

- PRINCESS OF 22 -
for
Francoise Van den Bosch Foundation
Young Talent Acquisition
by David Roux-Fouillet

The “Princess of 22” is a personal interpretation of a signet ring based on the coat of arms of the Van den Bosch family. The original coat of arms is composed of 4 parts, I and IV in blue with five golden stars placed in rows of three and two; II and III in red with a silver pigeon holding a green olive branch in its beak. The coats of arms tell stories about a family, as does the signet ring.

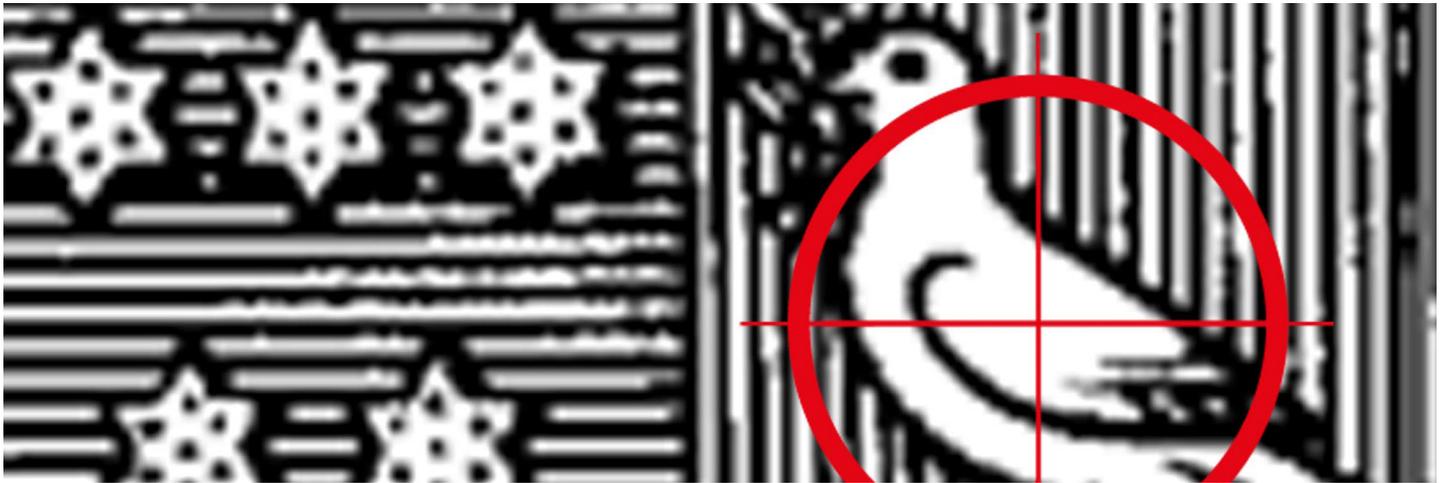
Interesting enough, one member of the Van den Bosch family, Jos Van den Bosch, (a diamond dealer and racing-pigeon fancier) was breeding pigeons and brought to the sport some of the finest racing pigeons the world has known. Where a pair of Pigeons are known as “The Basic Couple” bred by Jon VDB is considered by pros to be ‘the best breeding couple ever’ giving birth to the pigeons that won most of races after World War 2. It is the late “Princess of 56” that is the most renowned pigeon Jos has bred. She is actually related to some of the most renowned racing pigeons known to this day, and was a fine racer herself.

To create the piece “princess of 22” I have used the tools that are probably the worst enemies of pigeon lovers: a 22 caliber rifle with 20.5gr Logun Penetrator hunting pellets.

Using the power and surgical precision of the rifle, I have transformed this tool of destruction to create jewellery and used the violent impact of the pellet on its target to recreate the symbols of the Van Den Bosch family imprinted in the jewel. The “Princess of 22” signet ring shows the 2 pigeons and the 10 stars setting 2 rubies made in 4 shots on an engraved gold surface. The deformation of the surface and the exploded surplus of metal on its back and sides are a few clues showing the violence of the process and interferes with the design of a traditional Signet Ring.

In the seventies the co-founder of the Union of Rebellious Silversmiths, Francoise Van den Bosch illustrated the primeval in jewellery. That which is elemental in the objects that adorn the human body is the subject of my work too. As the ring symbolises eternity, the action of the explosion, the stone and the gold is a moment held in time, a metaphor for the unity and the bond of the family.

The art of hunting relies on good preparation...
Training at Pigeon shooting and experimental shots to find the right pellets for a clean hit



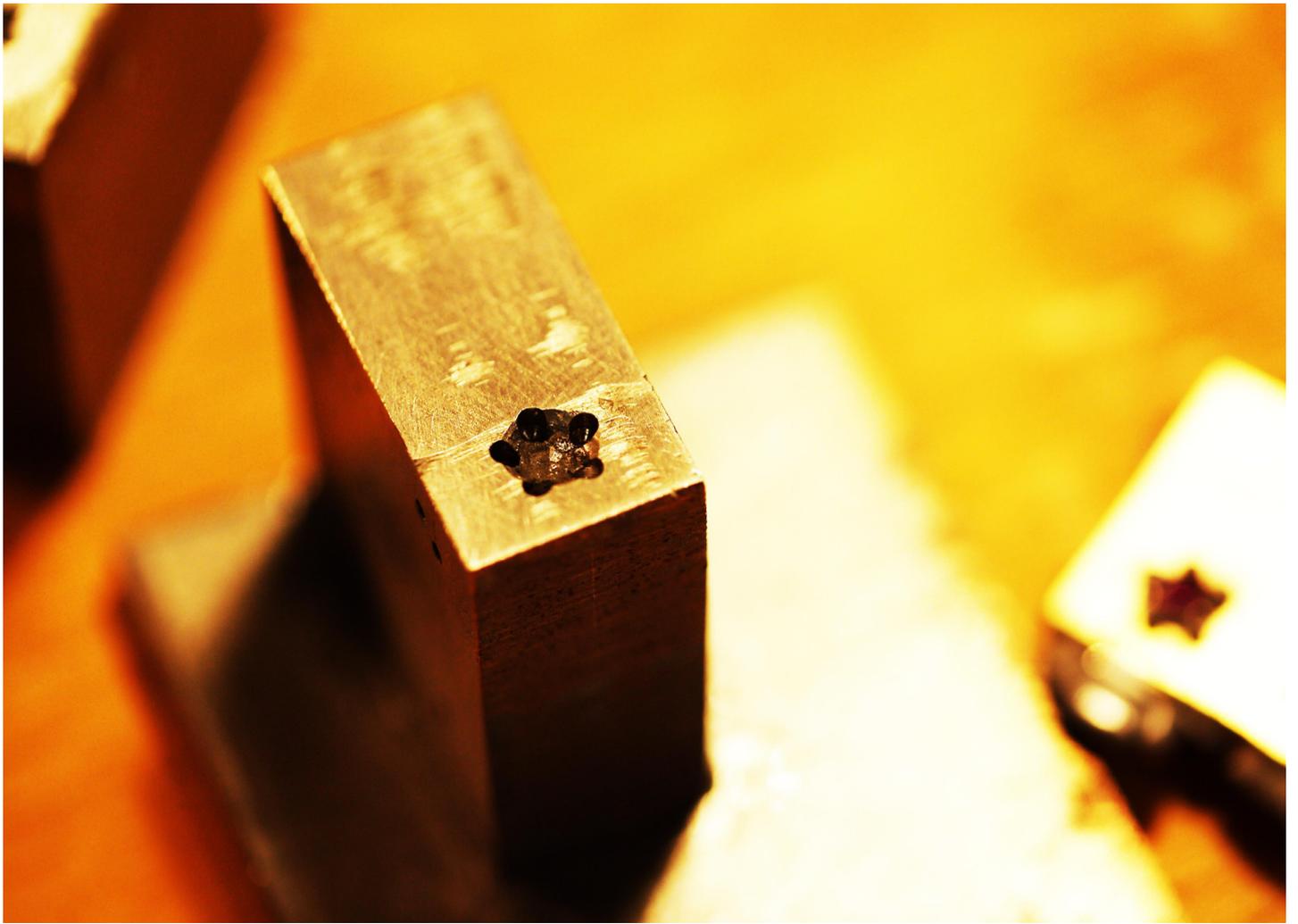


9 carat harden gold sheet prepared to receive and withstand the 4 shots



Aim right at the heart for a clean shot.
Hold still...
Breath in...
Shoot.

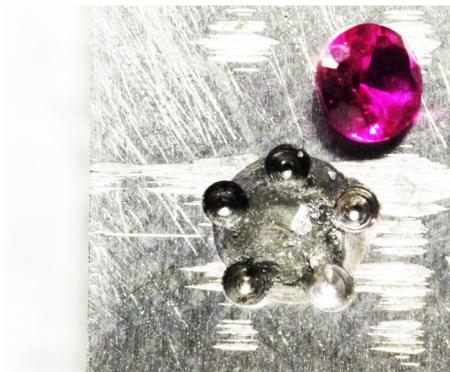


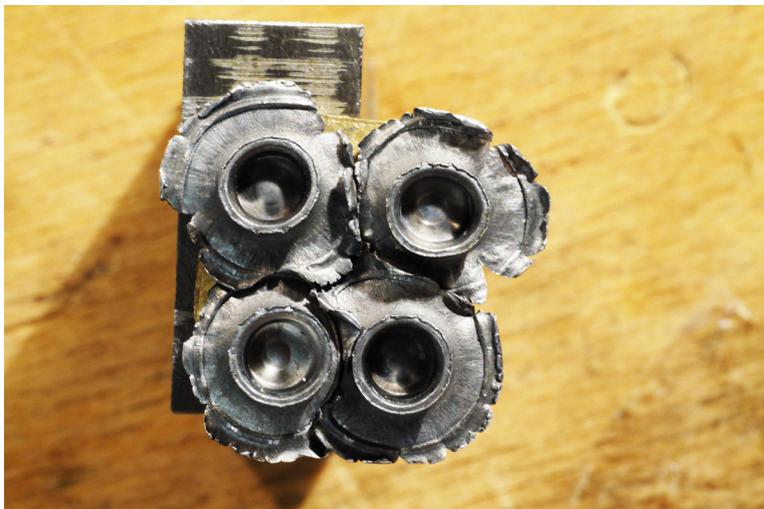
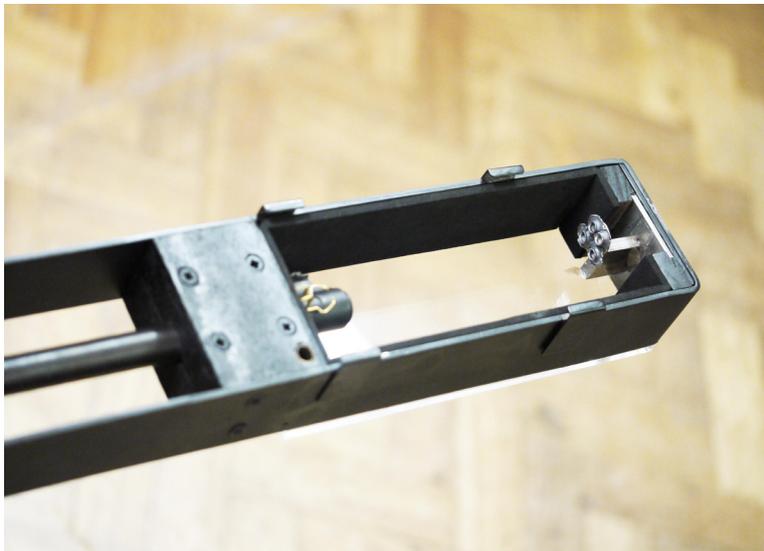


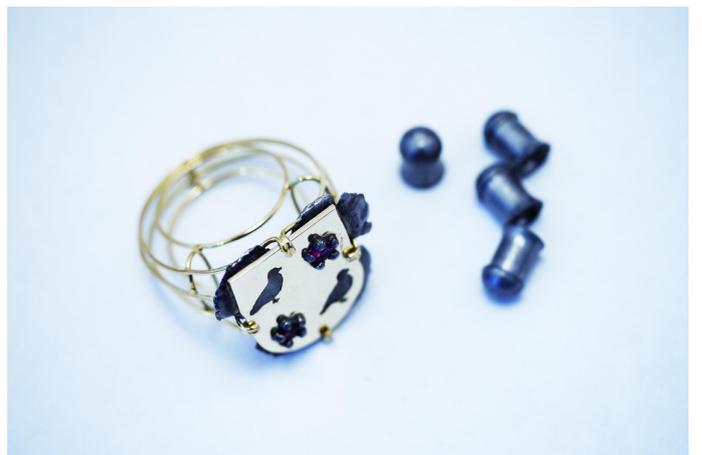
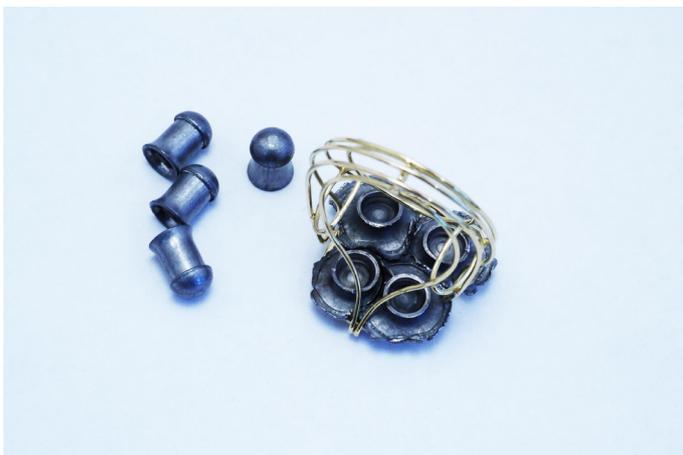
Preparation of the tool for the 5 stars stone-setting shot.

The negative shape of the stone and the 5 claws are carved out in a block of steel.
This will be used as a mold that is going to be filled up by the pellet with the force of its impact.

Align and place the gold sheet
Hold still...
Breath in...
Shoot.







- PRINCESS OF 22 - 18ct and 9ct Gold, Lead alloy, Rubies.
David Roux-Fouillet - 09.2012