

MUSEUM QUALITY
JEWELRY & GEMS

EXPERT GUIDE TO
WINE INVESTING

QUEST FOR
QUIETER CABINS

EPOCHAL LONDON
LUXURY PENTHOUSES

PRIVATE AIR

LUXURY HOMES

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THE ULTIMATE
SAGAPONACK
RETREAT



MUSEUM QUALITY

By: Megan Parks

From Cleopatra, to European royalty, and to Hollywood glamour queens such as Elizabeth Taylor, precious gems—diamonds, pearls, sapphires, rubies, and emeralds—have been sought after to adorn or to display status, wealth, and power. For those interested in purchasing museum quality gems, whether as an investment, or to give as tokens

of love, becoming familiar with characteristics that affect a gem's value, ought to be made first. One rudimentary way to learn about gems and jewelry is to browse existing collections. Collections displayed in museums are a wonderful resource for both acquiring a base knowledge about gems, and to be exposed to their eternal beauty.

© Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Marjorie Merriweather Post brooch

*Possibly by: Oscar Heyman & Bros.
(American, founded in 1912)*

*For: Marcus & Co. (American, 1892–1941)
American, late 1920s*

Platinum, diamond, and emerald

On display Boston's Museum of Fine Arts' Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation Gallery featuring the exhibit *Jewels, Gems, and Treasures* until June of this year. The exhibit dives into the history of precious materials, from a 24th-century BC Nubian conch shell amulet, to a 20th-century Flag brooch composed of platinum, diamond, ruby, and sapphires. Visitors will discover how certain materials have been considered precious by different cultures and societies throughout time.



Image Courtesy of GIA (Gemological Institute of America)

“Floral Wreath” Necklace

The Duchess of Windsor-style necklace is made of citrine, tourmaline and mabe pearl set in 18K gold. Following the 1951 exhibit at the Louvre, the Duchess of Windsor commissioned Duquette to make a gold wreath of vines and flowers, which she often wore to evening events. Prior to the debut of this necklace, it was customary to wear only platinum after 5 p.m.

50 jewelry pieces created by Hollywood design legends Tony Duquette and Hutton Wilkinson was recently featured in the More is More exhibit at the GIA's (Gemological Institute of America) world headquarters, located in Carlsbad, California. “If it’s not fabulous, it’s meaningless,” comments Wilkinson.

**JAR***Geranium brooch**2007**Diamonds, aluminum, silver, and gold**Private collection*

More than 400 pieces by jewelry designer Joel A. Rosenthal was showcased at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in the Jewels by JAR exhibit. It is not just anyone who can be so famous a jeweler that no sign is necessary on his storefront at the Place Vendôme in Paris, or that one needs an invitation to be admitted into the building in the first place. He has even been known to refuse to sell at any price if he feels that a piece is not well suited to a buyer. This exhibition signaled the very first public showing of his bespoke pieces and trademark techniques in the United States. It was also the first exhibition solely dedicated to a modern living jeweler the likes of Rosenthal.



Images Courtesy of The Cheapside Hoard: London's Lost Jewels

A One-of-a-Kind Hexagonal Emerald watch sits next to the 'Medusa' Emerald at The Cheapside Hoard

The Cheapside Hoard: London's Lost Jewels, on display at the Museum of London until April 2014. Visitors will not only view almost 500 dazzling pieces ranging from a one-of-a-kind emerald watch, to Byzantine cameos, but also learn the fascinating history behind this exquisite collection. Found in 1912 under a cellar floor in London's Cheapside, experts believe the large collection was buried sometime between 1640 and 1666. ✈