

Opaque Diamonds

Fancy colored diamonds for the red carpet or the patio

Twenty years ago Chinese freshwater pearls took the jewelry world by storm. Their lower price and producer's willingness to dye them a multitude of colors made them a jewelry designer's dream. Designers played with them and created fresh new fashion jewelry. Today, opaque and rough diamonds appear to be filling that same niche in the world of traditional diamond jewelry. Opaque diamonds of over a carat are selling for a few hundred dollars and as a bonus, they are available in fancy colors that are incredibly rare in transparent diamonds. In the past these diamonds were overlooked because they lacked the clarity we had been taught was an essential part of a diamond.

While opaque diamonds do not exhibit the internal brilliance and dispersion of transparent diamonds, they do have the ability to take a very high polish known as adamantine luster. That unique type of luster makes each little external facet more reflective than almost all other gems and results in a very sparkly surface. They also have the same hardness as all diamonds making them extremely durable.

Opaque diamonds became popular in the first part of this century when faceted black diamonds began show-



1.47ct Gray Diamond in Palladium & 18KT Pendant \$950

Rough Diamond Beads & Forged 18KT Clasp \$1050

2.20ct Gray Diamond set in 18KT & White Gold Forged Ring \$1350

ing up in the news media and on the red carpet. Other opaque colors are just beginning to show up. Actress Sandra Bullock wore a



pair of designer earrings to the 2010 Golden Globe Awards featuring several gray opaque diamonds and Top Chef celebrity Gail Simmons wore yellow opaque diamond drops to the 61st Emmy Awards.

When designing opaque diamond jewelry, we frequently use recycled gold to create heavily textured or hammered designs. This results in a beautiful style that resonates with the natural beauty of the diamonds while minimizing environmental impact.



1.63ct Red Diamond in Rose Gold \$900



0.69ct Yellow Diamond in White Gold \$750



1.66ct Opaque White Diamond with 0.32ct Melee in White Gold \$1900