

JEWELRY

Tiffany jewelry designer Elsa Peretti dies at 80

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Famed jewelry designer Elsa Peretti. Image credit: Tiffany & Co.

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Renowned jewelry designer Elsa Peretti has passed away at her home in Sant Mart Vell, Spain.

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Since 1974, the designer was famous for her creations for U.S. jeweler Tiffany & Co. She was 80 years old when she passed on March 18.

"A woman who was larger-than-life has touched everyone at Tiffany & Co," the brand said in a statement. "The relationships she created defined her.

"Elsa was not only a designer but a way of life."

An exemplary life

According to her foundation, Ms. Peretti's inspiration was drawn from everyday items a bean, a bone or an apple could be transformed into cufflinks, bracelets, vases or lighters, scorpions and snakes were turned into necklaces and rings transformed into silver pieces, one of her preferred materials.

Ms. Peretti's designs are in the permanent collections of the British Museum in London, England; The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City; the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts; and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas.

In recognition of her work, Tiffany established the Elsa Peretti Professorship in Jewelry Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), the first endowed professorship in the history of FIT. Among other honors, the designer was given an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from FIT in 2001.



Elsa Peretti small Bone cuff in sterling silver with snowflake obsidian, 43mm wide. Image courtesy of Tiffany & Co.

She also received the 1971 Coty American Fashion Critics' Award for Jewelry and the Rhode Island School of Design President's Fellow Award in 1981. In 1996, the Council of Fashion Designers of America named her Accessory Designer of the Year.

In 2000, she created the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, a charity in honor of her father. The Foundation supports a broad range of projects for the promotion of human and civil rights, with a special emphasis on the right to education, children's rights and women's rights.

The Foundation has supported requests from around the world, including initiatives on behalf of unrepresented people and oppressed minorities, to defend their right to exist and preserve their culture. It also supports medical and scientific research projects to promote physical and mental health, as well as specific interventions including the building of hospitals and other sanitary facilities.

It has funded public awareness campaigns for wildlife conservation and environmental protection, and promotes culture and the arts. The Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation has financed more than 1,000 non-profit projects in more than 80 countries, for a total investment of over EUR 57 million.

In November, Tiffany launched a limited cuff collection by Ms. Peretti, curated exclusively for retailer Dover Street Market. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Bone cuff, the jeweler and designer introduced the "DSM Edit," including the sterling silver Snowflake Obsidian, as well as the coveted black cuff and original large cuffs in sterling silver ([see story](#)).

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