Gift Ideas

Capture Her Heart With Fine Jewelry

(NAPSA)—For many, Valentine's Day is among the most emotional and romantic days of the year. It also happens to be the second largest gift-giving occasion. One clear way to show your love is to give a piece of heart-shaped fine jewelry. "Fine jewelry, especially heart-shaped, captures the sentiment of Valentine's Day," says Amanda Gizzi, a spokeswoman for the Jewelry Information Center. When properly taken care of, these items can be passed down for generations to come.

Heart-shaped iewelry is just as much about fashion as it is romance. The more traditional items such as lockets and charms are given a boost this Valentine's Day. Simple gold lockets, when layered and worn in multiples, can instantly update a traditional look. Charm bracelets and heart-shaped charms reign as popular gift items. Such celebrities as Sarah Jessica Parker, who wears unique charm bracelets by Tracey Zabar, help to keep focus on this trend. Charms are also worn on chains around the neck or as pins on a jacket, scarf or shoe. Companies such as Rembrandt Charms offer numerous different styles in metals from sterling silver to 14K gold.

Fashionistas everywhere can now find heart-shaped items that will add glamour to their existing wardrobes. Lata K Designs has a trio of "Chameleon" hearts that can be worn eleven different ways, even as a brooch. Wearing a heartshaped brooch in new ways, like on the shoulder of a cowl neck sweater, brings new meaning to "wearing your heart on your sleeve." Oversized heart pendants



Heart-shaped jewelry makes a great gift for your loved one on Valentine's Day.

like those from Susan Michel and Piaget make extreme statements. If you prefer to give a watch, try one with a heart face. Corum has versions with diamond dials, pink straps, or stainless steel bracelets.

For Valentine's Day engagements, heart-shaped diamonds along with other fancy shaped gemstones can be a great option. If a heart-shaped center stone seems overdone, consider using two as side stones. Turned sideways, they make beautiful accents to round and oval shaped center stones. If wedding bells have already rung or are not in the picture this year, heart-shaped sapphires, rubies, and other precious stones look stunning when worn on the right hand.

Buying fine jewelry is exciting, but it is important to make sure that you are an educated shopper. The first step in selecting any type of fine jewelry is to shop at a reputable and professional jeweler. Look for a jeweler who is a member of a professional trade organization, such as Jewelers of America.

For more information on fine jewelry and to find a list of professional jewelers nearby, visit the Jewelry Information Center's Web site at www.jic.org.