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THE MAGNIFICENT WAKIL EMERALD EMERGES FOR AUCTION
SMITH & SINGER TO OFFER REMARKABLE JEWEL FROM ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S
MOST GENEROUS PHILANTHROPISTS

DESIGNED BY VAN CLEEF & ARPELS AND ACQUIRED IN 1974
THE WAKIL EMERALD MAKES ITS AUCTION DEBUT AT SMITH & SINGER'S
INAUGURAL VIRTUAL AUCTION

A 20.246 Carat Emerald of Extraordinary Colour Owned by the Renowned Sydney Philanthropists, Isaac Wakil AO and the late Susan Wakil AO, is the Highlight of Our 'Important Jewels, Watches & Objects of Virtu' Virtual Auction, to be Held on 27 May 2020

At 20.246 Carats, the Gem is the Largest of its Kind to be Offered for Auction in Australia



The Wakil Emerald
platinum, gold, emerald and diamond ring,
Van Cleef & Arpels, circa 1974
Estimate \$200,000–250,000

MELBOURNE, 12 May 2020 – A dazzling highlight of the forthcoming virtual Smith & Singer auction of *Important Jewels, Watches & Objects of Virtu* will be *The Wakil Emerald*, an exceptional platinum, gold, emerald and diamond ring by Van Cleef & Arpels, circa 1974, from the collection of Isaac Wakil AO and the late Susan Wakil AO. Offered with an estimate of \$200,000–250,000, the centrally-mounted, claw-

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set, pear-shaped emerald weighing 20.246 carats is of Columbian origin, and is one of the most significant jewels of its kind ever offered at auction in Australia.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF ISAAC WAKIL AO & SUSAN WAKIL AO



Susan and Isaac Wakil attend a gala night at the Sydney Opera House in 1973.

Isaac and Susan Wakil migrated to Australia in the 1940s with precious few resources, other than a great deal of entrepreneurial intuition. After marrying in 1953, they built a clothing company and used its remarkable success to lay the foundations of a property empire spanning Sydney, for which they are best known.

Not satisfied by their business success alone, Susan and Isaac Wakil ultimately became two of Sydney's greatest philanthropic benefactors. Their sponsorship of the arts, which commenced in the 1960s, has contributed significantly to the growth of Australian culture during this crucial period. Indeed, in recent years their \$24 million gift to the Art Gallery of New South Wales planned Sydney Modern wing was the largest cash donation in the history of the esteemed

institution. Along with visual arts, the Wakils have been longstanding sponsors of Opera Australia – today, this generosity enables first-time opera-goers to see performances with accessible \$20 tickets at the Sydney Opera House and the Arts Centre Melbourne. The Wakils were also major benefactors of the Sydney Jewish Museum, supporting the Fund for Jewish Higher Education.

Among their greatest philanthropic acts has been the Wakils' support of the University of Sydney. In 2015, the Wakils gave the University foundation \$10.8 million to provide 12 perpetual nursing scholarships a year, half of them to support regional, rural or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. A few months later this was complemented by an endowment of \$35 million to build the Susan Wakil Health Building near Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

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In May 2018, Susan Wakil AO sadly passed away, leaving behind Isaac, her husband of 62 years. In her memory Mr Wakil commissioned Chinese-Australian artist Shen Jiawei to paint a portrait of Susan, in which she wore a gown of one of her favoured designers, Yves St Laurent. The portrait was donated to the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra.

COLUMBIAN EMERALDS – JEWELS FIT FOR AN EMPRESS

Due to their exceptional rarity, jewels of the quality and significant weight of *The Wakil Emerald* rarely, if ever, appear on the Australian auction market.

Some of the world's greatest collections of jewels have featured notable Colombian emeralds, which are cherished for their intense colour and clarity. Indeed, from Elizabeth Taylor's 23.46 carat emerald Bulgari brooch to the hoard of magnificent Colombian gems within the collection of Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III, Colombian emeralds are among the most highly sought after jewels on earth. *The Wakil Emerald* is no exception. The upcoming sale of this remarkable gem presents jewellery collectors across Australia with a unique opportunity – to acquire a gem of both exceptional quality and unrivalled Australian provenance.



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An emerald and diamond pendant brooch, by Bulgari, formerly in the Collection of Elizabeth Taylor
Estimate US\$500,000–700,000
Sold for US\$6,578,500 (\$6,399,200),
Christie's, New York
December 2011

Elizabeth Taylor famously remarked that there had been three loves of her life – Mike Todd, Richard Burton and jewellery.



A magnificent emerald and diamond necklace, by Cartier, formerly in the collections of Empress Eugenie of France and Queen Ena of Spain
Estimate CHF 6,600,000–9,400,000
Sold for CHF 9,125,000 (\$10,639,900)
Christie's Geneva, November 2013

The magnificent collection of Columbian emeralds formerly belonging Empress Eugenie are now dispersed among notable royal and private collections around the world. Indeed, in 2013, an emerald and diamond necklace by Cartier was presented for sale in Geneva, the emeralds of which were once part of Empress Eugenie's collection before being given to her goddaughter, Queen Ena of Spain.

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 <p>SSEF SCHWEIZERISCHES GEMMOLOGISCHES INSTITUT SWISS GEMMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE INSTITUT SUISSE DE GEMMOLOGIE</p>	 <p>magnification 1.0x</p>
Gemstone Report No. 104076	
Weight:	20.246 ct
Shape & cut:	pear-shaped, modified brilliant / step cut
Measurements:	24.81 x 16.19 x 8.41 mm
Colour:	green of medium strong saturation
Identification:	EMERALD (variety of natural beryl)
Comments:	The analysed properties confirm the authenticity of this transparent emerald. Indications of clarity modification. Minor amount of oil in fissures at the time of testing. Origin: Colombia
<p><small>Important Note: The conclusions on this Gemstone Report reflect our findings at the time it is issued. A gemstone could be modified and/or enhanced at any time. Therefore, the SSEF can at any time reassess if a stone is in accordance with the Gemstone Report. Once verified on www.myssef.ch, only the report with the valid original signatures, embossed stamps and Proof Tag™ label affixed on to the surface of the laminated report is a valid document. PDF scans and copies of a Gemstone Report are not legally binding. See terms and conditions on reverse side and www.ssef.ch/terms-conditions. © This Gemstone Report is copyright of SSEF.</small></p>	
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Basel, 15 January 2019 tg	
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The *Wakil Emerald* is accompanied by a Swiss Gemmological Institute-SSEF Gemstone Report numbered 104076, dated 15 January 2019, stating that the 20.246 carat emerald is of Colombian origin with indications of clarity modification: minor amount of oil in fissures at the time of testing.

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INAUGURAL VIRTUAL AUCTION AT SMITH & SINGER

The *Important Jewels, Watches & Objects of Virtu* auction will accept bidding via telephone, absentee and online, and will be the first of its kind conducted at Smith & Singer. For over five years, Smith & Singer has been the only leading auction house in Australia to offer its clients online bidding via two selling platforms, Bid-Live and Invaluable. Furthermore, Smith & Singer's customised Bid-Live platform allows our clients to bid on the sale with no additional sur-charge, a market feature unique to the company.

AT A GLANCE

Lot 50

The Wakil Emerald

Platinum, gold, emerald and diamond ring, Van Cleef & Arpels, circa 1974

Of cluster design, centring a claw-set pear-shaped modified brilliant and step-cut emerald weighing 20.246 carats, framed by a border of brilliant-cut diamonds to shoulders partially pavé-set with brilliant-cut diamonds, the diamonds together weighing approximately 3.50 carats, size F, signed Van Cleef & Arpels, numbered 24433.

Estimate \$200,000–250,000

Important Jewels, Watches & Objects of Virtu

Estimate: \$915,300–1,236,700, 113 lots

Virtual Auction, 6.30 pm on 27 May 2020

Explore the auction and register to bid here:

<https://www.smithandsinger.com.au/catalogue/AU0843>

The health of our clients, employees and community is of paramount importance. We have implemented stringent protocols within our premises, including social distancing, frequent hand and area disinfecting, and a maximum number of clients in each exhibition at any time. Full details are available upon request.

Viewings in Melbourne from 15-18 May 2020, 10 am to 5 pm

14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne

Viewings in Sydney from 22-26 May 2020, 10 am to 5 pm; and on 27 May from 10 am – 4 pm

30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra

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