

MEDIA RELEASE
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**FROM ROYAL STYLE TO HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR: GLITTERING CARTIER EXHIBITION
OPENS AT THE NGA**

The National Gallery of Australia's extraordinary exhibition—featuring many of the world's greatest jewels—opens in Canberra on 30 March. *Cartier: The Exhibition* includes the tiara loaned to Catherine Middleton on her wedding day by Her Majesty The Queen, Grace Kelly's engagement ring and Elizabeth Taylor's ruby and diamond necklace, along with some of the most exquisite pieces from the stunning Cartier Collection.

Today Academy-Award nominated Australian actress, Naomi Watts, was a special guest to celebrate the launch of *Cartier: The Exhibition*. 'It's fantastic to be in Canberra to see this gorgeous exhibition,' said Ms Watts. 'It's a beautiful show full of history and style that all Australians must see.'

Featuring more than 300 works of art, the exhibition showcases outstanding necklaces, brooches, tiaras, watches and ornaments, alongside rarely seen archival drawings, photographs and ephemera. Co-curated by Margaret Young-Sánchez, formerly Chief Curator of Denver Art Museum and the NGA, the exhibition showcases pieces from the Cartier Collection, museums, institutions and private collectors.

'This exhibition is the most outstanding collection of important jewels Australia has ever seen, and is ever likely to see again,' said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director. 'This is an unmissable opportunity to see masterpieces of this craftsmanship and quality up close.'

A remarkable Royal Style section features items generously lent by Her Majesty The Queen, including a brooch with one of the most impressive pink diamonds in the world, jewellery worn and owned by Princess Margaret and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and the famous Indian Tiara owned by The Duchess of Gloucester.

Cartier's legacy is synonymous with clients like the Duchess of Windsor, Princess Grace of Monaco, Mexican film star María Félix, and the indomitable queen of jewellery, Elizabeth Taylor. The greatest Australian celebrity at the turn of the 20th century, Dame Nellie Melba—a devoted Cartier client—is also a feature of the exhibition.

'We are honoured to collaborate with the NGA on this exhibition,' said Pierre Rainero, Director of Image, Style and Heritage at Cartier. 'The vision of Cartier's creative force, Louis Cartier, is further realised by the aesthetic and content of this one-of-a-kind exhibition through its innovation and style in presenting not only the jewels, but also the social context surrounding their history.'

Strategic Partner Visit Canberra recognises the value of such a significant and exclusive exhibition to the National Capital. ‘We are proud to welcome these works of art—so many belonging to historic icons of film, stage and royalty—exclusively to Canberra,’ said Andrew Barr, ACT Chief Minister. ‘It is exhibitions such as this that contribute to our capital’s record visitor numbers and growing reputation as a cultural tourism destination, bringing visitors from far and wide.’

Cartier: The Exhibition on until 22 July. Tickets on sale through Ticketek.

IMAGES:

Images available for download from: <https://nga.gov.au/aboutus/mediacentre/cartier/default.cfm>

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @NationalGalleryof Australia

Instagram: @NationalGalleryAus

Twitter: @NatGalleryAus

Hashtag: #CartierNGA

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Special thanks to our Strategic Partner, Visit Canberra, our Major Partner, Qantas, Channel 7, the Neilson Foundation and Australian Government International Exhibitions Insurance (AGIEI); Supporting Partners Val Morgan, Capital Hotel Group, and Champagne Pommery; and our Media Partners, Vogue, The Design Files, The Saturday Paper, The Monthly. Win TV, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and The Canberra Times.

Cartier: The Exhibition would not be possible without our generous Exhibition Patrons Kay Bryan, Krystyna Campbell-Pretty, The Hon Ashley Dawson-Damer AM, Paula Fox AO, Lady Potter AC, Fiona Martin-Weber and Tom Hayward.

The exhibition is designed by internationally-renowned scenographer Nathalie Crinière.

FACT SHEET

THE EXHIBITION:

- *Cartier: The Exhibition* features more than 300 exquisite pieces.
- Additional unprecedented loans come from and have been facilitated by: the Smithsonian Institute; Qatar Museums Authority; the Victoria & Albert Museum; the Royal Collection Trust, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's personal collection; the Princely Palace of Monaco; Grainger Museum, University of Melbourne; Arts Centre, Melbourne; Parliamentary Art Collection, Canberra; National Museum of Peles Castle, Sinaia, Romania; Musée des arts décoratifs, Paris; multiple private lenders.
- Three favourites of Her Majesty The Queen's personal collection are on display.
- The exhibition is designed by internationally-renowned scenographer Nathalie Crinière.
- The exhibition was co-curated by Margaret Young-Sánchez, formerly of Denver Art Museum and Simeran Maxwell, NGA Curator of International Art, along with the NGA team

HISTORY:

- Cartier was established in 1847 by Louis-François Cartier.
- Louis Cartier joined his father as head of the family business in 1898. With his brothers, Jacques and Pierre Cartier, he expanded the jewellery empire to service the rich and famous the world over.
- Cartier's flagship store on Rue De La Paix opened in 1899, with its London branch opening in 1902 and the New York branch in 1909.
- Cartier has remained at the forefront of creative craftsmanship and innovative high jewellery design ever since.
- In the 1970s, Cartier began to reassemble objects from its past collections: jewellery, watches, clocks and other precious accessories were collected for conservation, which led to the foundation of the Cartier Collection in 1983.
- Today, the Cartier Collection comprises more than 1,600 items spanning from the 1860s to the 1990s. These pieces act as material records of Cartier's more than 170-year history while also providing a wider historical account of evolutions within the decorative arts and society.

ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST:

- Royal Collection Trust, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The Queen. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of The Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational programmes. Royal Collection Trust's work is undertaken without public funding of any kind. www.royalcollection.org.uk
- The Royal Collection is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and is spread among some 15 royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for her successors and the nation, and is not owned by The Queen as a private individual.

IMAGE LIST:

Royal Style: King of jewellers and jeweller of kings



Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, comes out of Westminster Abbey, with her husband Britain's Prince William (not pictured) following their wedding ceremony, in central London, on April 29, 2011, Carl de Souza/Getty Images



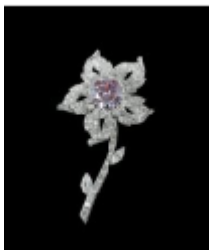
Cartier London Halo tiara 1936, platinum, diamonds, 3 x 18 cm, lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Royal Collection Trust/All Rights Reserved



HM Queen Elizabeth II (wearing the Cartier diamond necklace, gift from the Nizam of Hyderabad for her wedding in 1947), 1953, © CAMERA PRESS/Baron



Cartier London Nizam of Hyderabad necklace 1935, platinum, diamonds, , 38.5 cm (length), lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Royal Collection Trust/All Rights Reserved



Cartier London Williamson brooch 1953, special order, platinum, diamonds, pink diamond, 10 x 5.5 cm, lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Royal Collection Trust/All Rights Reserved

Defining Moments: Twentieth-Century Icons



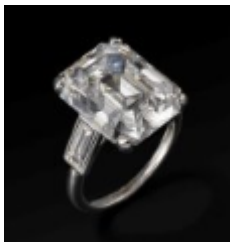
Elizabeth Taylor wearing her Cartier ruby and diamond necklace and earrings in Las Vegas, 1958, © Photofest



Cartier Paris Necklace 1951, altered 1953, platinum, gold, diamonds, Burmese rubies, 37.5 cm (length), Photo: Vincent Wulveryck, Cartier Collection, © Cartier. Provenance: Elizabeth Taylor



Official portrait of Her Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco wearing Cartier jewellery 1959, © G. Lukomski, avec l'autorisation du palais princier de Monaco



Cartier Paris Engagement ring 1956, platinum, diamonds, 2.3 x 1.6 x 1.1 cm, Photo: Vincent Wulveryck, © Princely Palace of Monaco



Duchess of Windsor, 1947, Horst P. Horst/Vogue © Condé Nast



Cartier Paris Flamingo brooch 1940, special order, platinum, gold, diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, rubies, citrine, 9.7 x 9.6 cm, Photo: Nils Herrmann, Cartier Collection, © Cartier. Provenance: Duchess of Windsor

Cartier and the Diva: Dame Nellie Melba



Dame Nellie Melba, 1920



Cartier Paris *Devant de corsage/necklace* 1902 platinum, diamonds, pearls, private collection. Provenance: Dame Nellie Melba

More images available at <https://nga.gov.au/aboutus/mediacentre/cartier/default.cfm> or on request megan.reederhope@nga.gov.au