

## Exquisite Spinel Earrings Take Centre Stage at Saffronart's October Auction of Fine Jewels and Silver

- Saffronart's Fine Jewels and Silver Auction will take place online on 15 – 16 October 2024
- The catalogue features an exceptional selection of 131 lots that include exquisite period jewellery, statement pieces, and finely crafted *objets d'art*.
- Leading the auction is **An Important Pair of Spinel, Natural Pearl, Emerald and Diamond Earrings by The Gem Palace; An Important Colombian Emerald and Diamond Necklace; and An Important Period Pearl, Emerald and Diamond Sarpech.**

**Mumbai, 30 September 2024:** Saffronart is pleased to present its **Fine Jewels and Silver Auction** which will take place on the **Saffronart website** on **15-16 October 2024**. The catalogue features an exceptional selection of 131 lots curated for discerning collectors. These include exquisite period jewellery, statement pieces, and finely crafted *objets d'art*.

Leading the sale is ***An Important Pair of Spinel, Natural Pearl, Emerald and Diamond Earrings by The Gem Palace***, ([lot 53](#), estimate: INR 1.30 – 1.80 crores, USD 156,630 - 216,870). Each earring is centred on a circular pearl elegantly set with diamonds on the prongs suspending a beautiful rectangular emerald further suspending stunning well-matched tumbled spinels, mounted in platinum.

The spinels in the lot were acquired several decades ago by acclaimed designer Munnu Kasliwal, who had a particular affinity for the gem and created many important pieces of jewellery with spinels from his collection. Although Munnu passed in 2012, his sons went on pay homage to his father's legacy by creating this exceptional pair of earrings with spinels from his collection. The spinels are exceptionally well-matched with their deep pinkish-red hue and their exceptional transparency—a rare occurrence. The addition of natural pearl, diamonds, and an emerald highlights a combination of gemstones that was highly favoured during the Mughal era and is reimagined here in a more contemporary style.

Also included in the sale is ***An Important Colombian Emerald and Diamond Necklace***, ([lot 63](#), estimate: INR 1.20 - 1.80 crores, USD 144,580 - 216,870) that features seven rows of gently graduated emerald beads, joined with an Art Deco-inspired clasp, centring on a full-cut diamond, to an openwork surround set with full-cut diamonds, mounted in 18K gold; ***An Important Colombian Emerald and Diamond Ring***, ([lot 62](#), estimate: INR 75 - 90 lakhs, USD 90,365 - 108,435) that centres on an octagon-shaped emerald surrounded by full-cut and baguette-shaped diamonds, mounted in 18K gold; and a ***Pair of Diamond Earrings***, ([lot 51](#), estimate: INR 45 - 55 lakhs, USD 54,220 - 66,270) designed with three gently graduating old European-cut diamonds, suspending three diamond briolettes mounted in 18K gold.

The sale also features heirloom-worthy period jewellery, including an antique ***Pair of Period Gemset Earrings***, ([lot 8](#), estimate: INR 35 – 45 lakhs, USD 42,170 - 54,220) that features traditional *karanphool* earrings set with ruby, *polki* diamonds, emeralds and pearls with an alternate surround of

ruby cabochons in a floral motif and pearls flanked by a similarly set floral motif on one side suspending two graduating *jhumkas*, to a fringe of seed pearls. This particular style of *karanphool* earrings with a second suspending *jhumki* is more common to Gujarat and Rajasthan than other parts of India. The lot is accompanied by a silk sari, worn by Maharani Swaroop Kunwarba of Bansda, in a lush shade of purple with a gold border and *pallu*, embellished in gold thread with many decorative floral designs and geometric patterns, like *khanjiri* (chevron), which are typical of brocades. She can be seen wearing the sari in a rare 19<sup>th</sup> century photograph capturing an Indian woman with her face uncovered. **An Important Period Pearl, Emerald and Diamond Sarpech, (lot 61, estimate: INR 32 - 42 lakhs, USD 38,555 - 50,605)** is a period turban ornament centred on an old-cut diamond with a faceting style that was especially popular in the 19th century. The accessory also includes a fringe of graduating natural saltwater pearls and a beautiful *tawiz*-shaped Colombian emerald, giving the piece movement. The style of the *sarpech* differs from the traditional design, with a feather plume in place of a gemset *kalgi*.

**Lot 9, a Period Diamond 'Polki' and Emerald Necklace, (estimate: INR 20 - 25 lakhs, USD 24,100 - 30,125)** is designed with openwork plaques in floral motifs set with *polki* diamonds, suspending a similarly set pendant with an emerald drop. The reverse is enamelled in floral and bird motifs with red, green, yellow, blue and white, mounted in gold. **Lot 22 is An Important Period Emerald and Diamond 'Polki' Necklace (estimate: INR 55 - 75 lakhs, USD 66,270 - 90,365)** with exceptional provenance. This necklace was gifted to the current owners by Asaf Jha VI Mir Mehboob Ali Khan Siddiqi, the Sixth Nizam of Hyderabad. It is designed with an openwork flower motif set with emerald cabochons and *polki* diamonds. The necklace suspends a similarly set pendant with a pearl drop. The reverse is enamelled in floral motifs in red, green, yellow, blue and white, mounted in gold.

Rounding off the sale is a **Pair of Period Gemset 'Makara'-Head 'Kadas' or Bangles, (lot 21, estimate: INR 16 - 20 lakhs, USD 19,280 - 24,100)** with two bejewelled *makara* heads once owned by an Indian Maharani. The heads are *kundan*-set with rubies and diamonds on a green enamel base, with white enamel on the reverse. The *makara*, a mythical creature, appears in various cultures and is typically depicted in Hindu mythology as part terrestrial animal — like a crocodile, elephant, or deer — and part aquatic. A similar pair of bangles with *makara* terminals was presented to Queen Victoria at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1886. The design was a source of inspiration for the early 20<sup>th</sup> century designs of legendary European jewellers Van Cleef & Arpels.

Minal Vazirani, Saffronart President and Co-Founder said, “Our upcoming online auction of Fine Jewels and Silver showcases an exceptional selection of pieces that celebrate the finest craftsmanship and innovation in jewellery design. The collection includes period pieces, rare gemstones, and designs that seamlessly blend Indian aesthetics with global trends. Among several highlights are creations from renowned jewellery maisons and designers, including the famed Jaipur atelier, The Gem Palace. Leading the sale is an exquisite pair of spinel, natural pearl, emerald, and diamond earrings, a beautiful tribute to renowned designer Munnu Kasliwal’s legacy by his sons. Featuring perfectly matched spinels, these earrings reimagine a gemstone that was highly prized by the Mughals, as a symbol of wealth and power, in a contemporary design. The sale presents a unique opportunity for collectors and

*connoisseurs to acquire outstanding pieces of jewellery at competitive prices, and we look forward to a successful auction.”*

The auction will take place on the Saffronart website and will be preceded by viewings in Mumbai. All lots can be viewed on [saffronart.com](https://saffronart.com).

### AUCTION DATES

Fine Jewels and Silver Auction | Online | 15 - 16 October 2024

### VIEWINGS

#### MUMBAI

6 October – 16 October 2024  
11 am – 7 pm, Monday to Saturday  
Sunday (by appointment only)

#### VENUE

Industry Manor, Ground Floor  
Appasaheb Marathe Marg  
Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025

To make an appointment, please contact +91 22 6855 4100 or email us at [jewels@saffronart.com](mailto:jewels@saffronart.com)

---

### ABOUT SAFFRONART

Founded in 2000 by Minal and Dinesh Vazirani, Saffronart is a leading international auction house, and India’s most reputed, with over three hundred auctions to its credit. Its flagship gallery is in Mumbai, with offices in New Delhi, London, and New York. At the forefront of selling Indian art, Saffronart has held online and live auctions, exhibitions, and Dialogues in Art, working with collectors, gallerists, and artists to develop a strong market for art and aesthetics. Its focus is to bring transparency to the auction process and provide easy access and information to collectors around the world. Saffronart’s services go beyond auctions to include private sales, appraisals, and valuations for clients. 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](https://www.saffronart.com) | **Facebook:** [@saffronart](https://www.facebook.com/saffronart) | **Instagram:** [@saffronartartindia](https://www.instagram.com/saffronartartindia)

#### Press Contact

Rena Vora | [pr@saffronart.com](mailto:pr@saffronart.com)