

THE WINTER SHOW

A Benefit for East Side House

7/20/2020

Week 10: Jewelry and Fabergé

Jewelry has been used as a form of personal adornment since prehistoric times, and has been used throughout history in various cultures as a form of protection, a symbol of status, or societal rank. For a brief history of jewelry through the ages, please see the entry at the end of the newsletter.

Les Enlumineures

This flashy solitaire ring shows off a large Columbian table-cut emerald set with colored enamel on the trumpet-shaped shoulders and the underside of the bezel. The shapely form of the enamel shoulders and the vivid effects of color suggest the influence of Gilles Légaré, court jeweler to King Louis XIV, who published in 1663 a series of Baroque designs for rings that were widely disseminated, influencing goldsmiths throughout continental Europe.



Emerald and Enamel Solitaire Ring
Western Europe, c. 1680-1720
Gold, enamel, and emerald
Weight 6.4 gr; Circumference 53.16 mm; US size 6 1/2; UK size N

Provenance
European Private Collection

Literature: Compare a ring in the Alice and Louis Koch Collection in the Swiss National Museum, Zurich, thought to be Hungarian from the second half of the seventeenth century (Chadour 1994, no. 745), and a necklace fragment made in Transylvania, late seventeenth century, in the Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, Budapest (exh. cat. Schätze des Ungarischen Barock 1991, no. 171). For French examples, see Scarisbrick 1993, pp. 92-93, 98-99.

The Spanish Conquistadors are credited with discovering emeralds in Columbia in the sixteenth century, and they went on to market them in European capitals. Along with diamonds, rock crystals, and rubies, emeralds are a popular gemstone in Renaissance and Baroque cluster rings of Spanish fabrication. The emerald was also a favorite at the French court of Louis XIV. Jewelry by Hungarian artisans also showed off emeralds, and well-traveled Hungarian artists and journeymen goldsmiths returned from obligatory tours of European cultural centers to adapt new forms and designs at home.

Symbolic of love, equated with happiness and hope, the emerald may have had a personal meaning for the giver as a token of sentiment.



Emerald and Enamel Solitaire Ring

About Les Enluminures

Les Enluminures was founded in Paris in 1991 by Dr. Sandra Hindman in association with the Chicago-based business, and opened a gallery in New York in May 2012. Specializing in manuscripts and miniatures from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the gallery also handles rings and jewelry from the same periods. It organizes four or five exhibitions a year, some in collaboration with other dealers and some traveling to other locations, and these are often accompanied by catalogues.

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Macklowe Gallery

An English Antique 15 karat gold and oxidized silver Maltese cross brooch with diamonds. The brooch has 130 old European-cut and old mine-cut diamonds with an approximate total weight of 18.00 carats including the center old European-cut diamond weighing approximately 2.25 carats. Fold down bale. Antique box. The Maltese cross, in Italy also known as the Amalfi cross, is the cross symbol associated with the Knights Hospitaller (the Knights of Malta) and, by extension, with the island of Malta. The cross is eight-pointed and has the form of four "V"-shaped elements, each joining the others at its vertex, leaving the other two tips spread outward symmetrically.



An English Antique Maltese cross brooch with diamonds 15 karat gold and oxidized silver circa 1880

Its design is based on crosses used since the First Crusade. The 15th Century Crusaders adopted the Cross of Malta as their insignia because its eight points represented the eight Beatitudes prescribed in the Sermon on the Mount. Those, in effect, declare (1) blessed are the poor in spirit, (2) the meek, (3) the pure, (4) the merciful, and (5) the peacemakers; (6) blessed are they that mourn, and (7) seek righteousness, and (8) blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake. The Cross of Malta had a religious origin, but the Knights of St. John also made it their battle standard for the liberation of all men, women and children who suffered oppression. The ideals for which the original Crusaders fought parallel the principles of democracy today, freedom, and justice.

About Macklowe Gallery

Macklowe Gallery was founded in 1971 by Lloyd and Barbara Macklowe and is known worldwide as a leading dealer of museum-quality Twentieth Century Decorative Arts specializing in French Art Nouveau furniture and objects, Tiffany Lamps and glass, and fine jewelry. Now under the leadership of Benjamin and Hillary Macklowe, the gallery has re-dedicated itself to educating and promoting the next generation of innovative collectors. Together with the gallery's team of experts, Ben and Hillary have authored books on Art Nouveau sculpture and jewelry that are standards in the field.

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A La Vieille Russie, Inc

FABERGÉ

Peter Carl Fabergé, a Russian-born jewelry designer who inherited his father's jewelry firm in the late 1880s, is known as one of the most innovative and influential artist-jewelers. With an interest in objets deluxe and objets de fantaisie, such as the famous Imperial Easter Egg, color and opulence was reinstated through his use of colored stones and enamel. After multiple royal commissions from the Tzar Alexander III, Fabergé became respected throughout Russia as the Appraiser of the Imperial Cabinet

(1890-1897). It wasn't until 1900 at the World Exhibition in Paris, however, that the House of Fabergé became internationally recognized for its intricate and ingenious designs. What set Fabergé apart from his contemporaries such as Cartier or Tiffany, was the unrivaled technical mastery and craftsmanship in each object.

Fabergé often transformed traditional Slavic forms into his own beautiful precious jeweled vernacular, like this vibrant gold mounted yellow enamel kovsh.

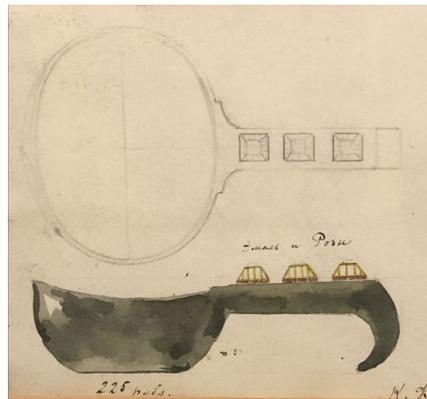


By Fabergé, workmaster Michael Perchin. St. Petersburg, ca. 1895. 18k gold and yellow guilloché enamel kovsh Length: 4 inches

The kovsh form has existed in Russia for centuries, originating as a type of drinking vessel in the shape of a duck. They were made of wood, and some were also made out of tightly woven cloth. In the 16th century, they began to be made in silver and increasingly assumed a ceremonial status. Kovshi (plural for kovsh) came in a range of sizes and were intended for drinking kvass, beer, or mead, a honey based drink that varied in flavor from using different fruits and berries.



The handle with three faceted square diamonds set in white enamel. The base with gold 5-ruble coin of Empress Elizabeth dated 1768.



The original Fabergé drawing

About A La Vieille Russie, Inc

A La Vieille Russie is internationally known for its collection of Russian treasures. Goldsmith and jeweler Carl Fabergé was a client, and the dealership is recognized as international experts on his works. The gallery specializes in European and American antique jewelry, 18th-century European gold snuff boxes, and antique Russian fine and decorative art, including silver, enamel, porcelain, paintings, icons, and furniture. Founded in Kiev in 1851, the New York branch was opened in 1941 by the late Alexander Schaffer. Under the direction of brothers, Messrs. Paul and Peter L. Schaffer, and Paul's son, Dr. Mark

Schaffer, we continue the tradition of dealing in fine art and antiques .

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Kentshire Galleries

Originating in the 17th century, the term Chinoiserie is a misnomer—a catchall phrase that Europeans commonly used to describe any pieces with an ‘exotic’ or Asian theme, regardless of their origin. While Europeans were often misinformed about the geographical origin of many Asian themes, they had tremendous respect for the history of Chinese design, notably detailed by Marco Polo as early as the 1300s. Historically, China is arguably the country with the longest tradition of luxury and imperial decorative arts.



Art Deco jade, onyx, and diamond earrings in platinum
French import, Circa 1925

These earrings done in the Chinoiserie style spoke to the European passion for Asian motifs during the Art Deco period.

The French colonial exhibitions of 1922 and 1931 were the perfect showcases for this passion for Chinese motifs and featured them heavily. China emerged as an extremely popular influence in Les Arts Decoratifs and was handily interpreted within high jewelry houses such as Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, and L'cloche Frères. Jewelers often included fragments of jade that originated in China for the export market, as it was largely not high quality enough for Chinese clients. These earrings, done in the Chinoiserie style, are a perfect example of this moment in the Art Deco period and would have been produced as a European jeweler's take on the Chinese taste. Additionally, the combination of onyx, jade, and diamonds is ubiquitous during this era and have been used to great effect in this stunning pair.

About Kentshire Galleries

Established in 1940, and spanning three generations of family ownership, Kentshire Galleries is one of the foremost dealers of fine period and estate jewelry. In 1988, Kentshire established a free-standing boutique in New York's premier luxury store, Bergdorf Goodman. Their antique and estate jewelry department continues to occupy a select location on the store's seventh floor. Carrie Imberman and her brother, Matthew, joined the firm in 2004. As the third generation of the family to lead Kentshire, they continue to refine the gallery's founding vision: buying and selling outstanding jewelry and objects of enduring design and elegance.

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Didier Ltd

HARRY BERTOIA (1915 - 1978)

This unique silver necklace displays the raw power that can be seen in artists' jewelry, but with its strength there is also delicacy. Created by the American sculptor Harry Bertoia, the eleven cut and shaped oval links and characteristic gong-style pendant were hand-hammered and even given knapped edges similar to those found on Neolithic flint tools, before being joined together by rivets with rounded ends. To achieve this overall hammered effect the silver was repeatedly hand-beaten heavily, reheated or annealed, and hand-beaten again to compress the metal's crystalline structure and make for a very hard metal that vibrates and resonates when tapped. This process takes great skill and assuredness — too much beating and the silver becomes brittle. Reheat it too much it can melt or the surface becomes distorted. Afterwards, this piece was given a deliberate dark patination through a process of chemical oxidization.



Unique silver gong necklace Harry Bertoia
(Italy 1915 - 1978 USA) c. 1970
L. of chain 48 cm; H. pendant 14 cm



Exhibited
Bent, Cast and Forged, The Jewelry of Harry Bertoia, Museum of Art and Design, New York, 3 May – 25 September 2016.

Bertoia first started making and teaching jewelry while he was head of the metalwork department at the Cranbrook Academy of Art during the Second World War. As metal supplies dwindled, Bertoia started to work out his ideas on a smaller scale, his jewels becoming maquettes with which to organize and develop his ideas. Like his contemporary, Alexander Calder, Bertoia set himself severe working limitations by only using cold connections, preferring to use rivets as seen on this necklace, rather than solder.

This necklace is one of a group of unique Bertoia jewels from the collection of Clarence Walter Haack (1915-2010), whose company the International Metal Corporation and Halaco Engineering provided Bertoia with the metal alloys deployed in his sculptures. Bertoia would often travel to Ventura, CA, to devise these specific metal alloys with Haack, but they must also have discussed jewelry, as a drawing for this necklace was sketched by Bertoia on the back of one of the company ledgers.

About Didier Ltd

Didier Ltd, run by husband and wife team Didier and Martine Haspeslagh, are internationally recognized experts in the niche field of modern artist and studio jewelry conceived primarily by painters and sculptors for the former, and designers for the latter, but where the boundaries between art and design are blurred. For Didier and Martine the combination of design, craftsmanship, originality, and rarity of the jewel, rather than its intrinsic precious metal and gem value is paramount. Their curated stock is sourced from the secondary art market and through their scholarship they are able to acquire the best and most iconic pieces produced in an artist's lifetime.

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S. J. Shrubsole

ILIAS LALAOUNIS

In 1956, the New York City Ballet inducted its first African-American principal dancer, Arthur Mitchell (1934-2018). His success was rapid. Balanchine choreographed two roles for him. In 1969, motivated in part by the assassination of Martin Luther King, Mitchell joined with Karel Shook to create the Dance Theatre of Harlem. This company was (and still is) central in integrating and diversifying the American ballet stage.

CORRECTION:

Provenance: Peter Hill, until 1986Gloria and Richard ManneyJohn Westervelt Warner: The Westervelt Company