



Magic Pearls show gems and pearls in harmony

A manufacturer of one-of-a-kind jewellery in Heidelberg, Germany, Weinmann+Stapff, unveiled at the recently concluded Basel fair its latest collection of Magic Pearls jewellery, featuring pearls with gemstone and gold inlay.

Gabriele Weinmann, one half of the Weinmann+Stapff tandem, said international patents are pending for the Magic Pearls technology, which she and partner Wigbert Stapff developed in 1998. Magic Pearls is a registered trademark in the United States and a number of countries in Europe. In Japan, application has been made for trademark registration.

"What is new about our idea is not merely decorating the pearl by perforating it and bonding the faceted stones into the holes, or covering the natural imperfections of the pearl with gold. We carefully carve out imperfect parts and re-establish the pearl's natural form by replacing the cut-out parts with gemstones that capture light," Ms Weinmann said.



Gabriele Weinmann, wearing one of the designs of Germany-based Weinmann+Stapff, developer of Magic Pearls

The inspiration for the Magic Pearls came three years ago when Ms Weinmann saw a necklace with a big South Sea pearl at the Basel fair. "The pearl was big and had good lustre, but had an imperfection. So I thought, yes, we have to make something perfect out of an imperfection. My partner, who is

a stonecutter, and I went back to our gallery and set to work."

The couple uses a variety of gemstones, such as opal, tourmaline, amethyst and diamonds, and borders all gemstones with 18k gold or platinum.

"Our creations are for people who want to wear unique pieces of jewellery. There is little difference between two perfectly clean pearl necklaces. With Magic Pearls, one can make unique pieces."

Ms Weinmann stressed that the company does not use poor-quality pearls. "We need pearls with thick nacre and good lustre. I work only on a pearl if there is an imperfection," she said.

Weinmann+Stapff is looking for a licensed partner to produce Magic Pearls. "We would like to hand the whole idea to a partner who is big enough to change the pearl market. We can transfer the technology and also help with the designs," Ms Weinmann said.