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STYLE SPY

THE LOOK

HEALTH, BEAUTY, AND WHAT TO WEAR

Power in Numbers

There is, of course, a certain elegance in discretion, but sometimes more is more.

THE MAHARAJAS OF MOGUL INDIA wore as much jewelry as possible—all at the same time—as a symbol of wealth and power. In his *Travels*, Marco Polo observed that though the heat restricted many of them to wearing little more than a loincloth, they were never without their rubies, sapphires, and emeralds. In the 20th century, restraint became the signifier of good taste, with Coco Chanel famously advising women to always take off one accessory before leaving the house (though she herself did wear two matching Verdura Maltese cross cuffs at all times).

GOLD RUSH

From top: Monica Rich Kosann charm bracelet (chain, \$7,800; charms from \$895); Verdura Curb Link bracelet (\$17,950); Cartier Ballon Bleu de Cartier watch (\$31,250) and Trinity de Cartier bracelet (\$13,950); Faraone Mennella Contessa bracelet (\$5,420); Michael Kors Hinge bracelet (\$95); Akris white shirt (\$995). For details see page 164.

Photograph by DOUG ROSA

SEPTEMBER 2011

TBC/74



MAXIMUM EFFECT

Piling it on is an art. Here are some masters, past and present. Rosa de la Cruz (top left and right and bottom center) mixes her own ebony pieces with vintage gold and diamonds (from \$1,500). Bottom left: Roman couturier Simonetta with her husband Alberto Fabiani, from the book *Eleanor Lambert: Still Here*, to be published this October. Bottom right: Nancy Cunard and her arms full of bangles.



Jeweler Rosa de la Cruz mixes her own ebony and diamond cuffs with a gold Rolex Daytona and little beads from the flea market in Formentera.

It took a particularly rebellious spirit to pile it on. Shipping heiress Nancy Cunard, who hung around with Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot, wore several African bracelets on each arm, perhaps as a sign of solidarity with the oppressed. (She was an early civil rights supporter and in 1934 published *Negro*, which featured essays by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes.) And Standard Oil heiress Millicent Rogers, who, it has been observed,

took a "straightforward pleasure in the sometimes obscene luxuries indulged by her inheritance," stacked Native American silver and turquoise bangles on her wrists. She was also known to pull out a 24K gold toothpick and use it at the table.

Contemporary women seem to layer bracelets less as a sign of individual wealth than as an emblem of personal style, particularly the ability to mix high (Art Deco

diamond cuffs) with low (an evil eye from a Turkish bazaar). London jeweler Rosa de la Cruz, who recently launched her own line of ebony cuffs and link bracelets subtly studded with diamonds and gold, wears them always with a multitude of pieces from other designers. Some days it's a gold Rolex Daytona or a vintage coral Seaman Schepps; others it's little beads from the flea market in Formentera. **STELLENE VOLANDES**