



## News Release

### **V&A to open first major exhibition in almost 30 years dedicated to *Cartier* jewels and watches featuring pieces worn by Queen Elizabeth II and Rihanna**

**A limited number of tickets go on sale today**

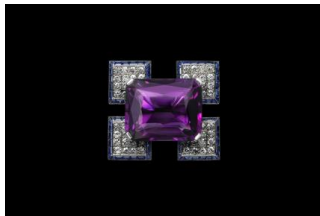
*Cartier*

**V&A South Kensington**

**The Sainsbury Gallery**

**12 April 2025 – 16 November 2025**

**[vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/cartier](http://vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/cartier) | [@V\\_and\\_A](https://twitter.com/V_and_A)**



Opening in April 2025, the V&A will stage the UK's first major exhibition in almost 30 years dedicated to Cartier jewels and watches, exploring how the Maison became an unparalleled force in the jewellery and watch world. A limited number of tickets will be released today.

Featuring more than 350 objects, the exhibition will chart the evolution of the house's legacy of art, design and craftsmanship since the turn of the 20th century. It was at that point that the three grandsons of founder Louis-François set out to create the first globally recognised jewellery house, establishing branches in Paris, London and New York. With an enviable client list of royalty and aristocracy, Cartier became known as 'the jeweller of kings and the king of jewellers' and later broadened its appeal thanks to the devotion of leading creatives from the worlds of cinema, music and fashion.

The exhibition will include precious jewels and showstopping objects, historic gemstones, iconic watches and clocks from the V&A and Cartier Collection, as well as previously unseen drawings from the V&A and Cartier archives, together with works lent by His Majesty The King from the Royal Collection, major UK and international museums, and private collections.

Highlights will include the Williamson Diamond brooch commissioned by Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 featuring the rare 23.6 carat pink Williamson diamond; the Scroll Tiara commissioned in 1902 and worn to the coronation of Elizabeth II, and by Rihanna on the cover of *W magazine* in 2016; a rose clip brooch (1938) worn by Princess Margaret at her sister's coronation; Grace Kelly's engagement ring (1956), from the Monaco Princely Palace Collection, that she wore in her final film *High Society* (1956); an amethyst and sapphire brooch made by Cartier London (c.1933) for Jacques Cartier's wife Nelly; Mexican film star María Félix's exceptional snake necklace (1968); the majestic Manchester Tiara from the V&A collection, made in 1903 for the Dowager Duchess of Manchester; a collection of panther jewels, one of the House's most

enduring and instantly recognisable symbols, including a bracelet of pavé diamonds flecked with onyx (1978); and a selection of Cartier timepieces that embody its unique and pioneering approach to watchmaking, including the Crash wristwatch, designed by Cartier London (1967).

**Exhibition curators Helen Molesworth and Rachel Garrahan, said:** *“Cartier is one of the most famous jewellery houses in the world. This exhibition will explore how Louis, Pierre and Jacques Cartier, together with their father Alfred, adopted a strategy of original design, exceptional craftsmanship and international expansion that transformed the Parisian family jeweller into a household name. With its world-class jewellery collection, the V&A is the perfect stage to celebrate the pioneering achievements of Cartier and its transformative ability to remain at the centre of culture and creativity for more than a century. We are excited to be able to share with visitors some of Cartier’s most famous creations as well as revealing previously unseen objects and archive material that further enriches our understanding of a jewellery house that continues to influence the way we adorn ourselves today.”*

Across three main sections the exhibition will explore the creativity of Cartier and the emergence of its signature style, the legacy of its technical ingenuity and craftsmanship, as well as its sophisticated approach to image-making and maintaining its legacy and relevance in a changing world. The exhibition will cast a light on the history of Cartier London and will culminate in a spectacular display of tiaras.

**- ENDS -**

**For further PRESS information about *Cartier* please contact Callum Walker on [c.walker@vam.ac.uk](mailto:c.walker@vam.ac.uk) / +44 (0)20 7942 2502 (not for publication). A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from [pressimages.vam.ac.uk](http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk)**

### **Notes to Editors**

- The exhibition *Cartier* runs at V&A South Kensington from 12 April 2025 – 16 November 2025.
- The exhibition has been curated by Helen Molesworth and Rachel Garrahan. It is accompanied by a new V&A publication available from the V&A Shop for a special price of £35 (RRP £40).
- Tickets are available at [vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/cartier](http://vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/cartier)

### **Social Media**

Instagram: [@vamuseum](https://www.instagram.com/vamuseum)

Facebook: [@VictoriaandAlbertMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaandAlbertMuseum)

Tiktok: [@vamuseum](https://www.tiktok.com/@vamuseum)

X: [@V\\_and\\_A](https://twitter.com/V_and_A)

### **About the V&A**

The Victoria and Albert Museum, London (V&A) is the world’s leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity, spanning 5000 years of human creativity. It was established in 1852 to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, its

purpose is to champion creative industry, inspire the next generation, and spark everyone's imagination.

vam.ac.uk

### **About the Cartier Collection**

In the 1970s, Cartier began to gather together pieces that had been produced in its earlier years; jewelry, timepieces and other precious accessories were thus collected for conservation, leading to the foundation of the Cartier Collection in 1983.

Today, the Cartier Collection includes pieces dating from as early as the 1860s until as late as the 2000s. These pieces act as material records of Cartier's over 170-year history of style and creativity and also provide a wider historical account of evolutions within the decorative arts as well as in society since the end of the 19th century.

With approximately 3,500 pieces and still growing, the Cartier Collection has sparked the attention of museums worldwide. Since the first major exhibition in 1989 at the Petit Palais in Paris, the Cartier Collection has been showcased by some of the world's most renowned institutions in 43 monographic exhibitions. *Cartier* is the third monographic exhibition dedicated to Cartier in the UK, after *Cartier, 1900-1939* at the British Museum in 1998 and *Cartier in Motion curated by Norman Foster* at the Design Museum in 2017.

The Cartier Collection is currently on view in *Cartier, The Power of Magic* at Shanghai Museum East until Feb 17th, 2025.