

# JEWELRY CONNOISSEUR

SUMMER 2004

American  
Pearls

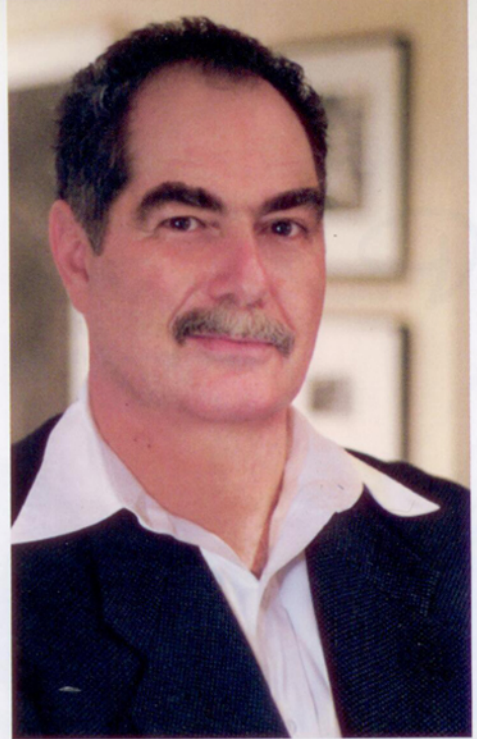


What  
Are Your  
Jewels  
Worth?

Cathy  
Carmendy  
Does  
Hollywood



USA \$4.95  
CANADA \$6.95



# Christopher Walling

At eight years old, Christopher Walling knew that he wanted to be a jewelry designer when he read about buried treasure in a National Geographic book, *Everyday Life in Ancient Times*. Walling decided to create jewelry as his treasure. His interest in design was fostered by the Bohemian world in which he grew up. His father, who first worked with the United Nations and then had a second career as an architect, pushed Walling along the path to jewelry-making by imparting his knowledge of the vocation that he had learned while in boarding school. His French mother had been a resistance fighter during World War II and Walling grew up in an environment filled with intellectuals and artists. He was also instilled with a sense of social responsibility that he feels to this day, contributing to many charities and arts organizations. Based in New York, and a frequent flyer to both Palm Beach and Aspen, Walling's clientele reads like a who's who of the names that regularly make the social columns. The society doyennes who wear his jewels are fascinated by the art of his jewelry and are often art collectors who are attracted to the flattering simplicity of his "X" pearls collection and his bold, color-filled creations. His jewels are inspired by visions that he has while meditating and through images that appear to him while he is dreaming. ♦

*Who or what is your muse?* Color.

*What is your dream?* To be happily partnered.

*What's your favorite vacation?*

Sailing off the coast of Turkey with friends.

*Who do you most admire?*

Suzanne Belperron and Mahatma Gandhi.

*What would you most like to change about the world?*

The lack of compassion we exhibit for those considered less conventionally "fortunate" than ourselves.

*What's your favorite gemstone and why?*

Pink sapphires — they have the softest, sexiest range of pinks, and yellow sapphires because they have the same beautiful "canary" color of yellow diamonds at a lesser expense.

*What is your pet peeve?*

Rudeness and the lack of personal accountability due to the false sense of entitlement new money gives now that arrivistes no longer "ape" their betters, as did previous generations of successful business people.

*What was the hardest part of getting to where you are now?* Financing.

*How do you define success?*

The healthy enjoyment of things, small and large.

*What would you do if you weren't a designer?*  
Write.

*What's your favorite city and why?*

Aspen, because it has everything!

*What do you do in your spare time?*

Read history.

*Who is your favorite fictional character?*

Eric in James Baldwin's *Another Country*.

*Who do you most love in this world?*

My Jack Russell terrier, Jack and my mother.

*What makes you happy?*

Working.



Emerald, pink sapphire, oxidized silver and gold brooch.

G

emstones are one of nature's great gifts to humankind. They bring color and light into our lives, and some believe emotional and physical healing as well. Certainly, gemstones have a magical quality that inspires us to desire their presence in our lives. When I look at a gemstone, the wonder of it never ceases to amaze me. Each stone — like every

person — has its own personality. I love gazing into a gem and seeing the markings inside the stone — the birthmarks that make that particular stone unique. I'm particularly fond of gems that have feathery marks that reflect a joyful rainbow into my presence when the light hits it exactly the right way. It always makes me happy.

When I saw the Christopher Walling paisley brooch that is on the cover of this issue of *Jewelry Connoisseur*, the first thing that struck me was the fabulous color combination of the pink sapphires and the green emerald. But I really fell for the stones because each one has such a distinct personality. When I looked inside the emerald and saw the "garden" of swirling tendrils and vines, I was enthralled. The pink sapphires with their subtle variations in color, beautiful rutilations and delicate feathery patterns inside the stones mesmerized me. I couldn't take my eyes off of that brooch; I held it close to feel its energy and I knew it was "the one." Those little markings inside the gem tell the story of the stone — its history and its character. And if you look closely and listen quietly, gemstones have an amazing tale to tell.

Here's to all that sparkles,

Amber Michelle

Amber Michelle

