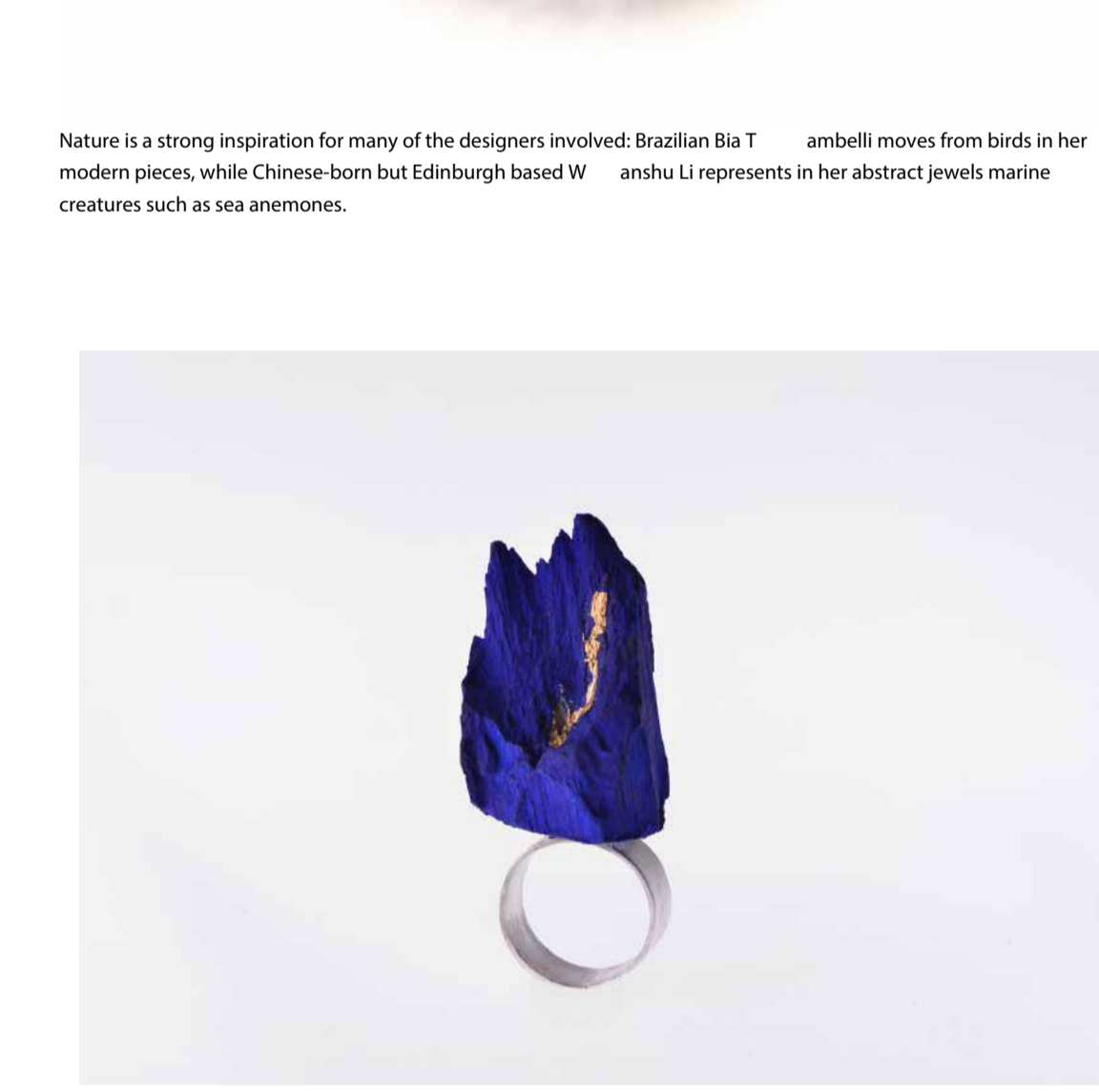
Yet visitors will be surprised by the intricate structures built with safety pins by Vaidaan, by the retro colours of Emma Estmacott's neoprene and ceramic designs, the miniaturised mountains created using brightly coloured minerals by Patricia Alvarez or the tiny restaging of the Alice in Wonderland fable courtesy of Katy Tromans.



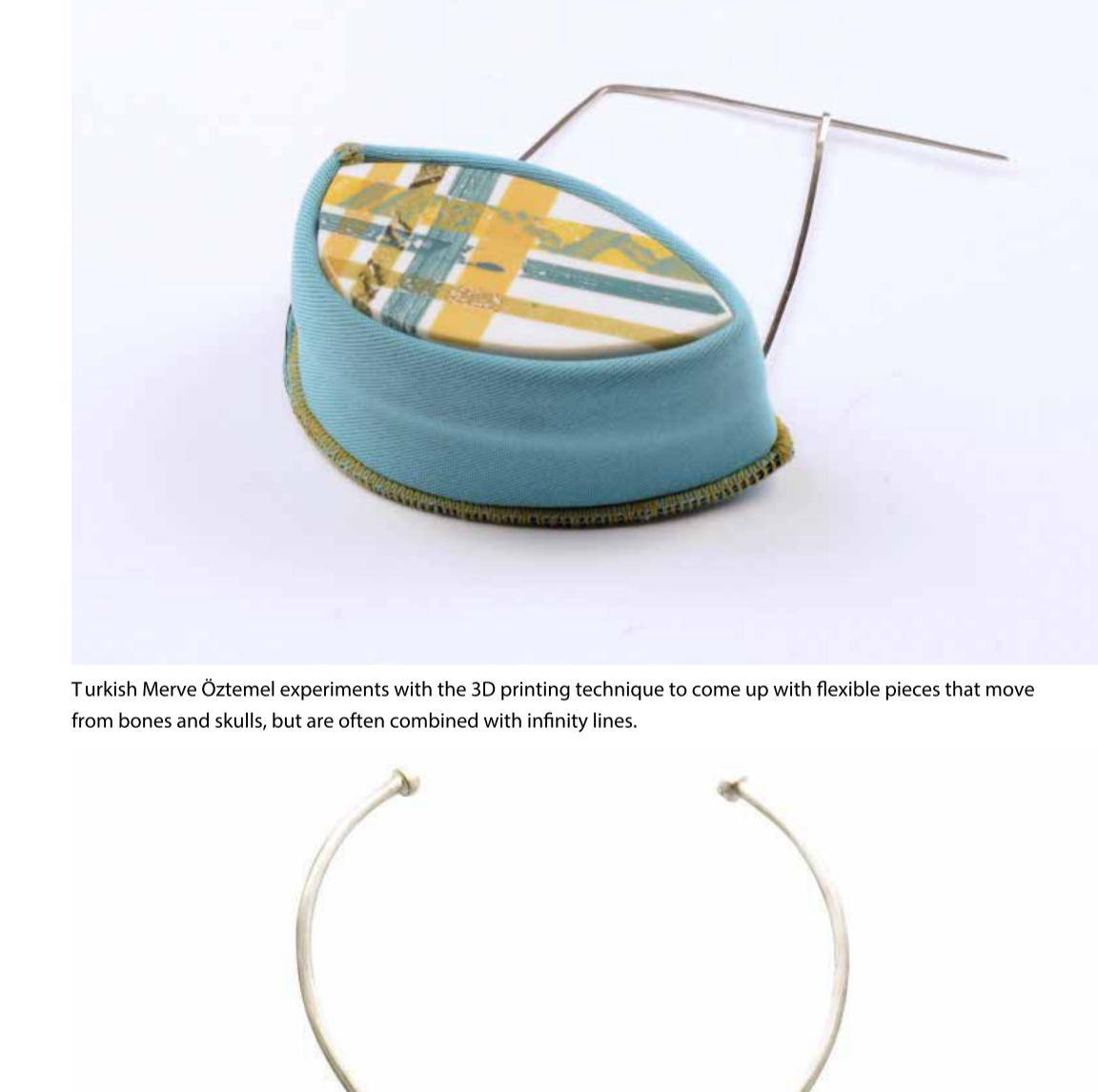
Young designers look particularly promising: Russian architect, interior designer and jewellery creator Strizhak Viktoriya makes pieces suspended between architecture and orthopedics. Her bronze piece entitled "Expand" looks indeed more like one of those external fixation used in surgery to lengthen or reshape bones; it can be donned as a necklace or a tiara and, being inspired by expandable mechanical structures, it allows the wearer to change its dimensions without using any special tools.



Vlad Gynin's rings look like intricately complex miniaturised mechanisms, but they are actually quite fun to play with. The artist moves indeed from technical drawings to make them but combines this inspiration with the irony of the Italian Comedy of Manners.



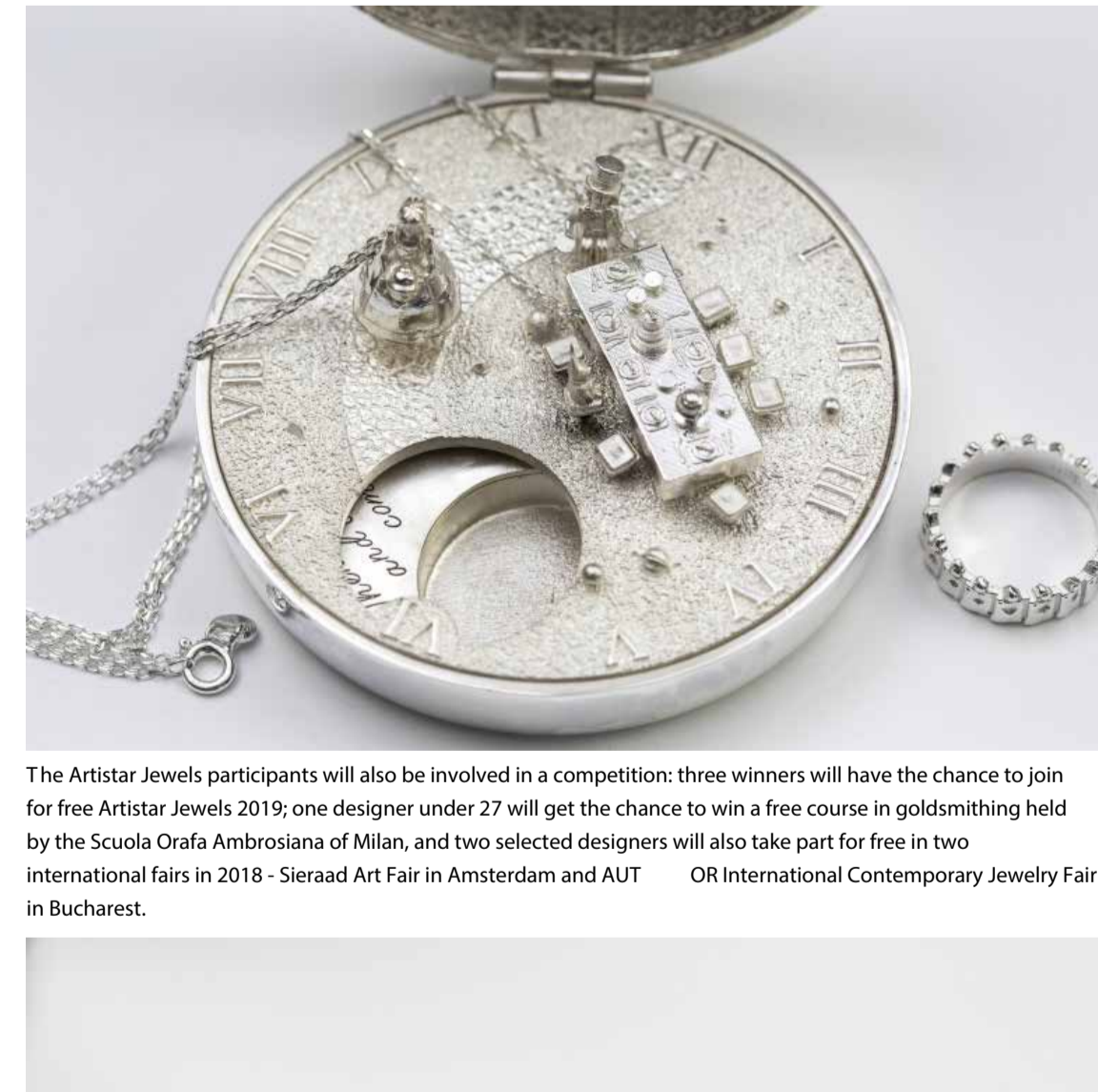
The ring entitled "Another" is for example an ode to humanity and to multiple personalities, symbolised by semi-detachable elements.



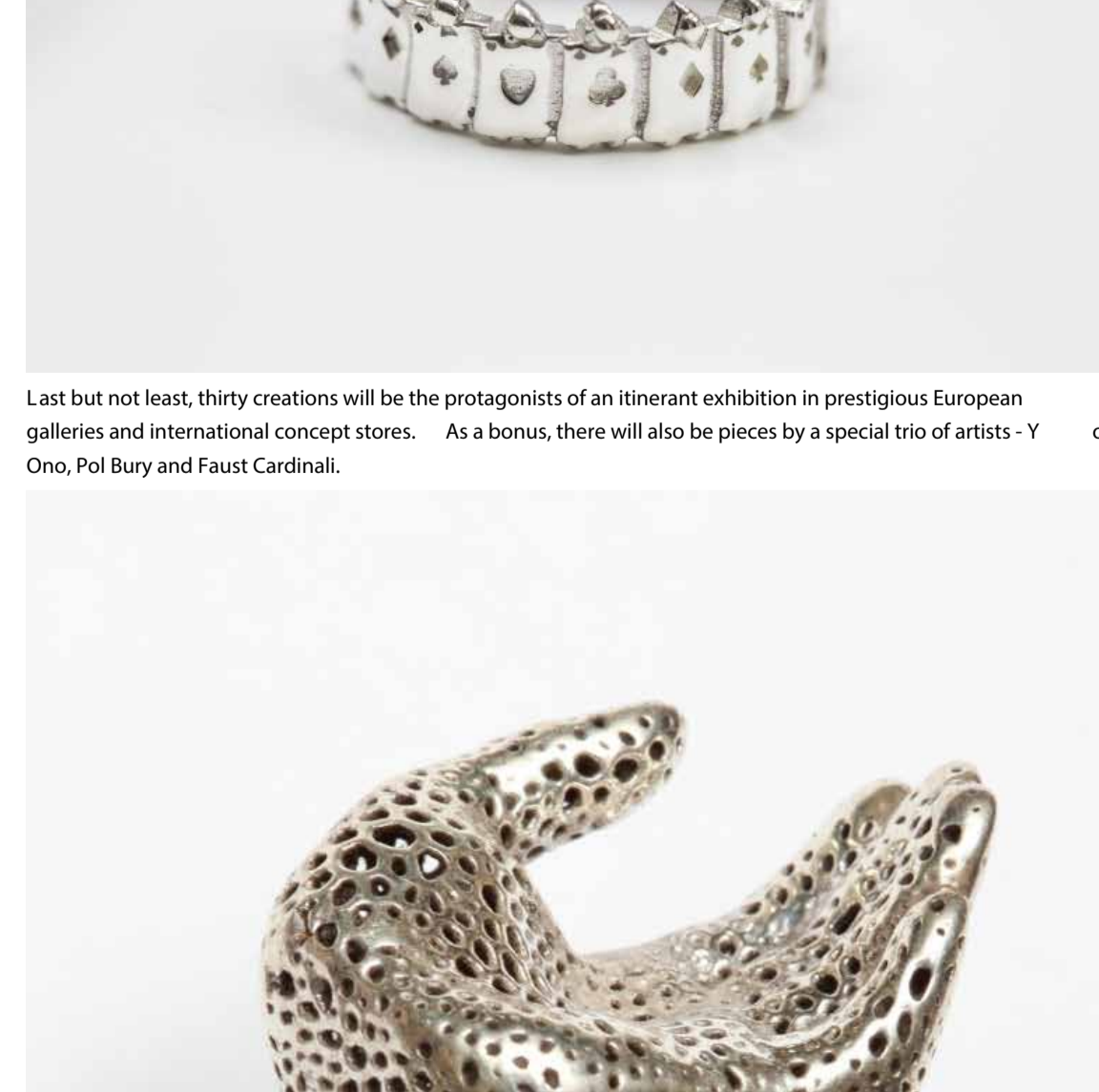
Basic geometrical forms such as the square or the circle inspire the plastic and metal jewels created by Latvian Anita Savicka for her brand Anita Sondor.



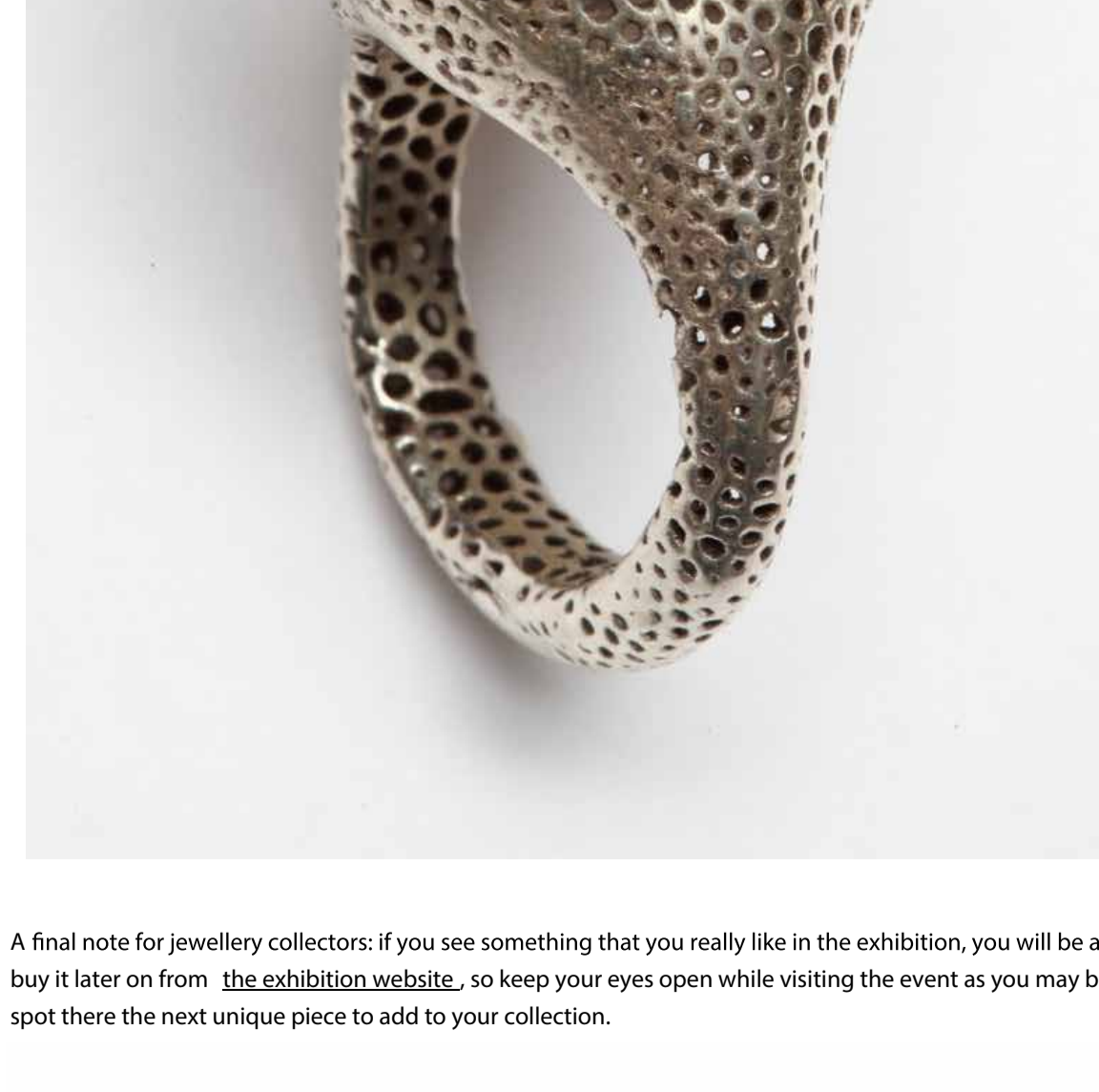
Nature is a strong inspiration for many of the designers involved: Brazilian Bia Tambelli moves from birds in her modern pieces, while Chinese-born but Edinburgh based Wanshu Li represents in her abstract jewels marine creatures such as sea anemones.



Though the inspiration is natural the materials employed to create these marine animals are synthetic: Li uses indeed mobile plastic beads, acrylic and prismatic elements to guarantee the wearer a strong visual and tactile experience.



Turkish Merve Oztemel experiments with the 3D printing technique to come up with flexible pieces that move from bones and skulls, but are often combined with infinity lines.



The theme of a precarious balance in life inspired Glauco Cambi jewels made with the lost wax casting technique, an artisanal trick that allowed him to juxtapose the rigidity of metal with a fluid design.



Lightness characterises instead the kinetic jewels of Isabel Betancourt, born in Venezuela but inspired by the art of Peru and Argentina.

The exhibition will also feature a special area with the creations of maison De Liguoro in collaboration with the Egyptian artist Reem Jano, winner of the 2017 De Liguoro award, and with the works of designer Gabriela Secarea, winner of the 2017 Artistar Jewels @ Camera Lucida award, offered to the best Romanian designer.

The Artistar Jewels participants will also be involved in a competition: three winners will have the chance to join for free Artistar Jewels 2019; one designer under 27 will get the chance to win a free course in goldsmithing held by the Scuola Orafica Ambrosiana of Milan, and two selected designers will also take part for free in two international fairs in 2018 - Sieraad Art Fair in Amsterdam and AUT OR International Contemporary Jewelry Fair in Bucharest.

Last but not least, thirty creations will be the protagonists of an itinerant exhibition in prestigious European galleries and international concept stores. As a bonus, there will also be pieces by a special trio of artists - Yoko Ono, Pol Bury and Faust Cardinali.

A final note for jewellery collectors: if you see something that you really like in the exhibition, you will be able to buy it later on from [the exhibition website](#), so keep your eyes open while visiting the event as you may be able to spot there the next unique piece to add to your collection.

Artistar Jewels 2018, February 22nd - 25th 2018 (9.30am - 6.00pm; free entry), Palazzo dei Giureconsulti, Via Mercanti 2, Milan

