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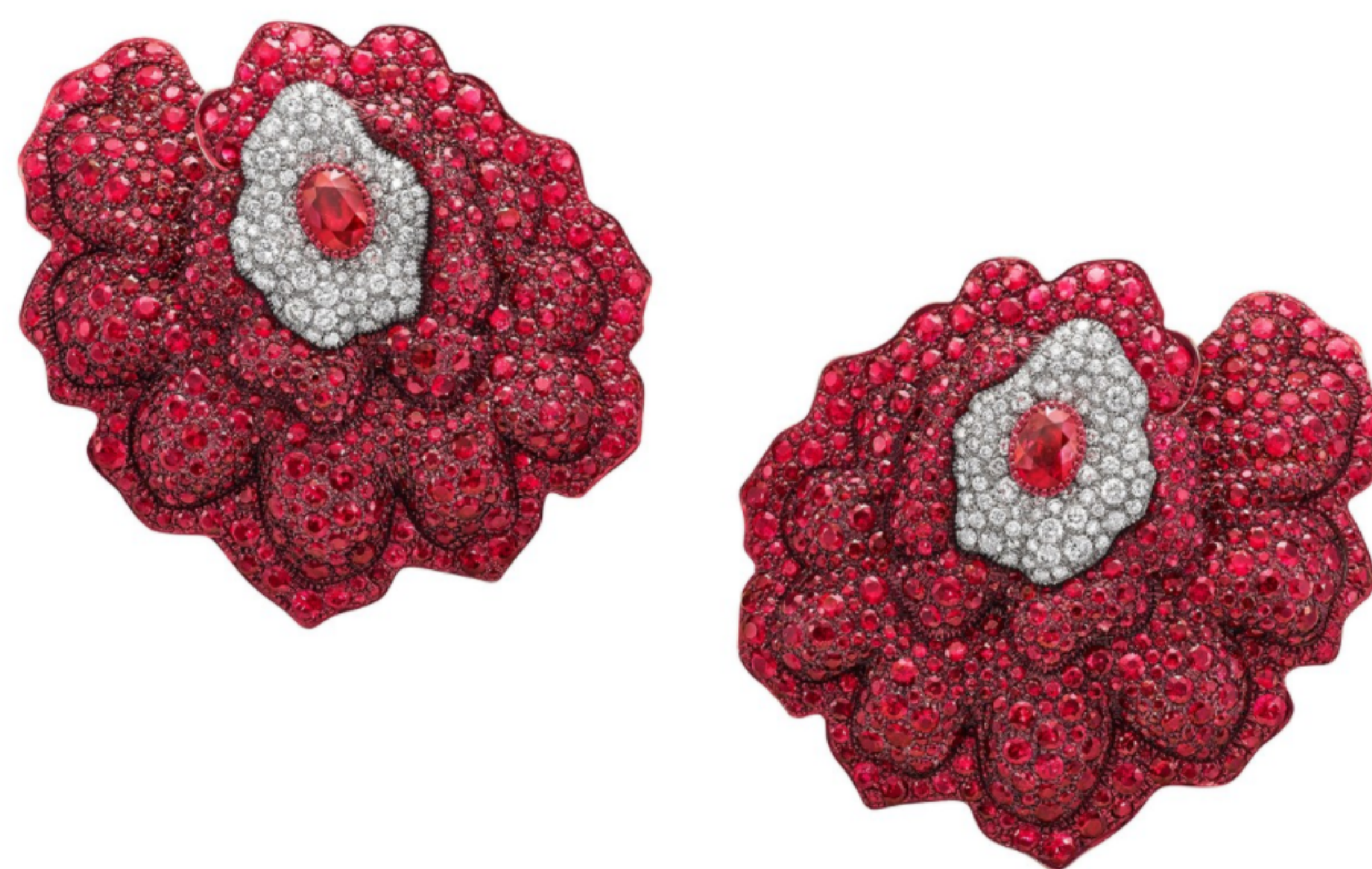
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# 6 New Fine Jewelry Designers to Fancy From the Couture Trade Show in Las Vegas



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by LYNN YAEGER



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**VanLeles**

Pretend you are at the museum. What's wrong with ogling things you cannot—and will probably never be able to—afford? Just knowing creations like these exist—ruby ear bobs shaped like post-modern fans, sapphires that pour from a spigot of diamonds—is enough to brighten the darkest day. (Plus, the proprietress, Vania Leles, who is African and Portuguese, is as striking as her work.)

Photo: Courtesy of Vanleles



Welcome to Jezebel's, the hottest club in Gilead! Oh, no wait, we are in Las Vegas, where the women are dressed like scary harlots, a Coke Zero costs 12 bucks, and it's 105 degrees in the shade—and there is no shade!

But no matter—I am here on the Strip not to join the scantily clad throngs losing their nonexistent shirts at the gaming tables, but to indulge in my own personal vice: two full days of jewelry hunting, with literally trillions of carats on display, at the annual Couture show. (Why is it that the saggy guys in shorts pulling on one-armed bandits strike me as pathetic jerks, when my idea of a good time, eight solid hours a day staring into showcases, seems beyond reproach?)

Couture, a trade show extravaganza, features a huge range of brands and designers—some world famous and well-established, others just breaking in. Many of the major companies are here—and who doesn't like a David Webb necklace, or an Hermès watch? But it is the smaller, newer people that I am in search of, lines whose glittering prizes should by rights be better known!

So, in the interest of telling you something you don't know, here is a quick guide to six designers whose work turned me emerald green with envy and desire.