



Elke Berr Creations Partners with Opera for Peace

"True artistry transcends boundaries," affirms Elke Berr, founder and director of Elke Berr Créations, and director of Berr & Partners SA, a Switzerland-based wholesale gem company. "And collaboration across disciplines can spark profound change. Just as our jewelry transforms rare gemstones into exquisite pieces that convey unique stories, we recognize the transformative power of music to inspire and connect people across cultures and generations."

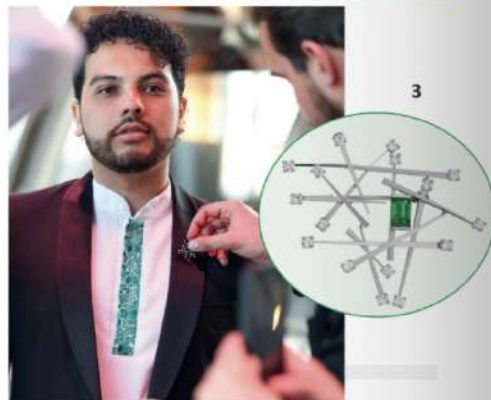
With that in mind, Berr has partnered with *Opera for Peace*, an award-winning nonprofit organization that empowers exceptional talents from six continents, many of whom would not have had such opportunities otherwise. By fostering high-level careers, Opera for Peace enables these artists to pay forward their success by inspiring future generations of artists and audiences.

The special event took place in April at the Eiffel Tower, and featured celebrities wearing the brand's jewels. "This occasion presents an opportunity for us to support an organization whose mission we deeply resonate with," adds Berr. "Opera for Peace is a beacon of artistic excellence, empowering young talents to reach new heights while uniting diverse voices through the universal language of music. We are proud to sponsor this event and to donate a portion of the sales made during the evening to the Opera for Peace Foundation, helping to sustain its initiatives and provide opportunities for emerging artists." ♦

(1) 18K white gold necklace with 55.73-ctw unheated fancy Madagascan sapphires, 8.43-ctw yellow Sri Lankan sapphires, and 1.11-ctw diamond accents. (2) 18K white gold necklace featuring 61.83-ctw Burmese rubies and 14.5-mm South Sea pearls. (3) 18K gold brooch featuring rectangular 1.50-ct Colombian emerald with diamond accents. (Photo: Elke Berr Creations, with jewelry modeled by 'Opera for Peace' activists)

INDUSTRY NEWS

COLORED GEMS & JEWELRY IN THE NEWS



The Passing of Didier Brodbeck A Eulogy by Icaro Carlos

Jewelry, gem, and pearl specialist, author, and publisher Didier Brodbeck—celebrated for his countless contributions to the trade—passed away in Paris on February 7, 2025. He was 84.

A man of unparalleled wit, intelligence, and boundless curiosity, Didier was not only a mentor but also an exceptional friend. Our friendship was a stroke of fortune and over the years, I had the privilege of sharing countless moments with him and his family, whether working together or simply celebrating life in the heart of Paris. He had a unique sense of humor that made every gathering unforgettable. His circle of friends was nothing short of stellar—a testament to his immense influence and charisma.

As a journalist, he was one of the most well-connected figures in the world of jewelry and watchmaking, with open doors at every major luxury Maison. Yet, despite his extensive network and achievements, he remained profoundly humble, always greeting the world with a warm smile and a ready joke. Didier made the jewelry world feel lighter, more accessible, and infinitely more fun. We owe him so much, in so many ways.

He had a comprehensive background in business and communications. He graduated from renowned French business schools EDHEC and INSEAD and worked as an advertising executive at J Walter Thompson, specializing in luxury, especially watches and jewelry. He was also a long-time consultant for the GIE Perles de Tahiti and the Brazilian Institute of Gems and Precious Metals.

In 1999, he founded and became the editorial director of *A World of Dreams*, the first French magazine for the public dedicated specifically to jewelry and watches. Published in multiple languages, including Russian and Chinese, the magazine remains available on newsstands today. His keen journalistic instincts and insatiable curiosity played a pivotal role in the magazine's success.

Beyond his work in publishing, Didier was a familiar and beloved figure on the Place Vendôme and at major jewelry fairs worldwide. His knowledge and passion were unmatched, and his ability to articulate the essence of jewelry made him a sought-after speaker at international events. He had an uncanny ability to bridge history with modernity, making his writing both timeless and deeply insightful. Among his extensive literary contributions are *Journal Imaginaire d'Abraham-Louis Breguet* (1991), *Le diamant dans tout son éclat* (1992), and *Horlogerie Made in France* (1996). His work on counterfeits—*Chic*



Didier Brodbeck (1941 – 2025).

et Toc: *Le vrai livre des contrefaçons* (1990) and *Faux ou Vrai* (1993)—demonstrated his engagement to also tackle some of the industry's most pressing challenges.

Didier also wrote several books that captured the artistry of pearls, including *The Tahitian Pearl As Seen By Creative Jewelers* (1997) and *Le Miracle de la Perle d'Or* (2007), the latter written on behalf of the Philippine Association of Pearl Producers/Exporters. His passion for storytelling continued with a biography dedicated to Brazilian jeweler Ruth Grieco in 2012 and *Tanzanite, Born from Lightning* (2016), co-authored with Hayley A. Henning—a book that I had the honor of working on with them. He collaborated with noted photographer Thomas Dhellemmes to capture remarkable jewels in *Bijoux*. In 2019, he contributed to *Black Opal, Only from Australia*, and in 2021, he published *Jewelmer, Beyond the Golden Pearl*, a tribute to the golden pearl.

Even in his final moments, Didier's creative mind never ceased working. His relentless curiosity and drive were awe-inspiring, a testament to a life lived in full pursuit of beauty and knowledge. His legacy is not just in the words he left behind but in the countless lives he touched, the stories he illuminated, and the world of jewelry he made infinitely richer. To have known him was a privilege; to have called him a friend was an extraordinary gift. ♦