



Toy story

Channel your playful side with these nostalgic pieces, says Jessica Diamond



Clockwise from far left: Bon Bon Block rings, £4,380 each, Nadine Ghosn; Orsetto pendant, £2,070, Pomellato; Pinky Van Robot, £3,450, Van Robot; Missing Piece hoop earrings, £4,350, Paige Novick; Palloncino earclip, POA, Vhernier; High Jewellery necklace, POA, Bulgari

If jewellery is a reflection of our times, it's no surprise that designers are turning to childhood motifs for inspiration. After such a turbulent year perhaps it's a hankering for simpler times, or that we've just had more time to sit and reminisce; either way, these jewels are brilliantly nostalgic. Jeweller Nadine Ghosn's latest collection, Building Blocks, is inspired by Lego, with perfectly carved hard stones such as agate, malachite and rock crystal fashioned into miniature bricks. She cites a time in 2019 when her life seemed to be falling apart and she turned to jewellery-making, and specifically the building block motif. "We are constantly assembling and re-assembling pieces as we construct our own stories," she says. "This collection reminds me that life's challenges can be overcome step by step, block by block."

Less weighted with meaning but no less charming is newcomer Tatiana Van Lancker's Van Robots – fully articulated gold and gemstone robots are presented as pendants and earrings or can be customised to a client's specification. Van Lancker describes her pieces as "sci-fi meets art deco" and "playful, fine jewellery bijoux-bots". Carolina Bucci's Girandola ring, meanwhile, spins on the finger like an origami pinwheel. Designed during lockdown, she was drawn to the idea of the wind blowing away bad luck and bringing with it good fortune.

Big-name brands are not immune either – Bulgari has presented a high jewellery train necklace, while Vhernier's balloon earrings and brooches have become a staple of this Milanese brand.

Ballerinas, dinosaurs, jigsaw puzzles, teddy bears: this trend sees them given the precious treatment.

nadineghosn.com; vanrobot.com; carolinabucci.com; bulgari.com; vhernier.com ■



Clockwise from above: Stud Club dinosaur earring, £490, Robinson Pelham; Girandola ring, £6,960, Carolina Bucci; Bluebird ballerina clip, POA, Van Cleef & Arpels