

# Saffronart lines up auction of fine jewels

KOLKATA: Leading auctioneer Saffronart is soon coming up with a novel auction of fine jewels, the second of its kind in India. The first one was also fielded by the same auction house last year. The sale features 180 "competitively priced" lots with a total estimate of Rs 7.4-8.6 crore. Auction highlights include traditional Indian jewels, plique-a-jour enamel pieces, significant coloured stones, men's accessories and ladies watches. In step, the auction is offering a spread of signed pieces from international design houses like Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Buccellati, Tiffany and David Webb.

The sale features pieces ranging from strands of natural pearls of exceptional lustre and prized vintage Art Deco and Art Nouveau inspired pieces to classic, delicate jadaau and minakari pieces, which bear testament to the country's rich jewellery heritage.

Among a few of the major estimates are a regal emerald and diamond necklace pegged at Rs 38-48 lakh, a natural pearl and diamond tassel pendant placed at Rs 40-45 lakh and an art nouveau-inspired enamel and diamond necklace priced at Rs 5.50-6.50 lakh. At the same time, a five-strand natural pearl necklace is estimated at Rs 14-16 lakh and a vintage ladies gold bracelet, diamond and sapphire wristwatch, which is going for Rs 3.75-4.25 lakh.

Saffronart president and co-founder Minal Vazirani told ET: "Following our first sale in October, which was across price ranges and categories of jewellery, we have created two separate jewellery auctions during the year. This auction, being held in April, marks the onset of spring and a renewed jewellery season. The sale features slightly lower prices with jewellery ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 48 lakh, with the majority of the pieces priced below Rs 5 lakh. This offers an enormous choice and is an ideal opportunity for first-time jewellery auction buyers as well as seasoned collectors."

"Through the sale, Saffronart aims at raising awareness about India's legacy and contributions to jewellery design and production in the global market, and its multifaceted gemological heritage. The auction aims at offering an alternative platform to jewellery owners, designers and buyers," she said.