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Laura Hayward is Astley Clarke's designer of the year

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Laura Hayward Jewellery has been chosen as Astley Clarke's designer of the year and will now be available to buy from the online jewellery boutique.



The designer of the year competition was launched by Astley Clarke during Coutts London Jewellery Week in June this year and aimed to find an emerging design talent that could be promoted to a wider buying market.

An expert panel was brought together to judge the competition, comprising Rebecca Clarke and Sarah-Jane Figgardos from Astley Clarke; Michael Wainwright, managing director of Boodles; Jess Carter-Morley, fashion editor of The Guardian; and Vikenna Becker, contributing editor of How To Spend It magazine.

Laura Hayward was picked as winner after submitting her distinctive Apollo collection.

Based in London, Hayward only started in jewellery design in 2005, selling handmade pieces in London's Portobello market.

She went on to study at Central St. Martins and London Metropolitan University before producing her first collection for Spring/Summer 06.

On being announced as the designer of the year, Hayward was asked to produce a unique collection of necklaces, earrings and bracelets that will be exclusive to astleyclarke.com.

She created the Neptune and Venus collections with pieces made in 18ct yellow gold and incorporating satin finished gold drops with briolette gemstones in warm tones, such as vibrant green tourmaline and radiant kyansite.

Astley Clarke was launched in 2006 and has enjoyed great success, this year being named Jewellery Website of the Year at the UK Jewellery Awards. It offers a wide range of designer jewellery through a mix of established and up and coming brands in addition to its own fine jewellery line.

"We are very pleased to introduce Laura's collection to Astley Clarke, her jewellery is very beautiful, and impeccably made. She has the talent to make something truly beautiful that will be cherished forever," said Bec Astley Clarke, managing director of Astley Clarke.

<http://www.astleyclarke.com>

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