

MAPPING A LEGACY OF INDIAN JEWELS

CONFERENCE CURATOR



USHA R BALAKRISHNAN

Cultural Capital Consultant and Jewellery Historian

Dr Usha R Balakrishnan is a cultural capital consultant and jewellery historian. She is the Principal Curator of the World Diamond Museum. Dr Balakrishnan has curated exhibitions globally and has authored several books, including *Dance of the Peacock: Jewellery Traditions of India*, *Jewels of the Nizams and Alamkara: The Beauty of Ornament*. She holds a PhD in Ancient Indian Culture and a post-doctorate degree in Museum Studies. Her latest publication is *Treasures of the Deccan: Jewels of the Nizams*.

SPEAKERS



VIREN BHAGAT

Foremost Contemporary Jewellery Designer of India

Viren Bhagat is a contemporary Indian artist-jeweller, considered one of the greatest of our time. His jewels combine historic gems, exacting craftsmanship and a wealth of interwoven cultural references, and are coveted by connoisseurs worldwide.



HUGO MIGUEL CRESPO

Art Historian and Author

An art historian based in Lisbon, Hugo Miguel Crespo specialises in Portuguese Renaissance material culture and Asian decorative arts made for export to the European market during the Age of Discovery. In 2014, he curated an exhibition in Museu do Oriente in Lisbon on the *Jewels from the India Run*. He recently published an article titled "The Plundering of the Ceylonese Royal Treasury, 1551–1553: Its Character, Cost, and Dispersal" in *Gems in the Early Modern World: Materials, Knowledge and Global Trade, 1450-1800*. He has also edited the book *The Art of Collecting. Lisbon, Europe and the Early Modern World (1500-1800)*.



CYNTHIA MEERA FREDERICK

Chief Advisor to the Maharaja of Kapurthala

Cynthia Meera Frederick is an American whose ancestry is rooted in Kerala. Currently based in Punjab, she is the co-author of *Prince, Patron and Patriarch: Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala*, and a consultant for a forthcoming documentary film based on the book. She has worked with museums and private collections in the USA and India, and her next book is centred on Mussoorie.



JOANNA HARDY

FGA, International Jewellery Specialist

Joanna Hardy is an independent fine jewellery specialist with over 35 years of experience working in the jewellery industry. She began her career training as a goldsmith at Sir John Cass College before working as a rough diamond grader for De Beers. She then became a polished diamond dealer in Antwerp, before joining Phillips the Auctioneers in London. Hardy moved on to Sotheby's, and was their senior jewellery specialist and auctioneer for 14 years. Since 2009, she has worked independently. She lectures and writes articles for publications worldwide, and is the author of *Collect Contemporary Jewelry, Emerald and Ruby*, as well as a contributing author to *Graff* and *Cartier Panthère*. She curates contemporary jewellery exhibitions and has recently launched her Online Fine Jewellery School. Hardy is a Fellow of the Gemmological Association, Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts, and a Liveryman and Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, in addition to being a regular jewellery specialist on the television series *BBC Antiques Roadshow*.



LISA HUBBARD

International Jewellery Specialist, Former Jewellery Chairman of the Americas for Sotheby's and Current Senior Advisor to Christie's Jewellery Department

Having worked for over 40 years as an international jewellery specialist in the auction world, Lisa Hubbard has participated in iconic sales such as those of the jewels of the Duchess of Windsor, the estates of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Ava Gardner, Andy Warhol, Mrs Harry Winston, Daisy Fellowes, Madame Claude Arpels, Brooke Astor, Mrs. Paul Mellon and, most recently, *Maharajas and Mughal Magnificence*. As an auctioneer, Hubbard was the first woman to conduct sales in Asia and the Middle East. She currently consults for Christie's as Senior Advisor to the firm's Jewellery Department, and continues to advise jewellery collectors worldwide on their acquisitions.



JOHN KING

Chief Quality Officer, GIA Laboratory, The Gemological Institute of America (GIA)

John King is respected worldwide as an authority on fancy coloured diamonds, and is also an accomplished artist. He began his career at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) in 1978, and has held his current position as Chief Quality Officer since 2008. He oversees the global technical quality for the laboratories, and assists in the communication of grading standards between GIA research and education and the diamond industry. King has been part of GIA's team of graders involved in grading many of the world's significant diamonds, including the Smithsonian's Hope diamond, the pink Agra, the yellow Tiffany, the Incomparable, the Centenary, and those in the Smithsonian's exhibition *Splendor of Diamonds* in 2003. With more than 30 years of laboratory experience, he has written about and frequently lectures on coloured diamonds and laboratory grading procedures; one of his most notable articles for GIA's award-winning quarterly journal, *Gems & Gemology*, is titled "Color Grading of Colored Diamonds in the GIA Gem Trade Laboratory." King's training in fine art included studies in colour theory, colour naming and order systems, which have supplemented his work in the laboratory. His art has been shown in several exhibitions throughout the US and abroad.



JACK OGDEN

Jewellery Historian and Author

Dr Jack Ogden is a British historian whose 45 years of research has focused on the history of gems and jewellery. He has written several books and numerous articles on these subjects, and lectures worldwide. Most recently, he has published *Diamonds: An Early History of the King of Gems*. Ogden has been awarded a doctorate from Durham University, the Gemmological Association of Great Britain diploma (with distinction), and the diploma in Art Profession Law and Ethics (with distinction) from the Institute of Art and Law. He is an elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, current president of the Society of Jewellery Historians, and Visiting Professor in Ancient Jewellery Materials and Technology at the School of Jewellery, Faculty of Arts, Design and Media, Birmingham City University.



WENDELL RODRICKS

Fashion Designer and Author

A designer with an international presence, Mumbai-born Wendell Rodricks studied Fashion Designing in the US and France from 1986 to 1988. He has presented his unique garments, inspired by Goa and India, at major fashion events around the world, and was the first Indian designer to be invited to show at the world's largest garment fair, IGEDO, in Germany (1995), the prestigious Prêt-à-Porter salon in Paris (2007), and the world's biggest organic fair, BioFach, in Nuremberg, Germany (2012). Rodricks has also shown his work in the US, Dubai, Malaysia, China and Sri Lanka, among others. He was instrumental in planning the first Lakme India Fashion Week in 2000, and guided it in an advisory capacity during its formative years. In 2010, Rodricks revived the weaving of the traditional and unique Goan *kunbi saree*, a two-year project involving identifying and training weavers in the use of saree looms. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014, and the Chevalier de l'Ordre National des Arts et Lettres (Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters) by the Ministry of Culture and Communication of France. Rodricks is the author of *Moda Goa: History and Style*, *The Green Room* and *Poskem: Goans in the Shadows*, and also writes for magazines, anthologies and other publications.



DEEPTHI SASIDHARAN

Director, Eka Archiving Services

Deepthi Sasidharan is an art historian, curator and Founder-Director at Eka Archiving Services, a cultural advisory. She works on heritage and museum projects across India with the government, private and corporate clients, and has led path-breaking projects in India, including setting up museums, seminal exhibitions and the creation of archives like those for Kalakshetra in Chennai, City Palace in Udaipur, and the Mumbai Police and Tata Trusts in Mumbai. She is currently working on the Moda Goa Museum, India's first costume museum in Goa; the redevelopment of the Bastion Bungalow in Fort Kochi with the Government of Kerala; and a memorial project in Porbandar, Gujarat. A Fulbright and Fundação Oriente scholar, Sasidharan has curated, spoken and published extensively on 19th century photography, and has worked on photography collections at the IGNC and IGMT in New Delhi, Chowmahalla Palace in Hyderabad, and several private collections. She is the co-author of *Indira: A Life of Courage and Treasures of the Deccan*.



MANU S PILLAI

Author

Manu S Pillai is the author of three books on history, including *The Ivory Throne: Chronicles of the House of Travancore*, for which he won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar. Formerly Chief of Staff to Shashi Tharoor MP, he has in the past worked at the House of Lords in Britain and with the BBC on *Incarnations*, an Indian history series. He is currently studying for a PhD at King's College London.