

SLIPPING A RING ON YOUR FINGER

Rings are the essential jewels for Schaefer and a jewel doesn't really count for him unless it caresses the body, the skin. Paul Claudel said skin is the deepest part of our being. For Schaefer it is the soft, sensual surface that welcomes a jewel and sets off all its brilliance.

A ring is that secret force which means a simple gesture leaves a graceful trail; a certain *something*, the final touch to make your hand exist – spectacular or discrete, yet always eloquent. The ring on your finger is a sign of belonging, the expression of a particular intimacy or a memory, a present, an alliance. The choice of ring highlights a personal message, as much for the creator as for the wearer.

So, for Schaefer, excellence in a ring means mastering all the complexity and constraints involved in creation and production. Volume and weight, size and design, matter and colour - everything must merge, balance and harmonize to perfection. In this exercise in miniature metalwork, where one metal's resistance will meet the ductility of another, where even dust is precious and where lightness is in constant dialogue with weight, Schaefer is the ardent alchemist, working on mysterious combinations of metal and beauty. In a defined, yet infinite cycle he seeks till he finds the perfect contrast, not the clash, between gold and rust, titanium and pure silver, white gold and niello, zinc and garnet powder...

Behind this demanding work with materials, the expert technology he masters and his tireless quest to invest a ring with the power of a sculpture, we find a man who loves the mineral world of the Alps and their changing light, and roots as much as flowers. He is a classic with class, which is precisely what we like.

Fabienne Xavière Sturm