



Gemstone/Art

Edited by Wilhelm Lindemann

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- The fascinating history of gemstones in art and jewellery

Gemstones have always been, since time immemorial, heavily charged with meaning and have even been regarded as magical objects. For that reason they have also been an art medium since the early modern age and have shaped as art symbols – in the form of the crystal – both Romanticism and Modernism, for example in the works of Caspar David Friedrich, Lyonel Feininger and many more. In the latter half of the twentieth century, not only have such artists as Bernd Munsteiner, Ute Eitzenhöfer and Bernhard Schobinger rediscovered the gemstone; through the Hochschule für Edelstein und Schmuck Trier/Idar-Oberstein and other similar specialist institutions it is also undergoing a revival in today's art production – right up to Damien Hirst.

Text in English and German.

Wilhelm Lindemann, born 1949. Studies in philosophy, comparative literature and social work. Worked in Idar-Oberstein as curator for the exhibition programme 'Idar-Oberstein schmückt sich'. Since 2005 has curated the annual academic symposium 'Schmuck-Denken Unterwegs zu einer Theorie des Schmucks' [Thinking Jewellery On the Way Towards a Theory of Jewellery] held by the Trier University of Applied Sciences degree course in precious gemstones and jewellery design. Visiting lecturer for the theory of art at the Fachhochschule in Idar-Oberstein.