

Jewels of the NILE

Looking back to the treasures of ancient Egypt and forwards into cyberspace, Sarah Ysabel Dyne-Narici's eclecticism is suddenly on everyone's radar, says *Tanya Dukes* 

IT'S NOT OFTEN that someone can navigate a conversation from the

virtues of Polly Pocket to transhumanist philosophy, and then pivot to Byzantine

From left: Elixin Bubble earrings in and rock crystal; Elixir of Life ring in and gold, all by Dyne.

art. But British-Italian jeweller Sarah Ysabel Dyne-Narici finds connections between their seemingly disconnected dots, and applies those influences to

Dyne, the brand she founded at the start of 2022. Case in point: the jewels that put her fledgling label on the map, generously proportioned Loverglyphs, rings whose surfaces feature gems and symbols reminiscent of hieroglyphics to represent their owners' story. The clever unity of past and present, the personal and the universal, transported her to the top of every one-to-watch list.

IN THE TRADITION of all great overnight sensations, Dyne-Narici had been beavering away long before she attracted attention. Born in Milan and raised in the UK from the age of 10, most of her relatives are lawyers or scientists. She assumed she would follow their paths. but her biochemist mother encouraged Dyne-Narici to nurture her jewellerymaking inclinations. After a visit to Central Saint Martins, her fate was sealed and she enrolled. "I went from zero to 100 per cent. Jewellery was all I wanted to do. There was no plan B."

Like many ambitious postgraduates, Dyne-Narici navigated a string of jobs for nearly a decade at Alexander McQueen, with edgy rock'n'roll maestro Stephen Webster and assisting red-carpet jewellery queen Lorraine Schwartz. The experience helped refine her vision, along with obtaining a graduate gemologist degree-an education in gems down to their molecular structure—from the Gemological Institute of America in New York City, where she now lives.

The breakout Loverglyphs came out of the process of creating wedding

From left: Cleopatra ring in emerald, diamond and gold; Nemes cuff in emerald and gold; Neme gold; Jorden ring in ourmaline, sapphire and gold, all by Dyne







bands for herself and her husband inscribed with symbols for private memories and meanings. She's expanded on the theme, extending the concept to pendants, earrings and the rest. Another much-requested design is her engagement ring, an undulating length of gold that coils around her finger and a cushion-shape diamond with a soft peachy tint. Meanwhile, her Archery rings are another fan favourite: slim,

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techniques and materials that have already forged her discernible creative fingerprint: antique gems and contemporary stones cut in a similar style, feats of lapidary work that fuse gemstones and precious metal and, whenever possible, "introducing a tension that is a little cheeky". Unfortunately for her fans, most of those bespoke pieces are hush-hush, high-priced treasures that Dyne-Narici can rarely discuss or—perish the thought—share on social media.

LAST SUMMER, SHE elicited swoons among the online jewellery cognoscenti when she revealed a digital artwork created in collaboration with her cousin, British-Singaporean artist Kara Chin. In it, a whirling image of one of her rings emerges from a white void, while animated renditions of the gems and icons on its surface—a heart unlocked with a key, a pearl in an oyster shell, a bow and arrow—burst from within and levitate around the jewel. "No rendering or illustration could quite capture the life inside these pieces," she explains. The artwork allows the self-funded designer to create digital examples of pieces she'd like to produce, conserving the cost of materials and labour until a buyer materialises.

Her vision is about to find its biggest platform vet, with an exhibition coming to a New York gallery this autumn. The event will include jewellery, gems to tempt commissions for bespoke designs and digital-jewellery works. It's a lofty achievement for a designer who launched her business less than two years ago. "I'm not exactly sure how it will end up," says Dyne-Narici, "but I'm very excited about where this is going."

From left: Egyptian Chevaliere ring in emerald and gold; Egyptian Chevaliere ring drawing; ring from Loverglyphs Video, all by Dyne.

> undulating bands are decorated with pavé-set gemstone stripes, reminiscent of the graphic lines on nemes, the headdress worn by Egyptian pharaohs.

As delighted as she is to have a string of hits on her hands, Dyne-Narici has no intention of being pigeonholed by a sliver of her output. "I don't want to follow the obvious path and feel pressure to make commercial

collections," she says. Instead, she's been lining up a portfolio of one-off projects, creating imagination-bending pieces, such as hoops made from diamond briolettes and emerald beads that spiral around the ear like an unfurling galaxy, or a curvaceous ring that pairs a shield-cut white diamond with an unusual crescent-shaped emerald cabochon. They allow her to focus on developing some of the

VANITY FAIR ON JEWELLERY