



ELEGANCE &  
BEYOND

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# FIERCELY FERAL

*Exclusive: Gianni Saponé's  
animalistic take on Italian Couture*



# *EXQUISITELY OUT OF THIS EARTH*

*Diams Jewellery's very own Ramon Cortes, in an exclusive interview with Ego,  
shares all about his Meteorite Jewellery Collection*



**T**he concept of your jewellery is revolutionary. What room do you see for jewellery based on meteorites in a market like Dubai?

My jewellery is revolutionary in the sense that it is an art of launching a brand new Jewellery collection which is made from materials that are as old as 4.5 billion years. I am inspired by Dubai's Architecture, energetic melting pot where you have over 150 nationalities living in one city in harmony in the vibration of the city. Dubai has the tallest tower in the world and the largest mall in the world, it is the biggest, the best and the number one in everything it does and that is more of the reason why Meteorite Jewellery by Diams should be launched in Dubai.

**What response are you expecting?**

I do not expect anything; it is like giving a woman a bouquet of flowers and only expecting a smile in return.

**How do you extract the raw material?**

I extract my raw materials by working with hunters who know very well the field; my extractions take place next to the Polar circle only for 4 months out of the year. Those months are from May to August. These are the hottest months of the year and it's the rainy season so we faced many hardships while extracting. We used a machine to detect magnetism and the whole pro-

cess is manual process to preserve the environment because of the lost in the polar region. You also have to have a license to be able to extract and there is no guarantee it will be meteorite because it may turn out to be iron.

**Tell us about the design process of the jewellery? How involved are you with it?**

The design process is done by myself, I'm responsible for everything from A-Z. After receiving the rough meteorite, I have to cut it open and it's a very sensitive process. I applied the acid to make the revelation of the line. This is all to explore initially. It's a long process which takes 3 years. Then, I tap the meteorite with the hammer just like the music teacher does while listening to the different tunes. I covered the meteorite with rhodium which is the layer of platinum to preserve the material so it does not deteriorate.

**Are there complications related to working with some of the oldest existing objects on earth?**

Yes, of course there are complications when working with the oldest material in the world. Meteorite is a very strong material and when it lands on earth, the impact sometimes breaks the inside of the meteorite, which ends up in the lost of the material. I have to select the best pieces, which are the ones with fine lines. I use a very strong machine and I cut very slowly. It is very important to use the proper heat and speed when cutting the meteorite since it is a pure material. I then cover the meteorite with a layer of platinum also known as rhodium which preserves the material, so it does not deteriorate.



**In terms of their value and preciousness, where do meteorites stand compared to gemstones?**

The value of meteorite is decided upon by the person himself. It is a personal preference and taste at the end of the day. In Northern Europe they like the color blue so you find a lot of Sapphires there. In Southern Europe it is hotter in climate so they prefer the red color; you will find a lot of Ruby's. When there is an abundance of a product in a country, prices become cheaper. Meteorite is a very rare product. Gemstones are found everywhere where as Meteorite is very rare.

**How do you add to the timelessness of the ornament that has already been made from a timeless material?**

You cannot add to the timelessness of meteorite. It is a product that speaks for itself. This symbolism of meteorite is to enhance and amplify positive and creative energy from the birth of the universe which 4.5 billion years old. Meteorite empowers you.

**Tell us about your clients.**

My clients are everyone and anyone who loves and appreciates meteorite. The earth is limited, Meteorite is limited. Meteorite has to speak to you and to your imagination.

**What can we expect in future?**

In the future, our plan is to build a new collection from a Dubai based competition where all the big brand names of designers will be involved. We will also host another competition with young designers who are extremely talented, and this will appear on the social network so the designers can be known. I would like to create a new collection of Meteorite in Dubai and let it be known as OUR Meteorite not MY Meteorite. I believe in the strength of Dubai.

