Watches

Jewellery Diary »

Katerina Perez »



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Gems

Hidden Gems – All the Stories You Wanted to Hear, But Didn't Know Who to Ask

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Bulgari, Cartier, Christie's, JAR 🧘 by Katerina Perez December 03, 2016

the hands of the auctioneers, and why their owners decide to part with them? Do you ask yourself how auction houses come across extraordinary jewellery and if they immediately recognise their value? If you've answered yes to even one of those questions then I recommend you read Sarah Hue-Williams and Raymond Sancroft-Baker's book Hidden Gems which contains a whole host of captivating stories about jewels sold at Christie's. Sarah Hue-Williams, a gemmologist and jewellery expert, has had many years of experience in the industry - and she's even written Christie's Guide to Jewellery published in 2001. As a jewellery consultant at an

Are you fascinated by jewels that go up for auction?

Do you want to know their history, how they end up in

auction house she's been part of countless fascinating stories involving jewels - 40 of which have ended up in Hidden Gems. The author admits that writing the book took the best part of two years because "there was almost too much to say as we wanted to cover all different kinds of jewellery, in many different countries, as well as a variety of time periods so there was something for every reader, we hoped."







aren't necessarily soulless pieces of 'bling' that simply move from wealthy home to wealthy home, but rather than they have much more to them than might initially meet the eye. "Stories bring a jewel to life, and I wanted to tell those little stories, such as the one about Princess Margaret's tendency to lose one of her earrings from a pair." In the chapter Royal Appointment she tells of items belonging to Princess Margaret that went on sale on the 13th of June 2006. It is a royal tradition that princesses don't have their ears pierced, and since she wore clip-on earrings there were several pairs that were missing one earring. It made the specialists at

Christie's chuckle that even princesses can turn out to be human like

Another story in the book that Sarah found very touching is about an extensive collection of jewels belonging to Princess Salimah Aga

Khan. A few of the items were treasures that the Princess wanted to

sell in order to raise money for her charitable organisation. One of the jewels - the very first lot - was a torsade necklace of aquamarine

beads that was bought by a man living on a remote island off the north coast of Scotland. Sarah recounts: "When we asked him why

the rest of us jewellery lovers.

money. But Sarah and Raymond promised themselves that the book

would only include jewels that had some kind of exciting or amusing

story attached to them, or a particular emotion or sentiment. By

making this sort of selection they show that jewels sold at auction

he was participating in the sale, he simply replied 'well, because wives are princesses too'. What he said was so charming and shows that it doesn't have to be the biggest or most expensive jewel to impress someone. Every jewel is precious and has an association of ideas and emotions bound up with it."



and who desperately wants to buy it actually wins it on the day. It is a feeling of such elation because you know that the jewel will be really appreciated and looked after." But don't think that this is just a book of stories, because you'll find lots of useful information about important gemstones, jewellers, and the different design periods in the history of jewellery. "I intentionally included some more educational information in the book as I really didn't want it to feel like a frivolous read. You can actually learn a lot from it, absorbing knowledge as you read, almost without realising it." Having written Hidden Gems, Sarah has already got another book under

way. But I won't say what it is; better to wait a couple of years and see it

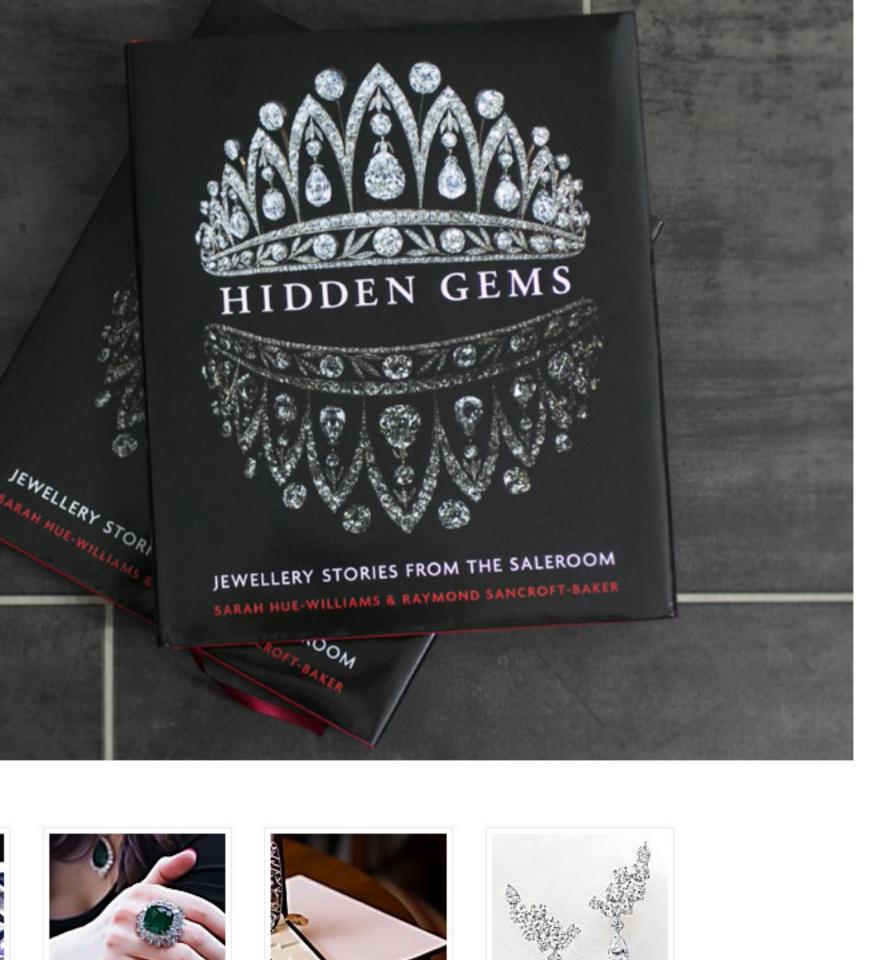
sparkle for yourself! KP

Sarah says of items sold at auction: "So often we have had to just bite

our tongues, but when the sale is over, we look at each other, knowing how bitterly disappointed we all are. Yet other sales are just wonderful,

because we know that the person who has truly fallen in love with a jewel

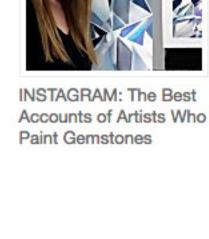
Bulgari bracelet created circa 1965





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