

Saffronart to Host First Ever Conference of Its Kind on Indian Jewels *The Timeless Legacy of India Jewels, 6 – 7 October 2017*

28 September 2017: India has been a continuous source of inspiration for the world's leading jewellery designers, including Cartier, Harry Winston, and of course, Van Cleef & Arpels. Few are aware that the most famous jewels in the world, such as the Orlov and Hope Diamond, either originate from or trace their design roots to India.

In an effort to initiate dialogue on India's rich and complex design heritage, and the art and history of adornment, Saffronart is organising an interdisciplinary conference, *The Timeless Legacy of Indian Jewels*, from **6 – 7 October 2017**. In partnership with **The Imperial Edge and the Gem Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)**, and supported by **IndusInd Bank, GIA, Gyan Museum and Forevermark**, the inaugural jewellery conference is the first of its scale to be held in India, and one of Saffronart's *Dialogues in Art* series. Several high-profile speakers will discuss the history and tradition of jewellery in the context of art, literature, culture and fashion, in India and globally.



*Images courtesy of Saffronart. *full details below*

Minal Vazirani, President and Co-founder of Saffronart said, “Through *Timeless Legacy*, Saffronart ties in the history of collecting some of the most important jewels around the world, to their South Asian origin and a larger Indian context. The conference is the first of this scale in India and offers a chance to gain invaluable insight into this history through images and select jewels on exhibition, and through interactions with leading global experts from the field. We want to encourage people to view this legacy through a new lens, one that transcends narratives, geography and time, and places India at the centre of the discussion.”

The Timeless Legacy of Indian Jewels is curated by Dr. Usha R Balakrishnan, a leading jewellery historian and reputed author. “From the mines of Golconda to the treasuries of maharajas, the magical world of Indian jewels stirs the heart, inspires the imagination, and brings eternal joy to the soul,” said Dr. Balakrishnan. “We hope that we can inspire others to

see and appreciate this vast cultural legacy through Saffronart's inaugural jewellery conference for, as timeless objects of desire, the power of gems keeps memories alive."

Speakers include **François Arpels**, Co-founder and Managing Partner at Brands & Beyond; **Francesca Cartier Brickell**, direct descendant of the Cartier family and Independent Writer and Lecturer; **Anjan Chakraverty**, Artist, Art Historian and Former Dean, Faculty of Visual Art, Banaras Hindu University; **Derek Content**, British Jewellery Historian, Dealer, and Consultant, London; **Maharani Radhika Raje Gaekwad**, from the Baroda Royal Family; **Lisa Hubbard**, International Jewellery Specialist, former Jewellery Chairman of the Americas for Sotheby's, and current Senior Advisor to Christie's Jewellery Department; **Salam Kaoukji**, Curator, The al-Sabah Collection, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait; **Pramod Kumar KG**, Managing Director, Éka Archiving Services, New Delhi; **Tom Moses**, Executive Vice President and Chief Laboratory and Research Officer, Gemological Institute of America; **Susan Stronge**, Senior Curator, Asian Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, London; and **John Zubrzycki**, Journalist, Researcher, and Author of *The Last Nizam: An Indian Prince in the Australian Outback* (2006), Australia.



Francesca Cartier Brickell

"I'll be talking about Cartier's Indian connection, using the diaries of my great grandfather, Jacques Cartier. I'll delve into the glamorous jewels he created for the maharajas, and his Indian-inspired Tutti Frutti jewellery, that soon became the height of fashion in the West."

"India and jewellery have always been indelibly linked to my mind, and I'm excited to be part of Saffronart's conference that seeks to educate and inspire others about the rich legacy of Indian jewels."

John Zubrzycki

"It was Usha Balakrishnan who asked me if I wanted to be a part of this conference, and Usha, of course, is one of India's leading authorities on Indian jewellery. Saffronart, of course, is one of India's leading art dealers, so how could I refuse? What a combination, what an opportunity, particularly as it's bringing together such fine speakers from all around the world as well as from India."

"My talk will be about Alexander Malcolm Jacob. Jacob was a jeweller, diamond merchant, and curio collector. He was also reputed to be a magician and a spy. He was a very interesting character who lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and is probably best known for the Jacob Diamond, which was then called the Imperial Diamond, which he tried to sell to the 6th Nizam of Hyderabad. I'll be talking about his life, and what happened to him."



For further information, high-res images and interview requests please contact:

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Details on the speakers can be found [here](#) and the conference schedule [here](#).

Friday, 6 October 2017

Opening Talk | 6.30 - 8 pm
The Imperial Club
South Tower, Level 6, B B Nakashe Marg
Tardeo, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400034

Saturday, 7 October 2017

Sessions 1 - 4 | 9 am - 8 pm
Industry Manor, Ground Floor
Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400025

Future iterations of the conference will explore a wide variety of India-centric topics that weave together art, aesthetics, heritage, culture and even policy, patronage and cultural consciousness across all art forms.

The conference highlights Saffronart's efforts to support the arts through discussion, research and market-based initiatives. Saffronart leads the global auction market for Modern and Contemporary Indian art, and is a pioneer in jewellery auctions. First introduced in 2008, these jewellery auctions include high quality, standout pieces that showcase designs rooted in India's cultural past.

A private exhibition of jewellery from **9 – 14 October 2017** will include pieces that provide a visual timeline of India's design history. Key highlights include a **Gemset Jade Snuff Box**, with intricate foliage and scrolling veins in gold that comprise the outer surface of this circular jade box; a pair of **Diamond and Gold Nautical Earrings** set with rose cut and full cut diamonds; and an **Emerald and Diamond Necklace**, with carved emeralds set in undulating gold collets in brushed finish, alternating with yellow diamonds. (*Images shown at the top of the release, L-R*)

About Saffronart:

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India's 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, Saffronart holds online and live auctions, exhibitions, and prime property sales throughout the year. Its focus is to bring 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 clients, and supporting the efforts of the Indian art world by holding fundraiser auctions. Saffronart has set several global benchmarks for online auctions, and was the subject of a case study at Harvard Business School in 2005.

Website: www.saffronart.com | **Facebook:** [@Saffronart](#) | **Instagram:** [@Saffronart](#)

Notes to the Editor
About the Sponsors**The Imperial Edge**

Developed by the SD Corporation Private Limited, a joint venture of Shapoorji Pallonji and the Dilip Thacker Group, SD Corp is one of the pioneers of world-class architecture in the city of Mumbai. SD Corp is responsible for having created landmark living spaces, and with a combined strength of a team of over 6000 employees, it aims to build a vibrant future through the means of successful enterprise by leveraging existing platforms and creating new ones. It has laid the foundation for a wide range of vibrant living and commercial spaces and is looking towards a promising future with booming real estate projects planned across the country.

www.theimperialedge.in

IndusInd Bank

IndusInd Bank, which commenced operations in 1994, caters to the needs of both consumer and corporate customers. Its technology platform supports multi-channel delivery capabilities. As on 30 June 2017, IndusInd Bank has 1210 branches, and 2090 ATMs spread across 687 geographical locations of the country. The Bank also has representative offices in London, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The Bank believes in driving its business through technology. It enjoys clearing bank status for both major stock exchanges - BSE and NSE - and major commodity exchanges in the country, including MCX, NCDEX, and NMCE. IndusInd Bank on 1 April 2013 was included in the NIFTY 50 benchmark index. In the recently released Kantar Millward Brown's BRANDZ Top 50 most valuable Indian Brands 2017 report, IndusInd Bank has retained its 12th position and has been ranked No.6 amongst banks as per the Top 50 Indian Brands.

www.indusind.com

GIA India

GIA is a global public benefit institute that ensures the public trust in gems and jewellery through research, education and laboratory services. An independent organisation established in 1931, GIA created the International Diamond Grading System™ and the 4Cs of diamond quality.

GIA's campus and laboratory in India are located at Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. From gemmology to jewellery design and retail sales, the Institute's education programmes reach more than 60 locations across the country. The laboratory offers diamond services such as grading and identification.

www.giaindia.in

Gyan Museum

Gyan Museum orbits around the treasured assortments of naturalist, collector and gemmologist, Mr. Gyan Chand Dhaddha (1940-2004). Gyan Museum offers a rare insight into history as seen by Dhaddha and the objects he collected. The museum houses over 2,500 treasured pieces, which he amassed during his lifetime including textiles, paintings, antique jewellery, vintage spectacles, rare inscriptions and *objet d'art* from around the world, dating back to over 3,000 years.

A tribute by his sons, Suresh and Arun Dhaddha, the museum is a signature concept by French designer Paul Mathieu, who envisioned the museum as a space where objects and ideas from diverse provenances and periods would not only be admired, but also inspire dialogue and new ways for visitors to experience them.

www.gyanjaipur.com