

## Bhagat To Debut At TEFAF Maastricht 2020; New Jewels By Cindy Chao, Wallace Chan, Hemmerle



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With trade fairs throughout the world being canceled or postponed as the coronavirus spreads, The European Fine Art Fair, commonly known as [TEFAF Maastricht](#), will be held as scheduled.

TEFAF officials said their decision to go on with the show is based on the evaluation of Dutch and Maastricht health authority guidelines, in close consultation with Maastricht Mayor, Annemarie Penn-te Strake.



A platinum ring mounted with sapphire and diamonds by high jewelry artist, Viren Bhagat, who will appear at TEFAF Maastricht for the first time BHAGAT

“The mayor has the ultimate authority to decide if it is safe for Maastricht to host the TEFAF Fair given the current situation,” said a statement from the mayor’s office that

appeared on a press release from TEFAF. “The decision is based on the advice of the Dutch Health Authorities RIVM and the Security Council South Limburg.... Both bodies have, at present, given no advice which would make the mayor decide to reconsider TEFAF’s Fair.”

The 33rd edition of the international art, antiques and design fair will be held March 7 –15 (with invitation-only preview days on March 5 and 6) in the picturesque city of Maastricht on the southern border of The Netherlands. The fair is particularly known for its focus on Old Master paintings and antique works of art, however, you can find exceptional works from nearly every art and design discipline, ranging from classical antiquity to the 21st Century.

TEFAF is regarded as unequalled in its level of quality and in the methods it employs to establish and guarantee the authenticity of every painting and object on offer. It’s a methodology that was updated last year with stricter rules for the vetting of artworks. The approximate 185 experts who examine and authenticate the objects are no longer allowed to have affiliations with auction houses or dealers. Academics, scholars, museum personnel, restorers, conservators and other independent authorities now oversee the authentication process. The selection process also received an overhaul last year with an attempt at increasing the number of modern and contemporary artworks.

Among the 280 exhibitors from 20 countries are six contemporary high jewelry artists and about a dozen or so antique and estate dealers who have a specialty in jewelry. The big news for the contemporary jewelry portion of the fair is that the acclaimed Indian high jewelry brand, Bhagat, owned by Viren Bhagat, will be exhibiting for the first time. In fact, it is the first time the publicity shy high jewelry artist will participate in a public exhibition. His pieces combine the overabundance of precious gems and fine craftsmanship normally associated with traditional Indian jewels along with contemporary design codes. He produces no more than 60 pieces per year.

All of the high jewelers at the fair create unique pieces with original artistic concepts that use traditional precious gems and diamonds with a mix of materials not normally associated with jewelry making – such as titanium, aluminum, wood and enamel. Some may also include antiques into their contemporary works, such as ancient Egyptian artifacts or fossilized materials. They represent the top tier of jewelry designers in the world.



2019 Black Label Masterpiece I "Aurora Butterfly Brooch" by Cindy Chao CINDY CHAO

In January, Cindy Chao, had her first butterfly brooch, created in 2008, [accepted into the permanent collection of the prestigious Musée des Arts Décoratifs \(MAD\) in Paris](#) . It was latest of a long list of recognitions and honors for the Taiwanese high jewelry artist. This will be her second year at TEFAF Maastricht. She will be introducing new works. Unfortunately, the perfectionist is in the final stages of completing her pieces. For now, her 2019 Black Label Masterpiece I “Aurora Butterfly Brooch” will have to do. It is the latest of the annual butterfly brooches created by Chao. Made of titanium and aluminum, the body of the insect is made up of four “pigeon’s blood” Burmese rubies totaling 8.48 carats with colorful pavé. The four wings are layered with clusters of rose-cut diamonds with invisible prong settings. Throughout the wings are gradations of deep blue sapphires with layers of yellow diamonds. The butterfly brooch has become an iconic symbol of her brand, [Cindy Chao The Art Jewel](#), now in its 15th year.



Wallace Chan "Keeper of Time" necklace WALLACE CHAN

[Wallace Chan](#) will be exhibiting at TEFAF Maastricht for the fifth consecutive year and it's easy to see why as the Hong Kong high jewelry artist has gained worldwide praise for his designs and his groundbreaking innovations. This year he will display 25 works, including new pieces, around the theme of time. The highlight of the exhibition is "Keeper of Time," a necklace juxtaposing the artist's most recent innovation, "Wallace Chan Porcelain," with his carving creations from more than 30 years ago. His memories from different times are revisited and given new life; representing links in the chain of time that connects the past and the present.



Earrings that feature a melo and a conch pearl by Hemmerle HEMMERLE

**Hemmerle**, the four-generation family owned jeweler based in Munich, Germany, has a long relationship with TEFAF Maastricht. The high jewelry brand will present a number of new pieces that display an ingenious mix of materials combined with superb craftsmanship. Among the items are a pair of earrings that feature a melo and a conch pearl that create dual-tone hues enhanced by the color-matched orange and Sri Lankan padparadscha sapphires in the pavé.



“Tettix” earrings by Otto Jakob OTTO JAKOB

Another German jeweler, [Otto Jakob](#), is a goldsmith specializing in pieces that appear like miniature works of art. Among the pieces that will be on display are the “Tettix” earrings made of yellow gold, tsavorites, yellow and brown diamonds, vitreous enamel, backless plique-à-jour enamel and painted gold.



Platinum and white gold bracelet featuring three square-cut Colombian emeralds and diamonds by Van Cleef & Arpels (circa 1956)  
VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

Finally, the iconic French high jewelry house, [Van Cleef & Arpels](#), will be displaying a mix of historic jewels and new high jewelry pieces. It includes a platinum and white gold bracelet featuring three square-cut Colombian emeralds totaling 13.20 carats with diamonds (circa 1956).

Among the dealers who specialize in jewelry and other works are Hancocks London, FD Gallery and A La Vieille Russie.



The Anglesey tiara being exhibited by Hancocks HANCOCKS

The hero piece from [Hancocks](#) being unveiled at TEFAF is a diamond tiara owned by Henry Cyril Paget, the 5th Marquess of Anglesey (1875 – 1905), who was known as the black sheep of the family because of his flamboyant lifestyle and his squandering of the family fortune. The tiara, circa 1890, which has remained in the family for generations, is formed of a graduated row of more than 100 carats of old European and old mine-cut diamonds, which can detach to form a rivièrè necklace. Other items that will be on display by the London-based jewelry dealer includes an antique 20.20-carat old-cut pear-shaped diamond pendant suspended from an antique platinum and pearl chain, H color and VVS2 clarity (circa 1900); an oval padparadscha sapphire (8.12 carats) and diamond ring by JAR; and a diamond strap bracelet by Van Cleef & Arpels.



Blue sapphire and diamond Circle earrings, mounted in platinum and yellow gold, with posts by SABBA being offered by FD gallery  
FD GALLERY

Another place where you may be able to purchase a Bhagat jewel during TEFAF is from the exhibition space of New York-based [FD Gallery](#), a luxury jewelry retailer that specializes in rare 20th Century pieces and a selection of contemporary jewels. The store also is the exclusive retailer of jewels by Alessandro Sabbatini, who works under the brand, SABBA. The exclusive high jewelry artist based in Paris produces no more than 40 one-of-a-kind pieces per year.



Two-color citrine ear clips by Cartier being offered by A La Vieille Russie A LA VIEILLE RUSSIE

[A La Vieille Russie](#), New York, specializes in European and American antique jewelry plus antique Russian decorative art. One of the store's specialties is objects by Fabergé.

Among the other dealers at the fair who specialize in antique and vintage jewels are: A. Aardewerk Antiquair Juwelier, Véronique Bamps, Didier, Epoque Fine Jewels, S J Phillips, Marjan Sterk Fine Art Jewelry, Symbolic & Chase, and Wartski.