Qatar Museums and L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts
supported by Van Cleef & Arpels
Present Landmark Exhibition *Around the World in Jewellery*

Drawn from Qatar Museums' collections and
reflecting a shared commitment with L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts,
the exhibition explores jewellery as a universal language across cultures

DOHA, QATAR, September 8 — From 27 October to 26 December 2026, Qatar Museums (QM), in collaboration with L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, presents *Around the World in Jewellery*, a landmark exhibition exploring jewellery as one of humanity's most enduring expressions of cultural identity. On view at M7, Qatar's epicentre for innovation and entrepreneurship in fashion and design, the exhibition is the largest-ever presentation of jewellery from QM's collections, complemented by a selection of remarkable creations from the Van Cleef & Arpels patrimonial collection.

Around the World in Jewellery gathers more than 500 pieces of jewellery and art objects, including jewels, artworks, photographs, and sculptures from across cultures, geographies, and historical periods, some of which are being presented to the public for the first time. These pieces reflect the remarkable holdings of the National Collection of Qatar, the National Museum of Qatar, the Museum of Islamic Art, and the future Lusail Museum.

Curated by Inezita Gay-Eckel and Paul Paradis, art historians and lecturers at L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, and designed by artist and designer Johanna Grawunder, the exhibition presents a sweeping narrative through objects that are deeply personal, social, and symbolic. Rather than approaching jewellery purely as an expression of rarity or value, it considers why people adorn themselves and what the objects reveal about the people who made, wore, exchanged, inherited, and preserved them.

Around the World in Jewellery is structured around seven themes:

- **Sea & Ocean**, looking at how the world's waters have provided both materials and meaning, pearls, shells and coral, for jewellery-makers and wearers across civilisations
- **Nature**, surveying the influence of forests, animals, plants, and minerals on human adornment
- **Cosmos**, focusing on how humanity's deep interest in the heavens has made its way into jewellery design
- **Body Adornment**, illustrating how objects worn across the body express cultural identity
- **Status**, highlighting jewellery's role in reflecting and signalling power, hierarchy, and different notions of prestige

- **Customs & Ceremonies**, focusing on jewellery's role in life's most significant turning points (coming of age, marriage, and remembrance)
- **Protection**, showing how adornments across cultures reflect universal hopes for safety and well-being

Together, these themes trace the many ways adornment has carried meaning across civilisations, illuminating the diverse roles jewellery has played in human experience.

Families are welcomed to a Children's Piazza – a thoughtfully designed interactive space for young visitors aged four to ten – where learning and discovery are fostered through a rich array of engaging, playful activities. Running through the centre of the main exhibition and mirroring its core thematic structure, this is the first exhibition area at M7 dedicated to children.

Maha Al Sulaiti, Director of M7, said: "Our mission at M7 is to champion creative exploration and deepen the public's appreciation for design. *Around the World in Jewellery* invites visitors to discover jewellery not simply as adornment, but as a powerful form of storytelling that connects design, heritage, and human experience. We are proud to present an exhibition that encourages learning and forges new connections through creativity, cultural legacy, and universal human connections that span cultures and time."

Lise Macdonald, President of L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, said: "*Around the World in Jewellery* offers a unique opportunity for L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts and M7 to share with the public in Qatar our commitment to research, conservation, and transmission of jewellery culture. The exceptional jewellery collections of Qatar Museums are exhibited here for the very first time in a unique exhibition which aims to highlight the links between cultures and create dialogues, common understandings yet allowing a diversity of artistic expressions. The exhibition is curated for all audiences, from adults to families, experts to curious minds. Visitors can experience at the very core of the show a large-scale Children's Piazza, filled with educational components and learning activities for schoolchildren and families, some of which have also been inspired by traditional Qatari games. *Around the World in Jewellery* showcases the immense vastness of humanity's creativity and at the same time the uniqueness of each of the cultures that compose our world."

Sophie Claudel, Director of L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, MEIAT, said: "*Around the World in Jewellery* highlights how this art form connects peoples and acts as a powerful statement uniting different identities while transmitting a meaningful dialogue across cultures. We are very proud of this remarkable exhibition. We hope it will have resonance in the Middle East region and beyond."

Inezita Gay-Eckel and Paul Paradis, curators of the exhibition, said: "Through the vitality, scope, and sheer beauty, the jewellery and heritage of the Qatar Museums' collections

offer an infinite source of inspiration and generate a sense of pride and desire to discover. Through these extraordinary works, *Around the World in Jewellery* reveals the universality of adornment, showing how art and beauty transcend any kind of division to offer messages of hope, understanding, and peace."

The exhibition will be accompanied by educational programmes and children's workshops. A publication produced by L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts and Qatar Museums, in English and Arabic, will extend the exhibition's research and narrative scope by bringing together contributions from leading curators, historians, and specialists to explore exhibition themes in greater depth and highlight exceptional objects from Qatar Museums' collections within a global context.

Around the World in Jewellery is a legacy programme of the Qatar-France 2020 Year of Culture. The exhibition embodies the initiative's focus on cross-cultural exchange and extends the spirit of cultural partnership into new opportunities for learning, capacity building, exchange, and dialogue. Through new scholarship on Qatar Museums' collections, the exhibition speaks to the lasting value of Years of Culture in connecting institutions, creatives, and audiences across borders.

Around the World in Jewellery is presented with the support of Visit Qatar.

Featured as part of the Qatar Creates Fall/Winter 2026–27 season, the exhibition joins a wider programme of exhibitions and events that reflect Qatar's ongoing commitment to cultural exchange, creative dialogue, and global connection. The full slate of exhibitions may be accessed here.

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About Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums (QM), the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, provides authentic and inspiring cultural experiences through a growing network of museums, heritage sites, festivals, public art installations, and programmes. QM preserves and expands the nation's cultural offerings, sharing art and culture from Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia (MENASA), and beyond with the world and enriching the lives of citizens, residents, and visitors.

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM has made Qatar a vibrant centre for the arts, culture, and creative exchange in the Middle East and beyond. QM is integral to the mission of developing an innovative, diverse, and progressive nation, bringing people together to ignite new thinking, spark critical cultural conversations, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the development of museums including the Museum of Islamic

Art (MIA) and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ), 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, ALRIWAQ Art + Architecture, and QM Gallery Katara. Future institutions include Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, the Art Mill Museum, the Qatar Auto Museum, and the Lusail Museum.

Through its Creative Hubs and recurring festivals and biennials, such as M7, Fire Station, Liwan Design Studios and Labs, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival, and Design Doha, QM initiates and supports projects that nurture artistic talent and create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable creative infrastructure.

It is within this spirit of growth and ambition that QM proudly celebrates Evolution Nation, a campaign honouring Qatar's cultural journey over the past 50 years, since the original founding of the National Museum of Qatar. Curated by Qatar Creates, Evolution Nation highlights both the nation's cultural milestones and its bold aspirations for the future.

Animating everything that QM does is an authentic connection to Qatar and its heritage, a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, and a belief in creating value through invention.

For more information visit https://qm.org.qa.

About M7

Established by Qatar Museums under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, M7 stands as Qatar's leading epicentre for innovation in fashion and design. It is committed to advancing the growth of Qatar's creative economy by providing designers the resources, opportunities and platforms to grow a successful business both locally and internationally, while facilitating connections for designers within the fashion and design industry. Located in the heart of Msheireb Downtown Doha, M7's initiatives include incubation and mentorship programmes, world-class exhibitions and pop-ups, community learning and events. M7 works in close collaboration with its Resident Partners, The Cutting Studio, Scale 7, Fromm, and Profiles Cafe and Restaurant. M7 has also hosted world-class exhibitions including 'Masterpieces of Furniture Design' (2023), 'Forever Valentino' (2022), 'Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams' (2021), and is home to other premier initiatives such as Design Doha Biennale, Tasweer Photography Festival, and Fashion Trust Arabia.

About the Curators

Inezita Gay-Eckel has taught the history of jewellery at L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts since its founding. Passionate about pearls since her art history studies at Princeton University, she joined Cartier, then Tiffany, where she participated in the creation of the

company Iridesse Pearls, becoming its Vice-President. She then joined Van Cleef & Arpels as Training Director for the Americas before joining L'ÉCOLE in 2012.

Paul Paradis, an art historian and lecturer at L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts since 2014, was born in the United States and started his career as an economist in France. His passion, initially for French Decorative Arts, moved him to follow an art-history curriculum and work in the auction world. His areas of interest in jewellery history include the French Crown Jewels, the art of enamelling, Art Deco treasures and beyond. He was advisor to the curator of the L'ÉCOLE exhibition "A New Art, the Metamorphoses of Jewelry 1880-1915" in Paris in 2023. World jewellery is also a special passion.

About L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts

Established in 2012 with the support of Van Cleef & Arpels, L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts aims to introduce the public to all aspects of jewellery culture through various activities: courses, workshops, talks, exhibitions, research, books and podcast.

Activities at L'ÉCOLE cover three main areas: the history of jewellery, the world of gemstones and savoir-faire.

The courses are open to everyone, with no prerequisites: complete beginners as well as enlightened amateurs, collectors and those with a curiosity for the world of jewellery. Students experiment with gestures, skills and tools, guided by their lecturers – art historians, gemmologists and craftsmen.

L'ÉCOLE now has four permanent addresses: in Paris, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Dubai.

Moreover, since its inception, L'ÉCOLE regularly travels abroad, in Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East, for talks, exhibitions or travelling course programmes that can last one to three weeks. L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts therefore contributes to the promotion and visibility of jewellery culture on an international scale.

For more information, visit: https://www.lecolevancleefarpels.com/me

About Years of Culture

The Years of Culture initiative, chaired by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, spearheads long-lasting cultural partnerships between Qatar and other nations. It exists to promote respect and understanding among diverse cultures and serves as a catalyst for bringing people together, nurturing connections, encouraging dialogue, and deepening understanding. At its core, Years of Culture is a portal for making connections across various sectors, including cultural heritage, creative industries, social

and economic development, and innovation, which enriches Qatar's ties with partner countries beyond the dedicated year.

Each year is organised with support from Qatar and partner countries' cultural institutions, ministries, foundations, and private and public sector partners, with assistance from Embassies in Qatar and abroad. Programmes are tailored to explore the unique nature of each partner country.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, Qatar-USA 2021, Qatar-MENASA 2022, Qatar-Indonesia 2023, Qatar-Morocco 2024, and Qatar Argentina and Chile 2025.

About Qatar Creates
Qatar Creates curates, celebrates, and promotes cultural activities within Qatar. Working with partners across museums, film, fashion, hospitality, cultural heritage, performing arts, and the private sector, Qatar Creates amplifies the voice of Qatar's creative industries and connects audiences to cultural events across the country.

About Visit Qatar
Visit Qatar is the main arm of Qatar Tourism. Visit Qatar's mission is to promote and expand tourism in Qatar by cultivating its rich culture, developing thrilling attractions, enhancing Qatar's calendar, becoming the leading MICE destination in the region, diversifying events and luxury experiences. Visit Qatar is rooted in Service Excellence, boosting the entire tourism value chain, and increasing local and international visitor demand in Qatar. Through Visit Qatar's network of international offices in priority markets, cutting-edge digital platforms, and marketing campaigns, Visit Qatar is expanding Qatar's presence globally and enhancing the tourism sector.

M7

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