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# Marilyn Monroe and Barack Obama portraits made of jewels

A team of artists have created 'gemstone portraits' of Marilyn Monroe, Barack Obama and the Queen.

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A team of British mosaic artists and jewel cutters spend weeks carefully recreating photos using a selection of diamonds and precious gemstones. Photo: SOLENT

The British mosaic artists and jewel cutters spend weeks carefully recreating photos using a selection of diamonds and precious gemstones.

Each 0.25 carat diamond and stone has a "round brilliant cut" finish and is hand-set into silver, gold or platinum of the customer's choice.

Portraits start from around 8ins x 8ins and contain at least 2,600 stones such as sapphire, amethyst and peridot.

The biggest image Gemstone Creative has made so far measures around 24ins x 24ins and contains an extraordinary 22,500 stones.

They are now in discussions with a client to create one that measures 48ins x 48ins and are planning three-dimensional models.

The company has turned pictures a tiger and peacock into gemstone portraits, as well as a serie of high-profile figures.

The cost of each portrait varies depending on its size and the type of diamonds, stones and base metal chosen.

Prices start at £25,000 for a small portrait made of semi-precious stones but company co-founder Mark Hirschel says it is easy to break the £1m mark.

Less wealthy customers can buy a portrait made from flat-backed Swarovski Crystals for a more modest £2,700.

The crystal models are usually made as drafts before work begins on the

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