



NICOLE BARR
Master Enamelists
Gold and Silver



The Art of Creating
Enamel Jewelry



You Have a Story to Tell

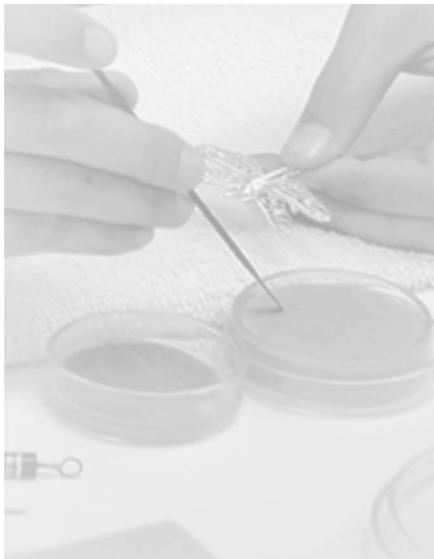
Your customers are not just buying a beautiful piece of jewelry – they are buying a work of art!





NICOLE BARR designs showcase the art of enameling on 18 K gold and sterling silver – many complemented by diamonds, gemstones and pearls.

In the tradition of Lalique, Fabergé and Tiffany, the Nicole Barr Collection continues the art of fine enameling into the 21st century. With a history dating back 3,000 years, enameling is still valued today for the color and life brought to every hand-enameled piece of jewelry.



Enameling is the art of fusing powdered glass to metals such as gold or silver. The enamel color comes from specific blends of rare metals like gold, cobalt and manganese.

The fusion between enamel and metal takes place in a kiln with temperatures of up to 1600° F – with different colors requiring different temperatures – and often multiple firings for the same piece. This is what is meant by “hard-fired enamel”- also called vitreous enamel. For your customer, it means owning a piece of jewelry with lustrous color that will never change.



What is “Hard-Fired Enameling?”

Here are some examples of the complex techniques used by **NICOLE BARR**:

Plique-à-Jour

Plique-à-jour is a technique used by the French enamelist Lalique and Feuillâtre in the 1900's. The French term means “glimpse of day” and is achieved when enamel is suspended between gold or silver wires without any backing – and then is fired so that the light can shine through, creating a shimmering, translucent effect.

To create a plique-à-jour enamel piece requires great skill and many painstaking hours to complete. It's a work of art worthy of the same care as a fine glass sculpture.



Free-Hand Enameling

These designs are reserved for our most skilled enamellers. Having an image clearly in mind, they skilfully blend several enamel colors to achieve the look you see in this Aurora necklace.

Basse Taille

A French word meaning “low cut”, it describes a technique where the silver surface is engraved with an intricate pattern. The design is covered with translucent enamel, creating texture and dimension in the piece. These layered cuts give the enamel different shades or tones of the same hue once it is fired. The silver or gold base gives added brilliance to the applied enamel colors.



Champlevé

In champlevé, the artist carves the metal to create a separate cell for each enamel color. This is especially effective when creating beautiful mosaics.



Guilloché

Often referred to as “Engine Turned”, in guilloché the engraved pattern is a more complex, precision engraving as seen in vintage Fabergé and Cartier pieces. Like Basse Taille, the intricate pattern appears through the translucent enamel with a shimmering effect.



The most popular metals used in enameling are sterling silver and high-karat gold such as 18 K. A high-carat metal is required because vitreous enamel will react to the higher amount of alloys in lower quality metals and therefore will not fire properly.

Our designs use opaque or transparent enamel colors.

Opaque - After firing, an enamel color like black does not permit the metal to be reflected. Opaque enamels are excellent for creating contrast and when used with transparent enamels add depth and dimension to a piece.



Transparent enamels allow the light to pass through the color and reflect off the metal. The combination of the transparency and the metallic surface highlights the richness of the color. Transparent enamels also allow the artist to feather several colors into each other for the delicate details in a flower petal or a butterfly wing – creating a watercolor effect.





To prevent tarnishing, the sterling silver (including the chain) has been finished with a durable layer of **rhodium plating**.



Many of our pendants have intricate patterns on the back so they can be worn on either side.



Most of our 20 inch **chains are adjustable** – perfect for different necklines. Extra-long chains can be special ordered.

Our **rings are by-pass style** (adjustable from 5.5 to 7) and can be easily sized on a mandrel.



For more enameling information and videos to help you tell your story, visit our website.



nicolebarr.com



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