

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Embargoed until 26 April 2012** 

## RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL CERTIFIES BROWN GOLDSMITHS & CO.

LONDON - The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) announced today that Brown Goldsmiths & Co., the US jewellery retailer, has achieved certification by meeting the highest ethical, social and environmental standards established by the RJC's Member Certification system.

"RJC is delighted to congratulate Brown Goldsmiths & Co. on its certification. The successful verification assessment was conducted by Steve Nanette from SGS, one of the independent third-party auditing firms accredited to the RJC's Member Certification system," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

"We are proud to be part of a larger movement towards more responsible business practices. As jewelers, we have the pleasure of working with precious materials and the beautiful sentiments of our customers. It's fitting to embrace responsible practices as well. The RJC accreditation process confirmed the many areas we are already doing well. Even more valuable are the points we identified for continuous improvement. The rigorous audit process has been invaluable in helping us 'walk our talk.' We are thrilled to earn RJC certification," says Judith Brown, Brown Goldsmiths' co-owner.

For further information please contact:

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## **About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 370 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC Member Certification System, a certification system, which will apply to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third-party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC's Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC Member Certification System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at <a href="https://www.responsiblejewellery.com">www.responsiblejewellery.com</a>

## About Brown Goldsmiths & Co.

Founded by Stephen and Judith Brown, Brown Goldsmiths & Co. of Freeport, Maine is an eclectic team of a dozen or so craftsmen, artists and other specialists. Designing and crafting distinctive jewelry on site, they help clients to create personal jewelry expressions. Highly trained craftsmen focus on custom and original designs – as well as jewelry restoration and repairs – in the upstairs studio of Freeport's old Masonic Hall on Mechanic Street.

Since 1967 they have embraced values centered on trust, creativity and technical expertise, all within a socially responsible context. In addition to RJC, Brown Goldsmiths is a member of the Jewelers Vigilance Committee (JVC), American Gem Society (AGS), Jewelers of America (JA) and Maine Businesses for Sustainability (MBS). They are located at 11 Mechanic Street, Freeport, Maine 04032 USA and at <a href="https://www.browngoldsmiths.com">www.browngoldsmiths.com</a>.

www.responsiblejewellery.com

RJC Certification Information – Brown Goldsmiths & Co. **RJC Certified Members**