



# Jewellery



## Barbara Berk



Photo by Dana Davis

Art-goldsmith Barbara Berk, based near San Francisco, California, has developed a distinctive technique of weaving high carat gold wire into "fabric" which she then coaxes into three-dimensional, sculptural, fluid forms, ribbons, ruffles, spirals and loops. This intensive hand-worked process, adapted from a rug-weaving technique, called Soumak, from Azerbaijan, uses 18 carat gold wire for strength, the "skeleton", and 22 carat for malleability, the "skin". The finished jewels, she explains, are contemporary interpretations of classical forms and techniques. "With gold, I can create intricate designs that are structurally sound. I can weave dense and tight or open and lacy. I can solder and I can sew. I can work large scale or small, explore positive and negative space, play with shape, texture and volume. Gold means brilliance. You feel its fluidity and resonance, while its rich, deep colour draws you into the heart of my wearable sculptures. Gold makes my jewels sing."

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