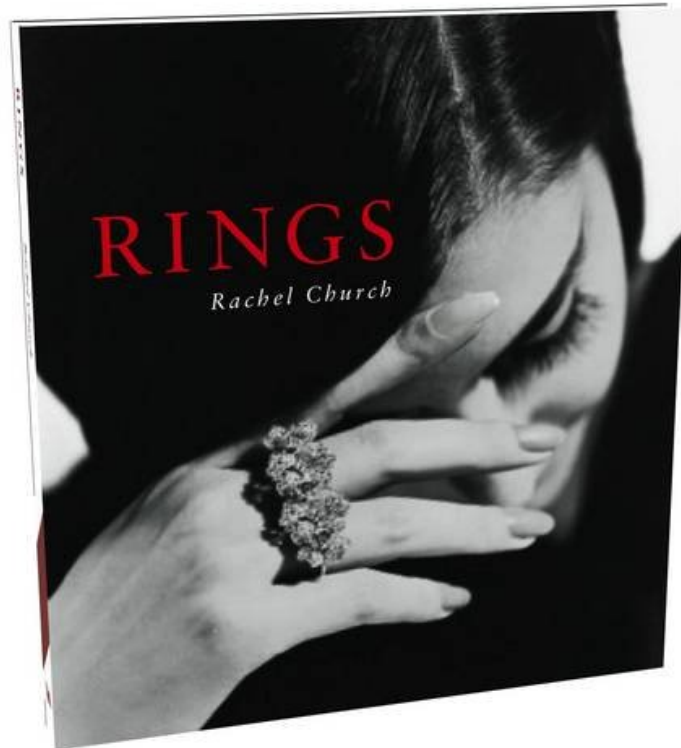


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Rings

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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.