



MAPPING A LEGACY OF INDIAN JEWELS

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

* Subject to change

FRIDAY, 11 OCT 2019 | 5 pm onwards | FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, MUMBAI

OPENING SESSION

Talk 1: LISA HUBBARD

Maharajas and Mughal Magnificence: The Anatomy of an Auction

On 19 June 2019, Christie's held a landmark auction of Indian jewellery and jewelled objects in New York, spanning over 500 years of history and sovereign power on the Indian subcontinent. The assembled collection was comprised of Golconda diamonds and dazzling coloured stones, Mughal period jewels and Mughal-inspired jewellery designs, jewelled objects used in the royal courts, and swords and daggers once owned by Indian rulers – all introduced to a global audience as evidence of a continuous tradition of patronage, from the onset of the Mughal Empire (1526-1857) to the present day. This talk will describe the anatomy of this spectacular project from conception through the special marketing effort, the atmospheric exhibition, and the actual sale of this extraordinary collection.

Talk 2: VIREN BHAGAT

In conversation

SATURDAY, 12 OCT 2019 | 9 am to 8 pm | FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, MUMBAI

SESSION 1

Speaker 1: HUGO MIGUEL CRESPO

Jewellery, Gem Cutting and Gem Trade in Portuguese Goa: The Business Ventures of the Viceroy Francisco da Gama (1565-1632)

This talk will examine the life and tribulations of Francisco da Gama in the context of the diamond trade during the height of the Mughal empire. The great-grandson of the famous admiral Vasco da Gama, Francisco would serve as viceroy of the Portuguese State of India twice (1597-1600 and 1622-1628) – tenures during which he dealt closely with the Mughal court. Having a fondness for diamonds, he became immensely active in the trade, buying both rough and cut stones from Goan diamond cutters, gem traders and goldsmiths, which he then sent to Lisbon to be sold in Europe. Rumours of illicit activities and the scale of Francisco's earnings set in motion his removal from office, and the complete confiscation of his estate. The investigation that ensued is of enormous importance to the history of the gem trade and jewellery production in Goa during this period, as direct archival sources are virtually non-existent. Drawing from these, as well as the study of select contemporary jewellery from the al-Sabah Collection in Kuwait, this talk will also look at the artistic and technological interactions between Europe and India at this pivotal moment in time.

Speaker 2: **WENDELL RODRICKS**

Goa: Land of the Birth of the World's First Indo-Western Fusion Style

This talk will take us on a journey demonstrating how the smallest state in India was impacted by costume and adornment. Through stunning visuals, it will explore the past, present and future of Goa's sartorial legacy, from tribes to the wealthy salons where the *pano bhaju* – with all its style, elegance and refined adornment – was worn to dance the fabled Goan folk song tradition, the *mando*.

SESSION 2

Speaker 3: **JACK OGDEN**

Diamonds from India: 2500 Years of Trade

For a long time, India was the primary source of diamonds to the Middle Eastern and European worlds. This presentation will cover the history of this trade from ancient Greece until the 18th century, when diamonds first began to arrive in Europe from Brazil. Examples of diamond-set jewellery shown will range from Roman rings to Medieval crowns and Renaissance jewels. At the same time, the development of diamond cutting will be considered. The diamond, far too hard to be cut in antiquity, began to be polished in Medieval times – perhaps first in India. With the technological developments of the 15th century, diamond cutting rapidly matured into the craft that so greatly impacted the Renaissance and later jewellery trades.

Speaker 4: **JOHN KING**

Symbols: The Unique World of Coloured Diamonds

Coloured diamonds captivate the eye and mind with their alluring beauty and rich history. This presentation will discuss some of the world's most famous historic coloured diamonds – many of Indian origin – and how they led the way to the popularity of these stones today. GIA's interaction with coloured diamonds will be highlighted to better understand many of the characteristics of these unique gemstones.

SESSION 3

Speaker 5: **JOANNA HARDY**

Indian Heritage and Tradition Revisited

India's rich heritage and culture has intoxicated, mesmerised and inspired craftsmen for centuries. The country's long relationship with the West has resulted in the sharing of aesthetics and skills which have been integral in creating jewellery that is sought after by jewellery collectors and connoisseurs worldwide. From Queen Victoria to the present day, this talk will look at how and why India has continued to inspire contemporary jewellery designers such as Bina Goenka, Silvia Furmanovich, Alice Cicolini, Van Gelder and Hemmerle, each creating jewels that continue to successfully echo the culture of the much-loved Indian Subcontinent.

Speaker 6: **DEEPTHI SASIDHARAN**

Through the Looking Lens: Examining Identity through Adornment in Early Indian Photography

Throughout history, adornment has been used to convey position, personal beliefs or particular pursuits. This presentation will look at jewellery through unusual images in the first 100 years of photography – from pioneering royal women embracing and adopting new trends to indentured diaspora clinging tenaciously to adornment as nostalgia and identity. The appearance of photography also provided realistic images of courtesans, concubines and other bejewelled women typically relegated to the margins of formal documentation. The talk will examine the information these images present, as well as look at how the photographic image enabled new forms of 'keepsake' jewellery that could be worn on one's person, while disrupting traditional designs as a consequence.

Speaker 7: **CYNTHIA MEERA FREDERICK**

Hallmarks of Indian Kingship: Iconic Head Ornaments of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala

Symbolic of kingship, head ornaments exemplified the highest expressions of Princely India's cultural traditions. This presentation will explore the history and evolution of the most important and iconic headpieces, such as turban ornaments and tiaras, which formed a part of the once legendary jewellery wardrobe of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala (1872-1949). It will showcase some of the hereditary pieces that he refashioned, as well as highlight items that he commissioned from European firms such as Cartier and Boucheron.

SESSION 4

Speaker 8: MANU PILLAI

God's Mortal Regents: Travancore's Maharajas and the Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple

The maharajas of Travancore famously styled themselves Sri Padmanabha Dasa, ruling southern Kerala as representatives and servants of their deity in the Padmanabhaswamy Temple. It was the founder of the state, Martanda Varma, who surrendered his conquests to his family deity, an event that has since been cast as a spiritual act of great importance. But it was more than merely an expression of royal piety – the wealthy temple came to represent political stability and strategic interests, even as it cemented the power of the *maharajas* themselves, preserving them during the most turbulent times. Home to the world's greatest hoard of treasure, the Padmanabhaswamy Temple and its connection with Travancore's rulers is a lesson in statecraft, power, politics, and the dynamics that helped a modern state survive for nearly 200 years, before its absorption into the Indian Union.

Speaker 9: USHA BALAKRISHNAN

Treasures of the Gods and Idioms of Adornment: Across the Southern Route

Ancient texts use the term *dakshinapatha* (from the Sanskrit *dakshina* or south, and *patha* or road) as a name for both the southern high road of the Indian subcontinent, and for the region lying south of the Vindhya mountains. Kautilya, the author of the Arthashastra – a 4th century BC treatise on statecraft and a compendium on the wealth of the state – wrote that *dakshinapatha*, the 'southern route,' was superior for trade as it abounded in gold, pearls, diamonds and beryls, as well as spices, silks and cottons. This talk will traverse the southern route connecting the great harbours on the western Malabar coast to the flourishing ports on the eastern Coromandel coast – from glorious Vijayapura (Bijapur) to mighty Vijaynagar (Hampi), from the powerful kingdom of the Cholas to the court of the Nayaks of Madurai. It will delve into the treasures of the gods and explore jewels that encapsulate myths and legends of their valour and power; and showcase idioms of adornment, distinctive jewellery forms inspired by the beauty of nature.

SESSION 5

CLOSING PANEL DISCUSSION (TBD)