



jurassic spark

WHEN **Monique Péan** (moniquepean.com) was crafting her first collection of responsibly sourced jewels, she traveled from her home in New York to the Arctic Circle in search of fossilized woolly-mammoth tusks that she later paired with recycled gold and conflict-free diamonds. The prehistorically chic line, which debuted in 2006, quickly established Péan's reputation as a luxe jeweler for conscientious collectors.

This spring, her love affair with primordial remains—and the creatures from which they are derived—goes full tilt with a collection of some 25 pieces featuring rare pyritized dinosaur-bone fossils from the Jurassic era. Sourced from the banks of the Volga River and the Caspian Sea, the fossils bear Jurassic minerals and traces of glittery pyrite, also known as fool's gold.

Péan describes the pieces—which come in a palette of whites, blacks, and grays—as “nature’s paintings” for their

unique iridescent sheen. “They remind me of [avant-garde Japanese artist Kazuo] Shiraga’s performative pieces,” she says.

The necklaces, earrings, and rings also feature elements such as agatized and fossilized dinosaur bone from the Colorado Plateau (near the Four Corners region of the Southwestern United States) and fossilized walrus ivory. In one standout piece—a necklace on a chain of antique natural Champagne diamonds—Péan complements the pyritized dinosaur bone with a delicate slice of meteorite, allowing its eventual owner “to wear something of the earth and the cosmos,” she says.

For Péan, the ancient relics are more than just interesting-looking rocks; they’re time machines to a distant past. “Pyritized dinosaur-bone fossils have this mirrored holographic quality,” she says. “They are literally mirrors from the Jurassic period. How fascinating is that?” —VICTORIA GOMELSKY