

OTTO JAKOB THE JEWELRY MAGICIAN

A ring like a sculpture, a brooch like a work of art from another era: the goldsmith Otto Jakob creates unique, ornamental jewelry. Now, the illustrated volume Ripe Fruit is devoted to his special type of art.

Berlin, September 25, 2018 – The jeweller, goldsmith, and gem cutter Otto Jakob is an autodidact who taught himself his craft. He actually studied painting under Georg Baselitz, but decided instead to make jewelry. Baselitz was one of his first customers: Jakob designed a gold stick pin for him. Other artists quickly became fans of the Karlsruhe-based jeweller's work. Jörg Immendorff even immortalized Jakob in one of his paintings, in the form of a luminous hand—a clear reference to Jakob's genius, which is reflected in his exquisite skill and unusual ideas.

Inspired by nature, Jakob designs pieces of jewelry that look like leaves; there are beetles, frogs, and lizards made of gold and set with gems, a kingfisher worked into an amulet, an antelope made of rose and white gold, with a flaming padparadsha sapphire in its delicately worked horns. "I have to be stimulated by art, plants, and other beautiful things around me, real things. The most important thing for me is to be in contact with objects that are of great artistic value and have great artistic potential," says Jakob.

His collectors' pieces, originally inspired by Etruscan and Celtic smithery, are made of a special mix of materials—refined arrangements of gems, wood, gold, and silver. Jakob prefers to mix the mundane with noble simplicity: ebony and diamonds, for example. For him, beauty lies precisely in imperfection. Otto Jakob wants to create substance, and so he designs strongly symbolic pieces of jewelry whose wealth of details often only becomes obvious at second glance. Now, you can discover the individual layers of his work in Ripe Fruit, an elaborately illustrated volume that offers insight into the art and creativity of the Karlsruhe-based goldsmith.



OTTO JAKOB
RIPE FRUIT

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Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION GERD HATJE as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

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