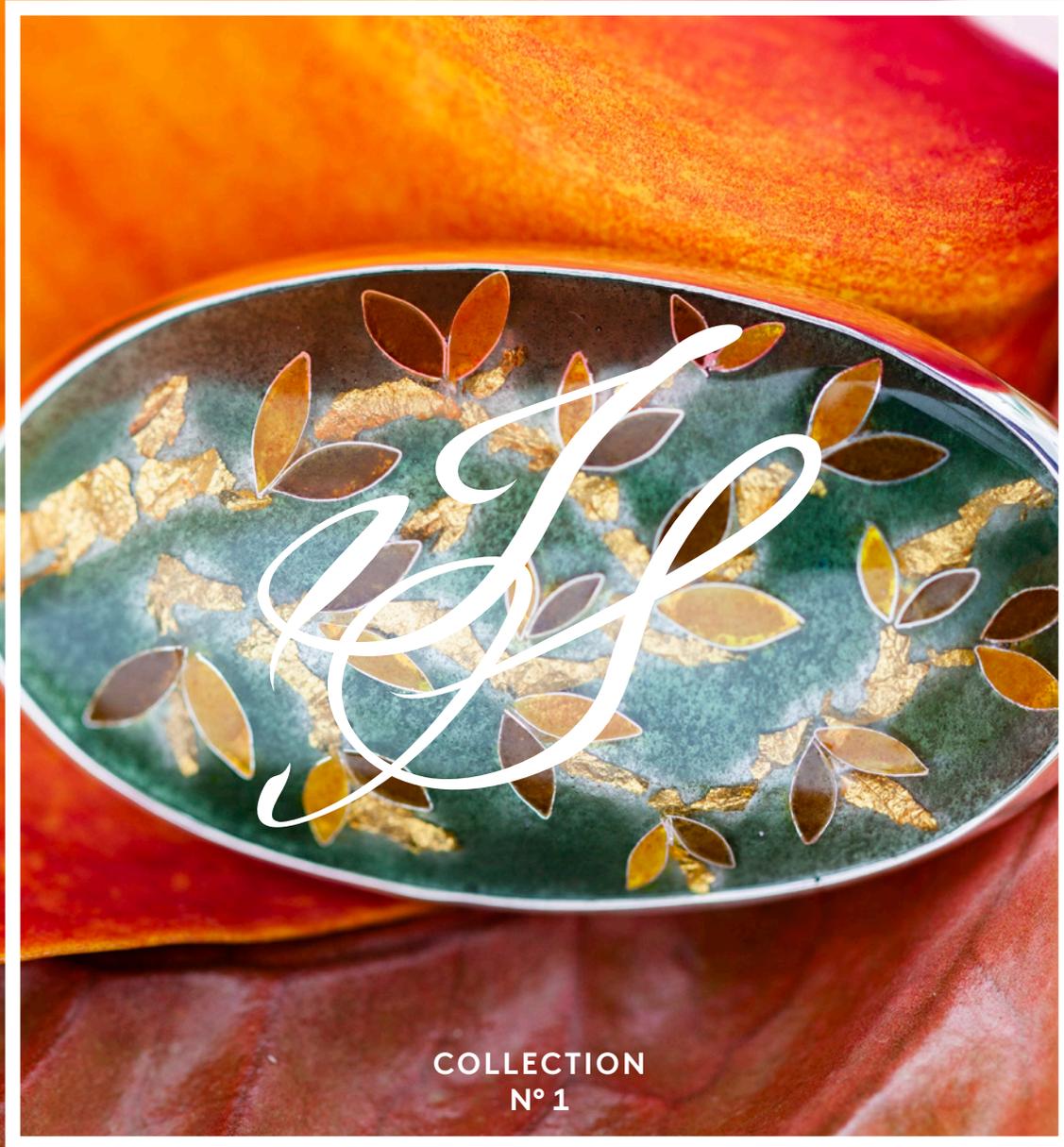




Joséphine de Staël

COLLECTION

N° 1



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*La vie est une fleur, l'amour en est le miel.
C'est la colombe unie à l'aigle dans le ciel,
C'est la grâce tremblante à la force appuyée,
C'est ta main dans ma main doucement oubliée.*

Victor Hugo



Collection No. 1 is the first collection of fine jewellery enamel flower brooches by Joséphine de Staël.

Joséphine de Staël fine jewellery revives the ancient technique of vitreous enamel, whose origins can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians. Joséphine specialises in the cloisonné technique, which she learnt from Georgian artisans, and combines this with the delicacy of the fine jewellery techniques she learnt in Paris to create unique pieces that reflect the tradition and continual evolution of this historic art form.

The handmade process of creation can take up to ten hours for each piece. It begins with forming the silver cloisonné wire into shapes, which sit on a fine silver base; then wet enamel powder is placed into the fields constructed by the wires, before a first firing. Counter enamel is applied on the back to even out the tension on the metal. Four or five layers of thin enamel are applied with firings in between, before the piece is ground down to an even surface and polished. Joséphine prides herself on the elegance and light heft of her work. She has developed a method to ensure maximum translucency and delicacy in the finished piece. Finally, pieces are set in a thin silver

frame with brooch attachment. All of the metal and enamel work is carried out by hand, using the best Japanese enamels to achieve the most beautiful colour range in her work. This highly technical process, using only the most precious raw materials, results in colourful jewels that last forever.

Taking inspiration from Parisian florists as well as the wildflowers of Cornwall, where she now works in a studio by the sea, Joséphine has produced this first collection during the coronavirus lockdown of 2020. The wildflower motifs encapsulate nature's ability to renew and regenerate even in the darkest hour. Joséphine seeks to capture the spirit of the flowers in her glass designs, thereby preserving that feeling of hope and love for generations to come.

































Dr. Joséphine de Staël is an enamel artist and jeweller. She spent her twenties in Paris, where she carried out her research on Parisian fine jewellery that culminated in her PhD in History of Design from the Royal College of Art, co-supervised by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Half way through her research she 'went native' as she decided to train as a jeweller herself at Paris' oldest and most prestigious jewellery school, the Haute Ecole de Joaillerie. She obtained the French national CAP (Certificat d'aptitude professionnelle) in fine jewellery in 2018. During the school holidays Joséphine trained with one of the great masters of enamelling in Limoges (the historic centre of goldsmiths and enamellers in France), Jean François Dehays. From the very first lesson she was enthralled by the complexity of the technique and the magic of the colours achievable with vitreous enamel. Joséphine's childhood experiences accompanying her mother on anthropological fieldwork to the South Pacific inspired her to take on a role of artisan anthropologist, travelling to Georgia to study the cloisonné technique in its country of origin.

JD

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