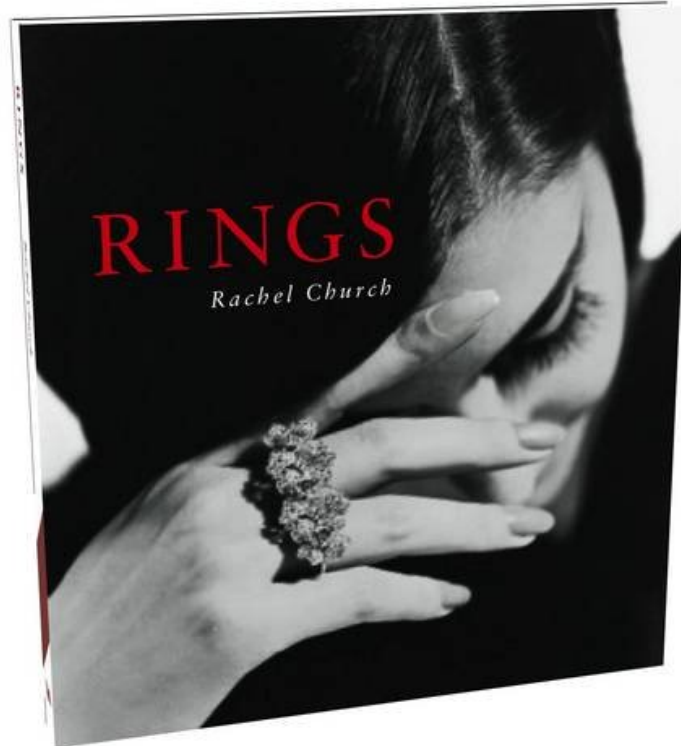


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*Rachel Church*

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## **Rings**

**Rachel Church : Rings** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rings:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating history of rings and their historical and sentimental significanceBy marcyrenIf you love jewelry and history, this is a must read. The photos from the collection at the V A museum alone are worth a look. Highly recommended.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Jewel of a book!By BasbleuWow, this is a gorgeous book! Lays out the history and significance of rings, and is magnificently illustrated throughout. Highly recommended!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Lovely ringsBy Pippa LeeI found "Rings" by Rachel Church at my local BN store and I had to have it. This is a handsome, small book featuring rings from the jewelry collection of the Victoria Albert Museum. "Rings" offers a look at the evolution of ring styles and designs from 1200 to the present. I felt in love with this book because of the old rings. The contemporary ones were too artsy for me, but it was interesting to see how artists and designers can push the limits with innovative and unexpected ring creations.The sections on rings from the Middle Ages to the 1940s, each gorgeously illustrated with color photographs, were like candy to my eyes. Among the types of rings pictured in the book are diamond rings, gem-set rings, mourning rings, commemorative ones, posy rings, memento mori rings, and signet rings. Accompanying the beautiful photographs is a wealth of information on how rings were designed, created, worn, and their significance both as sentimental and practical objects throughout history. I was particularly moved by

the inscriptions etched on some of the rings. They were reminders of love, loss, mortality, or of hope, like the one made for a 17th century child that said, "This spark will grow." In addition to the rings, there are portrait paintings showing how rings were worn at a particular period of time. Rachel Church's "Rings" definitely belongs on the shelves of those who are interested in jewelry history and/or in collecting vintage jewelry. This is a book I'll return to over and over again.

Rings are perhaps the most common and yet the most evocative pieces of jewelry. Worn as a sign of love or as a fashion accessory, to mark weddings, remember the dead, or show religious faith, the unbroken circle a plain band or one that is elegantly adorned holds a multitude of meanings for every wearer. From simple medieval hoops worn to ward off disease, to the glamorous rocks worn on the red carpet by Hollywood stars, to stunning works of art created by contemporary artist-jewelers, this book draws from the collections of the VA to offer a beautifully illustrated introduction to rings.

About the Author Rachel Church is a curator in the Metalwork Department of the VA.