



# Precious Pieces

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MADELEINE BLAINE OPERATES GALLARDO & BLAINE DESIGNS OUT OF THE DESIGN HOUSE IN DAWSON STREET, HOME TO THE LORD MAYOR AND SOME OF THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN THE CITY. HER JEWELRY HAS A PARTICULAR STYLE FASHIONED OVER THE YEARS FROM EXTENSIVE TRAVELS AND A LOVE OF PRECIOUS STONES.

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**M**adeleine Blaine has been making her own jewellery for 16 years, since her passion for design was first ignited by travelling the world and witnessing the amazing variety of both the ancient and modern arts.

She was taught silver smithing in the mountains of south Mexico, where she lived for many years improving her technique and collecting gemstones. Much of the colour and vibrancy of the country can still be seen in her designs today. Her love of ancient mythology and the arts later brought her to Ireland, where she now has a workshop in Dublin's city centre.

She uses archetypal symbols such as the butterfly, dragonfly and tree. Each one has a deep rooted

meaning - the butterfly, in Celtic Ireland, represented the soul itself and is more widely accepted as the symbol of metamorphosis. The dragonfly reminds us to be light and joyful, and the tree emphasises the interconnectedness of life. The inspiration of nature is further reflected in the organic and flowing forms of her creations.

"Pieces begin with an unusual gemstone, hand-picked from around the world. A mixture of traditional silver smithing and the casting process are then used," explains Madeleine. "I like to design anything from a statement piece to the classically beautiful. Something for all ages." Her work has been described as magical, enchanting and even branded 'art nouveau with a modern twist'.

