

Poetry of Birds

An exhibition of jewelry & arts



Van Cleef & Arpels
Swallow clip, 1927
Van Cleef & Arpels Collection

L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, will unveil the “Poetry of Birds” exhibition in Dubai on November 6th, 2025 during Dubai Design Week. In strategic partnership with Dubai Design District (d3), the exhibition will be open to the public and run until April 25th, 2026.

Following previous editions of the exhibition in Paris and Tokyo, L'ÉCOLE in Dubai will offer a different perspective focusing on the dialogue between 19th and 20th-century Western jewelry and Islamic arts, with poetry as the common thread.

Exceptional jewels, precious objects, and gouaché drawings depicting birds from the most renowned jewelers such as Van Cleef & Arpels, Cartier, Buccellati, Falize, Fabergé, Boivin, Marchak, JAR and more will be showcased alongside a selection of Middle Eastern works of art, notably on loan from the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization and Dubai Museums including carpets, ceramics, metalware, and miniatures.



India, Mughal
Double-sided miniature entitled *Youthful Shah Jahan out riding*, with a portrait of a falconier prince on the reverse, 17th-century
Gouaché and gold on paper
Parwan Trading LLC.

Emirati artist Faisal Al Rais's contemporary photography, showcasing the beauty and profound symbolism of birds from the Middle East and around the world, is set to make its public debut.

Freely inspired by Farid al-Din Attar's *The Conference of the Birds* (circa 1117), the upcoming exhibition will be conceived as a poetic experience beginning with poems from renowned poets from the region, followed by a bejeweled display of bird species including falcons. It will culminate in contemplation of an aviary of imaginary birds by French jeweler Pierre Sterlé (1905-1978).

“Birds have long held a sacred place in the cultures of the Middle East — as symbols of freedom, renewal, and the human spirit. With ‘Poetry of Birds’, we wanted to honor that tradition while showcasing how these symbols echo across time and continents through art, poetry, and jewelry. This exhibition is not just about beauty, but about the stories and meanings behind it — how the smallest motif can carry centuries of memory, emotion, and craftsmanship.”

Marie-Laure Cassius-Duranton

Exhibition Curator, Gemologist and Art Historian,
L'ÉCOLE Senior Exhibition Contents Project Manager

A key cultural moment for all

Furthermore, timed to coincide with the region's leading design festival Dubai Design Week 2025, taking place at d3 from November 4th - 9th, the opening of "Poetry of Birds" will be a key cultural moment in the region's creative calendar.

An **Open House Day** will take place on Saturday, November 8th, inviting the whole community to experience L'ÉCOLE Middle East's course demonstrations, kids workshops, guided tours, and activities. These exciting events offer an unprecedented opportunity for visitors to explore the intersection of jewelry, art, poetry, calligraphy and design.

"At L'ÉCOLE, we are committed to making the world of jewelry arts accessible to everyone, from curious beginners to passionate collectors. Through the exhibition 'Poetry of Birds' and our vibrant cultural calendar starting with Dubai Design Week, we aim to create an immersive journey with jewelry, contemporary photography, poetry, music, and calligraphy, bringing together Middle Eastern heritage and Western craftsmanship through the shared language of symbolism, artistry, and storytelling. We hope to inspire meaningful encounters and to build a dynamic creative community in the region."

Sophie Claudel

Director

L'ÉCOLE Middle East, School of Jewelry Arts



Piel Frères

Peacock feather belt-buckle, circa 1900

L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts Educational Kit

© L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts



Van Cleef & Arpels
Eagle brooch, 1972
Van Cleef & Arpels Collection

“At d3, we are committed to cultivating a global creative ecosystem where art, design, architecture and culture converge to inspire new perspectives and creative inspiration. Our strategic partnership with L’ÉCOLE Middle East reflects this mission, with ‘Poetry of Birds’ celebrating the artistry of the world’s finest jewelers alongside the richness of Middle Eastern poetry and calligraphy. Showcasing this exhibition during Dubai Design Week, one of the city’s and region’s most anticipated design events, allows us to share it with a wider audience while further reinforcing Dubai’s role as a global hub for creativity and design.”

Khadija Al Bastaki

Senior Vice President of Dubai Design District (d3), part of TECOM Group

“The exhibition ‘Poetry of Birds’ brings together exceptional works of jewelry, Islamic art and poetry in a way that resonates deeply with the ethos of Dubai Design Week. By drawing on the knowledge of institutions, the creativity of artists and the craftsmanship of jewelers, it reveals how enduring symbols can transcend disciplines and cultures.

L’ÉCOLE’s presence in Dubai has created a platform that expands access to the jewelry arts while fostering dialogue between heritage and contemporary practice; a contribution that meaningfully enriches this year’s program.”

Natasha Carella

Director of Dubai Design Week

Further activities and commitments



Throughout its six-month duration, a cultural program designed around the exhibition will encourage dialogue and discovery for all audiences.

Parallel to the exhibition, L'ÉCOLE in Dubai will continue to offer its selection of courses, open to all – from children to adults of all levels, complete beginners as well as enlightened amateurs, collectors and those curious about the world of jewelry.

L'ÉCOLE courses showcase its three pillars: the history of jewelry, the world of gemstones, and the savoir-faire of jewelry-making techniques.

Faisal Al Rais
Houbara Bustard Feather, 2025
Courtesy of Faisal Al Rais

Additionally, L'ÉCOLE Middle East is proud to continue its partnership with Dubai Cares, a UAE-based global philanthropic organization. In line with both institutions' shared commitment to education and youth empowerment, 100% of proceeds from L'ÉCOLE Middle East's public courses and talks will be donated to Dubai Cares, supporting educational programs for youth in developing countries.

Stones: An Exquisite Journey at the Crossroads of Art and Science

Starting in October 2025, L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts will feature an exceptional program of events dedicated to the world of stones. Exhibitions, talks, courses, children's workshops, publications and podcasts will embark participants in Paris, Dubai, Shanghai and Hong Kong on an exploration at the crossroads of art and science, to (re)discover the different facets of the mineral world. Themes will include gemology, the history of trade and the evolution of taste on gemstones, lapidary techniques and savoir-faire, and artistic and literary interpretations. Events will be open to all interested parties, be they amateurs or specialists.

"Poetry of Birds" is part of the international program that also includes the exhibitions "Stones and Reveries: The Poetry and Minerals of Roger Caillois" in Paris (Nov 6th, 2025 - Mar 29th, 2026), "Journey with Minerals" in Shanghai (Nov 25th, 2025 - Mar 29th, 2026), while events featuring the diamond will be held at L'ÉCOLE's Hong Kong campus (Nov 18th - Dec 7th, 2025).

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 jewelry culture through various activities: courses, workshops, talks, exhibitions, research, books and podcast.

Activities at L'ÉCOLE cover three main areas: the history of jewelry, the world of gemstones and the savoir-faire of jewelry-making techniques. 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 jewelry. Students experiment with gestures, skills and tools, guided by their lecturers – art historians, gemologists and craftsmen.

L'ÉCOLE now has four permanent addresses: in Paris, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Dubai. In line with its worldwide locations, L'ÉCOLE established its Middle Eastern campus in Dubai at d3 in April 2024.

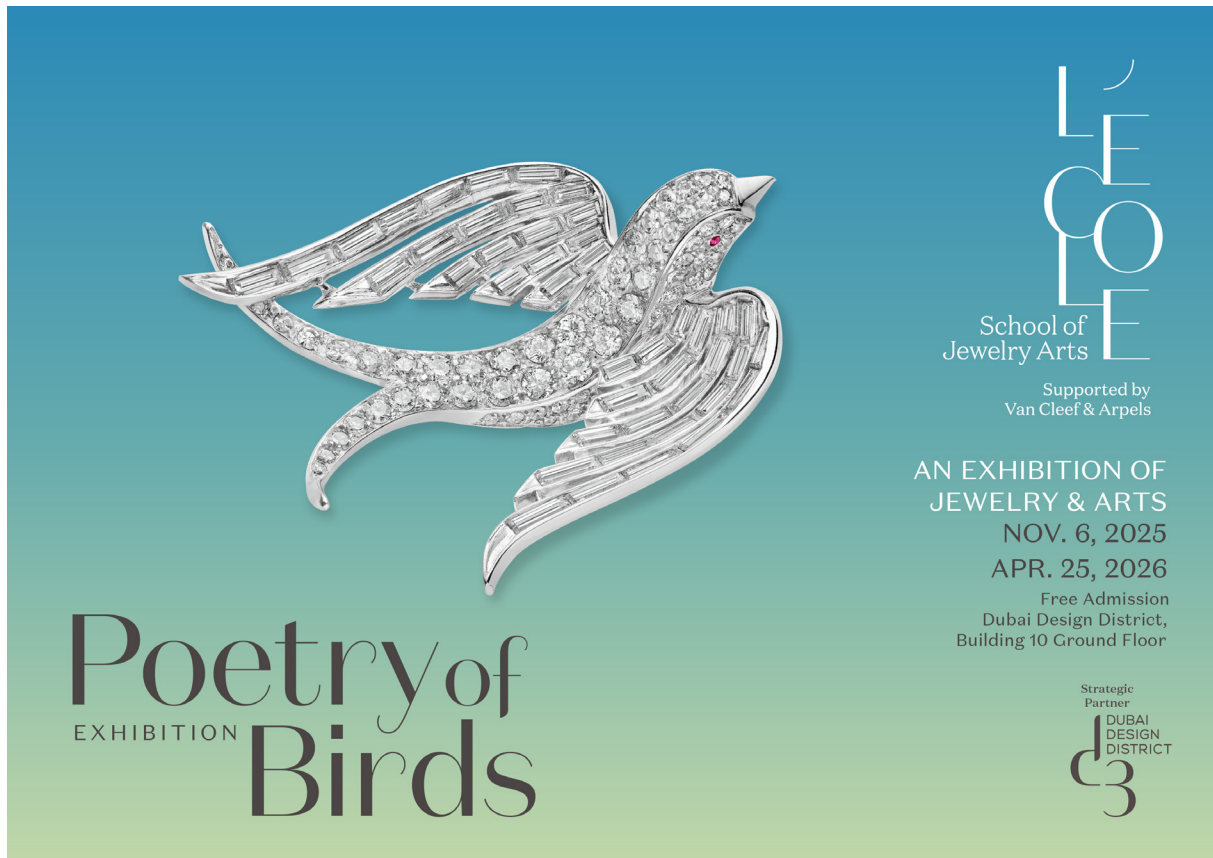
All proceeds from L'ÉCOLE Middle East's public courses and talks are donated to Dubai Cares to support youth education programs, underscoring the school's commitment to social responsibility and youth empowerment.

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



For more information: <https://www.lecolevanclleafarpels.com/me/en>

Practical Information



Exhibition
from November 6th, 2025 to April 25th, 2026

Open from Tuesday to Saturday,
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts
Dubai Design District (d3)
Building 10, ground floor

Free Admission
Registration recommended

<https://www.lecolevanclleafarpels.com/me/en/exhibition/exhibition-poetry-of-birds>

Press Contact
STORY Public Relations
Laetitia Tregoning
laetitia@story-pr.com
+971 (0) 567 242 154