

## East Meets West in Saffronart's Exhibition of Decorative Arts



(From L to R: A crystal and patinated bronze ewer by Lalique; a porcelain *pâte-sur-pâte* urn by Meissen; a silver and glass decanter by Sammy, Hong Kong, c. 1930s)

Handcrafted decorative art objects from the world's most sought-after brands will be on view at Saffronart, New Delhi from **20 – 26 July**. Thirty-three pieces from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by Sèvres, Lalique, Mappin & Webb, Meissen, Oomersi Mawji, and a selection of Bohemian glass will be presented in this one-of-a-kind exhibition. Harking back to a time of opulence, they represent the grandeur of the nobility in Europe and India.

Saffronart has previously featured period Indian silver, including Oomersi Mawji's intricate silverware, but this is the first time the auction house will showcase decorative art by leading Western luxury brands. Commenting on the exhibition, CEO Hugo Weihe said, *"As an auction house committed to bringing rare works of art to buyers in India and around the world, we are pleased to present a one-of-a-kind exhibition of decorative arts. It is a rare treat to see these exquisite creations by leading Indian and European makers share a platform. Each is a statement piece of extraordinary craftsmanship."*

The works are available to view at Saffronart, New Delhi from 20 – 26 July and all lots can be viewed on [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com). Prices are available on request.

For further information, high-res images and interview requests please contact Shriya Pant of Josh Dobbins:

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**About the makers****Lalique**

Founded in 1888, Lalique is a French glassware design house founded by one of the best-known designers of the Art Nouveau period, René Lalique. Its glass designs often included dancing nymphs, fish, dragonflies and foliage, typical of the Art Nouveau period. Today, in addition to glass, crystal and jewellery, Lalique have expanded into the category of home accessories, with several stores around the world.

**Sèvres**

Sèvres porcelain, one of the most luxurious brands of ceramics, was a favourite among European royalty, aristocracy and collectors of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Originally founded at Chateau de Vincennes, France, in 1738, it relocated to Sèvres in 1756 under the direction of Madame de Pompadour. It was the official porcelain manufacturer to the crown, and Louis XV, the king of France, became its sole owner three years later. Today, Sèvres produces both traditional and contemporary porcelain on commission, and continues to hold a prestigious place in the porcelain industry.

**Mappin & Webb**

Founded in 1775 as a small silver atelier in Sheffield, England, Mappin & Webb is now famed for its exquisite jewellery, silverware, glassware, watches and lifestyle accessories. With a list of illustrious clientele to its credit, including the Queen of France Marie Antoinette, the last Czar of Russia Nicholas II, Winston Churchill, Charles Dickens, Harry Houdini and Grace Kelly, Mappin & Webb has established itself as a premier luxury brand catering to the true connoisseur. Today, it holds a Royal Warrant as Jewellers, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths to Her Majesty The Queen and as Silversmiths to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

**Meissen**

Established in Germany in 1710, by King Augustus the Strong, Meissen is famed for being Europe's first porcelain manufactory. Meissen's creations are identified by the markings of underglazed crossed swords, adopted from the coat of arms of the Electorate of Saxony. Today, Meissen is world-famous as an international luxury brand dealing in fine jewellery, exclusive accessories, art, figurines and home decor. It prides itself in making works of art that blend heritage, beauty and sensuousness. Meissen's creations have found their way into the collections of the world's leading museums, and are highly sought after by collectors.

**Oomersi Mawji**

Oomersi Mawji & Sons was founded in 1860 in Bhuj, by the famous Kutch silversmith Oomersi Mawji. Son of a humble cobbler, Oomersi Mawji rose to become court silversmith to the Maharaos of Kutch, and the Maharajas of Baroda, two of the most important royal courts in princely India. The firm of Oomersi Mawji & Sons was known for its unparalleled skills in making intricate silverware in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its creations are housed in some of the world's leading museums, including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Musée Guimet in Paris and Harvard University's Arthur M. Sackler Museum. The firm of Oomersi Mawji & Sons ceased operations in the 1930s.

**About Saffronart**

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India's earliest and most reputed, with over a hundred auctions to its credit. It is headquartered in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, we hold online and live auctions, exhibitions, and prime property sales throughout the year. Our focus is on bringing transparency to the auction process, and providing easy access to bidders around the world. Saffronart's services go beyond auctions to include private sales, art storage, appraisals and valuations for our clients, and supporting the efforts of the Indian art world by holding fundraiser auctions. We have set several global benchmarks for online auctions, and were the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005.

Saffronart is committed to introducing new categories of art and collectibles. On 9 – 10 August 2017, Saffronart will hold its first auction of Asian Art. Highlighting important works of antiquity from China and the Himalayas, the online sale brings together Chinese porcelain, exquisite bronze sculptures, and intricate *thangka* and *paubha* paintings from Tibet and Nepal.

**Website:** [saffronart.com](http://saffronart.com)

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