

Support for Breast Cancer Awareness Is a Beautiful Thing

Designers Line Up to Benefit the Cause

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and sadly, this resonates with many of us. Perhaps a friend or relative, or you, yourself, have felt the burden of this awful disease. Don't allow that to make you feel entirely powerless. Many retailers and designers create special products and services to aid breast cancer charities, so every time you treat yourself or a loved one to a gift of one of these pieces of jewelry or a spa treatment, you're also making a donation in support of the cause -- it's a double gift. Some of the generous designers and retailers who are part of this initiative share what moved them to get involved.

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Misa Jewelry

Misa Hamamoto designed a statement cocktail-style ring for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Chosen because it is a powerful-looking piece, Hamamoto said this Shima druzy ring is one of her personal favorites.

"The iridescent druzy stone alone reflects such beauty with its pinks, greens and purples," she said. "Druzes have always been one of my favorite gemstones. I'm still amazed that a rock can have layers of brilliant-colored crystals naturally growing on top of it. I love this ring because it is entirely handmade and unique. I even hand-sculpted the bezel around the druzy stone so that it is one continuous, sculptural piece. I often get stopped by strangers on the street because the sparkling druzy and the organic setting of the ring catch their eye."

For Hamamoto, donating 20 percent of the proceeds to Susan G. Komen for the Cure is a personal endeavor.

"Breast cancer and other forms of cancer have unfortunately affected both sides of my family as well as many of my friends," she said. "As difficult as it is to hear such news, the process of going through it with your loved ones is such a loving time, when bonds are strengthened even more."

Designing a beautiful piece of jewelry that also supports the cause is clearly very meaningful to Hamamoto.

"To me this ring represents the beauty, power and sparkle that every woman possesses, especially cancer survivors," she said.

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