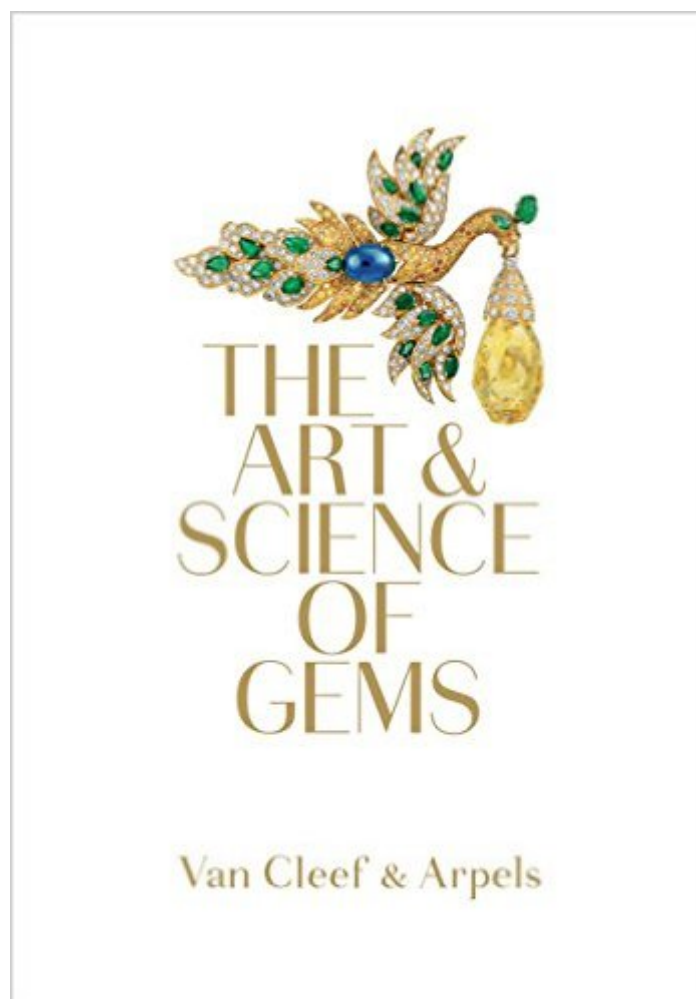


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# Van Cleef & Arpels: The Art & Science Of Gems



## Synopsis

A tribute to the sumptuous jewelry and the glamorous history of Van Cleef & Arpels. For more than a century, the designs of the French jewelry house Van Cleef & Arpels have represented the marriage of an unrivaled sense of elegance with an extraordinary level of technical expertise and prowess. The comprehensive monograph *Van Cleef & Arpels: The Art & Science of Gems* is a glittering, gorgeous tribute to a century of luxurious, glamorous jewelry design and incomparable mastery of materials. Lavishly illustrated with meticulous photographs by Patrick Gries, the book's pages are filled with sparkling chalcedony, cornelian, rubies, emeralds and colored diamonds, beautifully set off and enhanced by the jeweler's designs (at alternate moments whimsical or understated, as the materials demand). Suggesting the complexity and richness of Van Cleef & Arpels' output, the book is organized thematically around categories such as "Abstractions," "Couture," "Nature" and "Icons," and additionally features some of the legendary stones from the annals of the house's history, such as the "Blue Princess" sapphire and the "Walska Briolette Diamond" brooch. Texts by art historians, personalities from the fashion world and mineralogists offer context and highlight the full extent of the jeweler's art. Essential for those who love and lust after jewelry design, this eminently covetable volume celebrates the Van Cleef & Arpels style.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a catalogue of a show of Van Clef & Arpels jewelry in Singapore. It's a large book with images in typical format on black. They've added a light 'cloud' to the black background which I first

thought was greasy fingermarks on the page before I realized their intent. Needless to say, I find the background distracting but the images are clear. The title made me hope for a deeper look at fashion jewelry but the writing is shallow and over the top with descriptive verbiage for conservative jewelry design. The chapter on "Minerals & Gems" was the best in the book but only someone who knows little about jewelry or gemstones would get anything out of it. I would not have bought this book if I had known the writing was so superficial. Buy it for the pictures if you love Van Clef & Arpel's design.

Lovely photos and scholarly text.

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