

My Jewels

**An Interview with Elizabeth Gage,
Designer and Owner, Elizabeth Gage Ltd., London**

EDITORS' NOTE *A former student at the Chelsea School of Art and Sir John Cass College, both in London, Elizabeth Gage trained for six years as a goldsmith before winning her first major commission, from Cartier in 1968. Four years later, she won the De Beers Diamond International Award for her innovative, flexible Agincourt ring, which was hailed as an engineering masterpiece. After founding her self-named company in 1978, she opened her Albemarle Street boutique in Mayfair in 1984. Gage was recently commissioned to create a tiara for an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.*

COMPANY BRIEF *Founded in 1978 and based in London, Elizabeth Gage Ltd. is an award-winning maker of fine jewelry, which is highly prized for its intricately detailed gold work and brightly colored enamels. Inspired by objects found in nature and the world at large, the pieces also incorporate such elements as precious stones, ancient artifacts, 19th-century intaglios, and baroque pearls. The jewels are available exclusively at the Elizabeth Gage boutique (20 Albemarle Street, London) and through limited shows in the United States.*

You recently published a book that highlights your career and the work you've done over the years. What inspired you to do this?

So many of my clients have asked me to write about my work, and the inspirations behind it, that I felt this was something I needed to do. I found writing the book and choosing the photographs to be hugely enjoyable.

Will you provide an outline of the book and what you hope readers will gain from reading it?

This is an exquisite, opulent book – very lavish, made to the highest standards – with 200 pages of beautiful color

photographs and drawings, bound in purple silk and with its own red, silk presentation case. I'll always remember Fleur Cowles's response when I asked her if I should include photos of my clients or write more about my life in detail. "What's the book about?" she asked. "My jewels," I replied. "So, keep it that way," she said. I've tried to show the evolution of my work and the many influences that have helped me form it. Thus, I hope the reader will gain a greater understanding of my work.

Who do you think will buy the book? And where is it available?

Primarily, I wrote my book for people who love and collect my jewelry, but it's also an art book and makes a lovely gift, corporate or otherwise.

It's available from my shop in London [book@Elizabeth-Gage.com].

Looking back on your career, were there one or two times that defined your success?

Definitely. One was finding and opening my very own, beautiful shop in Albemarle Street. Having my own retail store was a huge step, greatly assisted by a wonderful article in *Connoisseur* magazine that same year. Then, my company was given the prestigious Queen's Award for Export Achievement, which certainly brought us attention. And finally, my decision to mount my own exhibitions. Inviting clients and their friends to private viewings of my jewelry has promoted my work even farther.

The book provides an overview of your career up till now. What's next for Elizabeth Gage? What are your plans for the future?

I intend to keep producing unique, well-designed jewels,

which will continue to be hand-made in England to only a very high standard. My aim has always been to bring beauty and quality into the world.

You've obviously achieved great success in your career. Did you ever imagine, in the early days, that your jewelry would end up receiving this much acclaim?

No, but I love every moment of it! ●



The book by Elizabeth Gage (above); sea-horses (clockwise from top): in amber and citrine; pearls, garnets, and diamonds; and diamonds and pearls

