

# THE JEWELRY BOOK

Luxury Fine Jewelry For Life



Omi Privé

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# Tess Sholom

## Sculptor in Gold



When you pick up a piece of Tess Sholom jewelry, you are immediately struck by its weight and scale. The 22k gold glows with light captured by the intricately textured surfaces.

Gemstone crystals and cabochons look like they grew in place. The shapes look simple but have an undeniable iconic presence.

It's not surprising that Tess Sholom's jewelry has such a tactile quality. A physical therapist before she became a jeweler, Tess has always believed in the power of touch. Today she channels that power into creating evocative abstract jewelry that testifies to the hand of its maker. When you run your fingers over the surface of her pieces, you can have a virtual conversation between artist and medium, maker and muse.

Tess Sholom began her jewelry career in fashion jewelry in 1976, designing pieces that appeared on the runways of Karl Lagerfeld, Oscar de la Renta and James Galanos and the pages of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar. Powerful women like First Lady Nancy Reagan and Lena Horn wore her designs.



*Tess has always believed in the power of touch.*







Byzantium Necklace



Circes Circle Necklace

Her fashion work is included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, Museum of the City of New York, the Racine Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and other museums.

But as her company grew over two decades, she missed creating with her hands. She took a goldsmithing class to make some pieces for herself. That's when she fell in love with gold. "Gold never disappears: the gold I am wearing could be thousands of years old," she says.

She decided to stop designing high-volume fashion jewelry and begin again as a hands-on studio artist, creating one-of-a-kind 22k gold jewelry in the workshop.

"When sculpting with the torch I feel that the gold and I are working together to bring my vision of beauty to light," she says. "When I work with the gold, I'm always looking for the happy accident, the movement that the metal naturally makes that I can incorporate into the final design. Crafting each design with my own hands gives it a human touch that can't be replicated any other way."

"Although my pieces are bold, they settle in on the body as though they were always meant to be there."

Her jewelry is modern in form but inspired by history, myth and mythology. She designs expressive armor that empowers the women who wear it.

Like fragments of an ancient Byzantine mosaic, rough aquamarine beads are framed in gleaming 22k gold. A bracelet of baroque pearls blooms with a clasp bouquet of multicolored gold and diamonds. Oak leaf earrings evoke an ancient Macedonian crown. Inspired by the ancient sorceress Circe, a bold necklace of amethysts embraced by circles of 22k gold casts a magical spell on everyone who sees it. Although her dramatically scaled pieces are regarded as art, they are also surprisingly easy to wear, thanks to her understanding of how the body moves. "Although my pieces are bold, they settle in on the body as though they were always meant to be there," she says.

## TESS SHOLOM'S MIDAS TOUCH



TESS SHOLOM DESIGNS

[www.TessSholomDesigns.com](http://www.TessSholomDesigns.com)