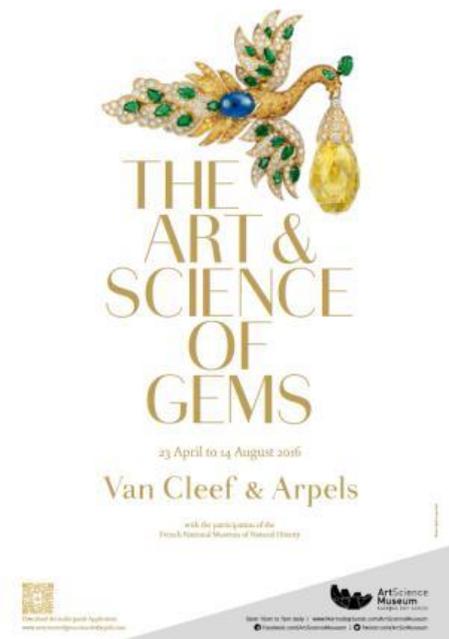


# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **ArtScience Museum presents *Van Cleef & Arpels: The Art and Science of Gems***

*Discover the journey of minerals through the Earth history  
and extraordinary craftsmanship of unique high jewellery  
creations*

**Singapore** (28 January 2016) – Exploring the worlds of exquisite jewellery and their links to minerals, *Van Cleef & Arpels: The Art and Science of Gems* exhibition will premiere at Marina Bay Sands' ArtScience Museum on April 23. Co-curated with ArtScience Museum, over 400 stunning creations from Van Cleef & Arpels and 250 minerals from the French National Museum of Natural History Collection will be on display.

A first for Van Cleef & Arpels, the exhibition will feature two complementing routes to showcase the intersection between the science of mineralogy and the art of jewellery making: one route unearths the evolution of minerals from the deep Earth to its surface, and the other presents the transformation of these minerals into precious works of art in the hands of the Maison's best craftsmen, known as the "Mains d'Or™".

Documenting over 100 years of history, *Van Cleef & Arpels: The Art and Science of Gems* is the largest heritage exhibition of Van Cleef & Arpels, in collaboration with French National Museum of Natural History, at L'École Van Cleef & Arpels' invitation. The stunning pieces of the exhibition are from the Maison's archive collection, and also include pieces on loan from private collectors globally. Co-curated with ArtScience Museum, this is the first-of-its-kind exhibition that blends art, craft, history and geoscience with the elegance and style that characterises Van Cleef & Arpels' rich heritage.

The Singapore exhibition follows a series of seven defining themes: couture, abstractions, influences, precious objects, nature, ballerinas and fairies, and icons. In conjunction with these breath-taking creations are natural treasures and scientific artefacts from Minerals and Gems Collection of the French National Museum of Natural History in Paris, France.

"We are privileged to work together with the prestigious Maison of Van Cleef & Arpels on presenting this unique exhibition which explores both the artistic skills required for the creation of exquisite jewellery, and the scientific processes involved in the formation of minerals that are used to create gems. The exhibition blends art, crafts, history and geoscience in a highly distinctive manner, taking visitors on a dramatic journey that begins with the origin of minerals within the heart of the Earth, and culminates with the extraordinary craftsmanship that transfigures these gems into works of art," said Ms Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.



Patrick Gries © Van Cleef & Arpels

### Bird clip and pendant, 1971-1972

Gold, emeralds, sapphire, yellow and white diamonds  
and a 96.62-carat briolette-cut yellow diamond formerly owned by  
the famous Polish opera singer Ganna Walska  
Van Cleef & Arpels Collection

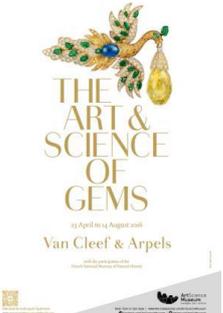
One of Van Cleef & Arpels' most striking special orders is a flying bird carrying a briolette-cut yellow diamond of 96.62 carats. In the 1930s, this unique gem belonged to the opera singer and socialite Ganna Walska, who wore it as a pendant. In keeping with Van Cleef & Arpels' tradition of transformability, the bird can also metamorphose into a pair of winged earrings and even a brooch, while the magnificent yellow diamond can be detached from the clip and worn alone as a pendant.

"The history of Van Cleef & Arpels – which began in 1906 in Paris, the cradle of French High Jewellery – reflects over a century of creative and inventive jewellery making. The pieces brought

together for this exhibition express the diversity of the Maison's styles and sources of inspiration, along with the excellence of its savoir-faire and its passion for precious stones. They provide a perfect illustration of 'The Art and Science of Gems,'" said Nicolas Bos, President and CEO, Van Cleef & Arpels.

"The National History Museum in Paris holds for long large collections of rare minerals. Among them, several bearing strange names such as corindon, tourmaline, pyroxen etc. are the "stones" which are raw materials for jewel makers. Such an exhibition where the paths of science and art cross is the place to be, and the place to collaborate in a hybrid field that we could call 'geo-jewellery'. It is a way to promote the National Museum of Natural History collections for public pleasure and education purposes," commented Bruno David, President, National Museum of Natural History.

Tickets for the *Van Cleef & Arpels: The Art and Science of Gems* exhibition will be available on April 1 at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. Terms and conditions apply:

<b>Van Cleef &amp; Arpels: The Art and Science of Gems Exhibition</b>  		<b>Standard ticket</b>	<b>Singapore resident ticket</b>
	<b>Adult</b>	S\$17	S\$10
	<b>Senior (65 years and above)</b>	S\$12.8	S\$8.5
	<b>Child (2- 12 years)</b>	S\$10	S\$6
	<b>Family package (2 kids and 2 adults)</b>	S\$39	S\$26

For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/artsciencemuseum](http://www.marinabaysands.com/artsciencemuseum).

Hashtag: #theartscienceofgems @vancleefarpels

#### **About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com)

#### **About ArtScience Museum**

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of history's most important artists, including Leonardo Da Vinci, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

**About the French National Museum of Natural History**

Founded by King Louis XIII of France in 1626, the French National Museum of Natural History is among the world's foremost institutions investigating the Earth's treasures and the impact of human activities on geo- and biodiversity. Its collections are still some of the richest in the world: over 60 million specimens are contained in an outstanding research environment that aims to promote an innovative way of understanding nature and its mechanisms. The mineral and gem collections in particular reflect the beauty of the natural world, along with the creativity of artists who have been inspired by it.

**About Van Cleef & Arpels**

Founded at Paris' 22 Place Vendôme in 1906, Van Cleef & Arpels came into being following Estelle Arpels' marriage to Alfred Van Cleef in 1895. Over the decades, the excellence of the High Jewellery Maison established its reputation across the world. Its emblematic signatures – such as the Alhambra<sup>®</sup> motif, the Zip necklace or the Mystery Set<sup>™</sup> technique – its selection of Pierres de Caractère<sup>™</sup>, exceptional gems that instil an emotion, and the savoir-faire of its Mains d'Or<sup>™</sup>, the craftsmen from Van Cleef & Arpels' workshops, have given birth to enchanting jewellery and watchmaking collections. Today, the Maison remains faithful to a highly distinctive style characterised by poetry, refinement, creativity and artistic sensibility. Whether inspired by nature, *Couture*, dance or the imagination, it offers the world a gateway to a timeless universe of beauty and harmony.

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