

A unique Swiss made MASTERPIECE

By Patricia Schweizer Translation Mark S. Kennedy

"To pursue my vocation fills me with deep satisfaction".

"For me to make people happy, awaken emotions and design new creations every day is a significant part of my philosophy of life. I grow with every encounter", says Stephan Schuck, Founder and Designer of SCHUCK JUWELIER Switzerland.

The artistic vocation of goldsmith always had something secretive about it. Have you actually found your calling in this work? "The gleam of precious stones such as the colour and gloss of the gold attracts many people. In my case, it was also the luminous crystal drops which, at the age of 6, I discovered at that time with a friend of my family, a mineral collector, during blasting a crevice in the Swiss Alps. This gleaming natural wonder fascinated me and still today such a sight makes me feel humbled. He was the one, a precious stone grinder and goldsmith, who showed me his skills close up. It really made a big impression on me."

So already at the age of 6 you decided on your dream profession?

"Hardly anyone had reason to have thoughts about such a statement by a kindergarten-age boy. There was also nobody who doubted my euphoria and my already chosen future profession. The awareness of the decision already taken long ago stood in the foreground, as many of my fellow pupils found it difficult to choose a suitable profession, while I had already focussed on it for a long time."

Has joining the art of goldsmithing met your expectations?

"My training in the beautiful city of Lucerne was equally a great training for life. The long hours of attendance, precise work under enormous time pressure and valuable diamonds which I was allowed to process, required a great sense of responsibility.



My Master liked to encourage me. As a reward, I was allowed to take part in various performance-based competitions and could often make him happy by taking the main prize. Not least because of this, I was chosen throughout Switzerland to go to London straight after my traineeship and work as a goldsmith to produce unique pieces of jewellery at a renowned jeweller. This was paradise for me. Magnificent pieces of jewellery were ordered for the Royal Family. A highlight in my young career.



My time in London was extremely varied. The purchase of precious stones, diamonds and pearls as well as assessing and certifying these precious jewels turned out to be an interesting part of my work. It was out of the question for me to study gemmology to become a diamond and pearl appraiser."

You offered your experience to jewellers in Zurich before you founded your own jewellery store.

"I'm eternally thankful for this time. There was the possibility for further development at various leading jewellery and watch businesses. Whether on the commercial side as a member of the General Management in a large company for watches and jewellery or in the design area at a well-known jeweller, who only produced unique pieces of jewellery based on drawings. Designing jewellery today is a major part of my wonderful work and about 90% of my clientele have their specific wish drawn and want to have a unique piece made. I offer them Swiss Made."

Is this piece also unique?

"Of course! This is where experience, broad expertise and skilled craftsmanship come together. Only with a team of specialists can such an item become reality at all. Up to 10 different artistic genres are needed. Together with my partner atelier Mueller Murgenthal, we advise, create and produce exceptional items which find their place at special locations all over the world. This item and other creations are exhibited by Schuck Juwelier from 25-27 November 2013 in the Park Hyatt Hotel in Zurich at the Zurich Watch & Jewellery Exhibition."

"In retrospect, the young 6-year old boy made a good decision, as I love my vocation and experience passion through it." ■

www.schuck-juwelier.ch

