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# Are man-made diamonds real diamonds?

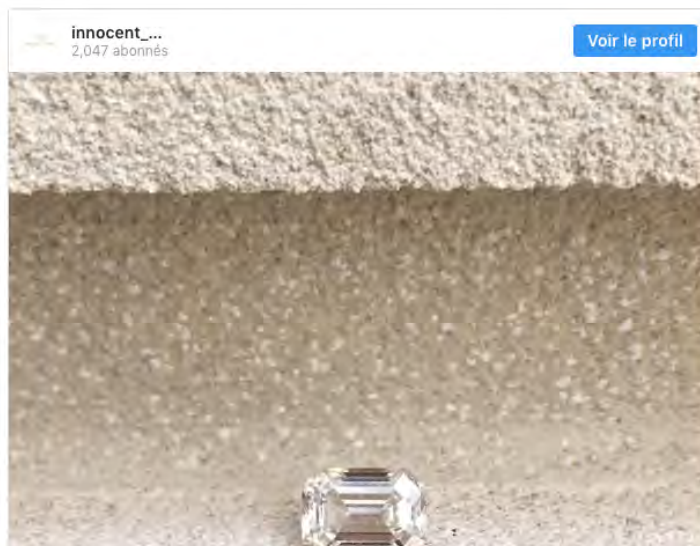
*Essentially, yes*



by CAROLINE FERRY  
THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2018

In a topic that seems much more complicated than it actually is, it would first be helpful to explain that there are many – too many – names for man-made diamonds. So if you hear of cultured, simulated, lab-grown, man-made or synthetic diamonds, you now know they all mean the same thing.

They are grown in laboratories that recreate the very hot (4000 Kelvin or over 3000 degrees celsius), high pressure conditions that traditional mined diamonds normally develop in. “They have the same chemical composition, the same crystal structure and the same optical properties. The only difference is the origin. A diamond is a diamond wherever it comes from.” Stephane Wulwik, CEO of Innocent Stone, a French eco-friendly diamond jewellers.





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51 mentions J'aime

innocent\_stone B E L I E V E R S | We create diamonds. We believe in a new kind of jewelry. We propose certified stones in various shapes, colors, clarities and carats. We guarantee innocent stones. #labgrowndiamonds #ethicalproducts #manmadediamond #syntheticdiamond #ecology #sustainableluxury #luxury #lifestyle #jewelry #ecofriendlyproducts #diamond #manmade #hightech #future #love

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The other main differentiation is of course the rarity, not in terms of composition (many more lab-grown diamonds are type IIA – the rarest category of diamond – than mined ones), but in terms of heritage. Because each mined diamond is totally unique in terms of quality, flawlessness etc, there will never be a diamond price based simply on its size or carat. With man-made, that's not the case, so brands like Lightbox, a lab-grown diamond brand launched by De Beers Group in the US last month can standardise prices based on size. Available only across the pond for now, their diamonds cost US\$200 for a quarter-carat stone and go up to US\$800 for a one-carat stone, plus the gold or silver setting costs on top of that which normally comes in at \$100.



LAB-GROWN DIAMONDS BY LIGHTBOX

For many, it isn't just the price difference – man-made coming in about 40% cheaper – that appeals. They are undoubtedly the more eco-friendly, conflict-free option. We spoke with Scott Thompson founder of CARAT\* London, who began working in the lab-grown diamond business 13 years ago with Gemesis, one of the first companies that harnessed this technology. "Choosing a lab-grown diamond means you have absolute certainty of its origin. The same cannot be said for all mined diamonds. On an environmental level, the mined diamond industry is responsible for significant damage to the earth. Statistics show that every year, almost 400 million tons of earth are displaced, 300 million litres of water consumed, 7.9 million kg of air pollution, or poisonous gases emitted, and 7.15 million kg of carbon dioxide created. The energy output from creating a lab-grown



diamond is minuscule in comparison to this.”



PENÉLOPE CRUZ WEARING CREATED DIAMONDS FROM HER COLLABORATION WITH ATELIER SWAROVSKI



While you might not find many of them on Old Bond Street, there are many designers embracing the new dawn of diamond sourcing. “Using created gemstones gives our customers another option, and the ability to make an informed, conscious choice. Ultimately, we believe that in the fine jewelry industry there is room for a good mix of responsibly produced lab-created diamonds, which consume fewer natural resources than mined diamonds, and responsibly mined natural diamonds, which can benefit local communities” Nadia Swarovski told us, Member of Swarovski’s Executive Board.

“Two years ago, demand was almost insignificant in the European market but today it’s booming,” agrees Wulwick. “We’re convinced that lab grown diamonds and mined diamonds will coexist soon in every jewellery shop. The customer of yesterday isn’t the same that today. The way we consume has changed.”

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