

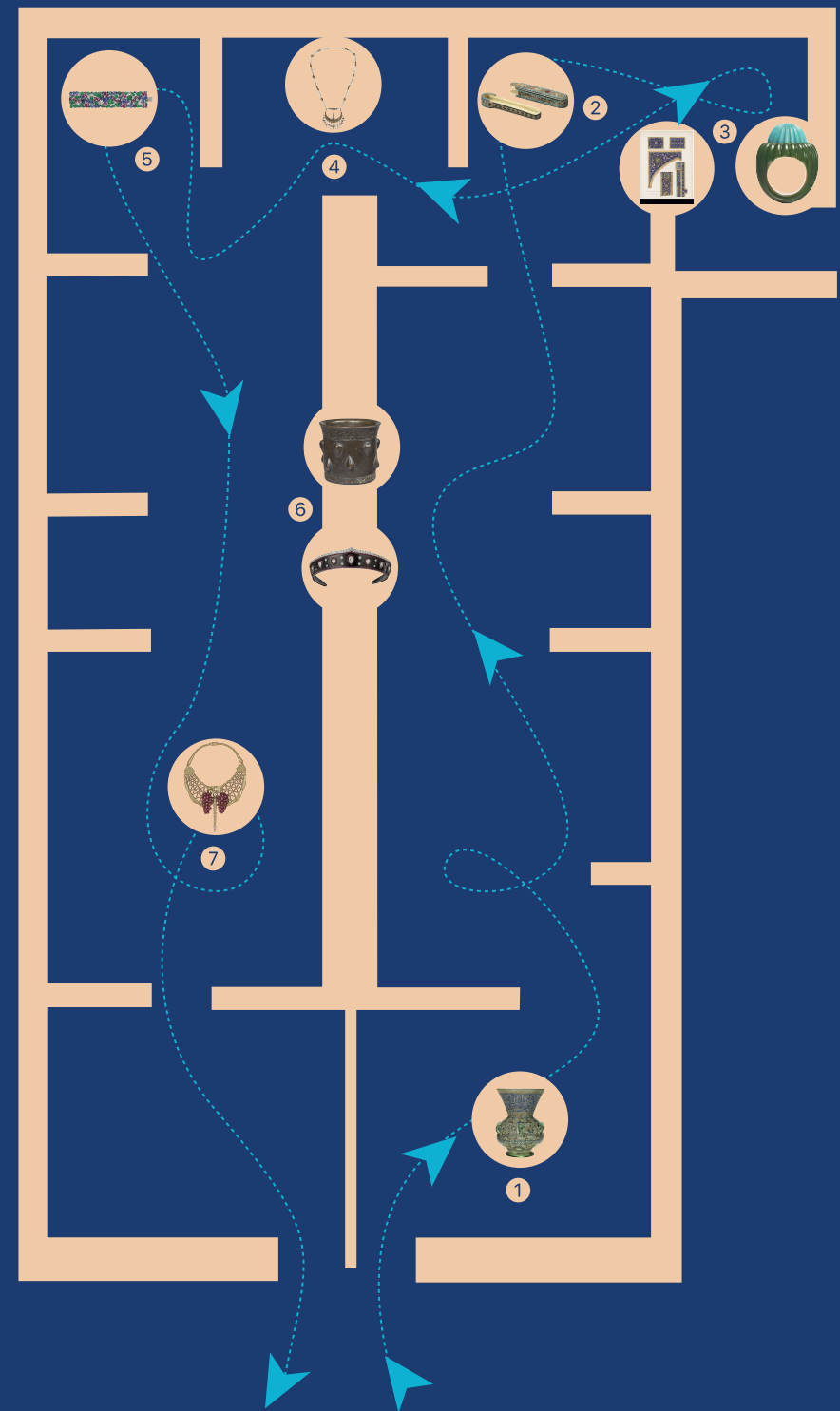
Head to the Forum for an immersive experience. Use the space below to create a sketch of your dream design!



Fragment of a mosaic panel with geometric decoration, 14/16th century, musée du Louvre, département des Arts de l'Islam, Paris, France, AFI 1917. Photo © Musée du Louvre, Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Mathieu Rabreau

# Cartier, Islamic Inspiration and Modern Design

## Activity Trail



Welcome to the exhibition *Cartier, Islamic Inspiration and Modern Design*.

Louis-François Cartier (1819-1904) founded Maison Cartier (House of Cartier), a high-quality luxury brand established in 1847, in Paris. His successors have continued to innovate their designs based on findings from around the world.

You are invited to think like a designer and explore Cartier's fine jewellery pieces crafted over 100 years ago, which drew inspiration from Islamic art and architecture.

Explore the exhibition to learn how architecture, everyday objects and travel can spark artistic expression and creativity.

Use the map and its corresponding numerical card to find all the artworks.

Let's begin!





Mosque lamp  
Philippe-Joseph Brocard, Paris, 1871  
Blown and enamelled glass  
Abu Dhabi, Louvre Abu Dhabi  
© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi / Photo APF

# Paris and Islamic Art



Over a hundred years ago, artworks from the East arrived in Paris.

Their shapes, decorations, and production methods differed from what the French artisans had seen. This sparked their curiosity and creativity.

A Parisian craftsman tried to reproduce a mosque lamp with elements characteristic of a traditional Islamic art, such as its vegetal motifs, calligraphy, and patterns.

**Look closely and find these motifs and patterns in the artwork.**

**Can you find other Islamic-inspired objects in this section? Which is your favourite and why?**

Proceed to the next section →



Pen box in the name of Shah Abbas  
India, Deccan, early 17th century  
Walrus ivory, gold, turquoise, black paste, silk  
Paris, musée du Louvre, département des Arts de l'Islam  
© Musée du Louvre

# Louis Cartier's Collection of Islamic Art



As the artistic director of Maison Cartier, Louis Cartier managed the creative decisions like choosing beautiful colours, patterns and gemstones.

The delicate motifs found on pen boxes, like this one from India, greatly influenced the designers. The object's colours and materials, such as ivory and turquoise, also contributed to the design of other items, such as handbag clasps.

**Take a closer look at the vegetal pattern on this object.  
Can you find it among Cartier's creations displayed  
in the same section?**

Proceed to the next section →





The Mosques of Samarkand – Booklet 1,  
Details of door to Gur-i Mir  
Saint-Petersburg, Imperial archaeological commission, 1905,  
Paris, Archives Cartier  
© Cartier Collection



"Dôme" ring  
Cartier New York, 1968  
Gold, jade, turquoise  
Collection Cartier  
© Cartier Collection

# The Colours of Louis Cartier

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Back in the 1910s, Maison Cartier was influenced by Iranian architecture and its use of bright colours such as blue and green. At that time, combining these colours was a true innovation for Western jewellery makers.

**Think about architectural designs in the UAE that would inspire you to create a piece of jewellery. Which buildings would you choose?**

Proceed to the next section →



Necklace displayed at the Cartier Paris exhibition in 1913, cat. No. 12  
India, 18th-19th centuries; Cartier Paris, 1913  
Gold, smoky rock crystal, emerald, ruby, jade, pearl, enamel  
Paris, musée des Arts décoratifs  
© Musée des Arts Décoratifs Paris

# Jacques Cartier's Journey to India

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In 1911, Louis Cartier's brother, Jacques, travelled to India and returned with several gemstones and magnificent jewellery pieces, such as this one.

These precious objects were displayed and sold by Maison Cartier in Europe. In some cases, Indian jewellery was taken apart to create multiple new pieces.

**Have you ever created a new design from an old objects like jewellery, clothes, or toys? What materials did you use to make it?**

Proceed to the next section →



Tutti Frutti bracelet  
Cartier Paris, 1929  
Platinum, diamond, ruby, sapphire, emerald  
Collection Cartier  
© Cartier Collection

# India, Source of Gemstones

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Cartier made a special kind of jewellery called 'Tutti Frutti,' which means 'all fruits' in Italian.

This Tutti Frutti bracelet has colourful gemstones, shaped like leaves and fruits, including emeralds (green), rubies (red), sapphires (blue), and diamonds (white), from India.

**If you could create a piece of fruit-themed jewellery, what gems would you use and why?**

Proceed to the next section →



Tiara  
Cartier Paris, 1914  
Platinum, steel, diamond, ruby  
Collection Cartier  
© Cartier Collection



Mortar  
Iran, 11th-12th century  
Cast copper, lost wax casting  
Paris, musée du Louvre, département des Arts de l'Islam  
On loan from Musée des Arts décoratifs  
© Musée du Louvre

# Lexicon of Forms

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This tiara has a unique motif called the 'mandorla', which means almond shaped, and is influenced by ancient Iranian objects such as the mortar (a grinding bowl) seen here.

Look closely at both objects. Can you find the mandorla motif?

Even today, Maison Cartier continues to use it in their jewellery designs.

**If you were to choose a shape to include in your own piece of jewellery, what would it be?**

Proceed to the next section →





"Palm Tree" necklace  
Cartier Paris, 1949  
Gold, platinum, diamond, ruby  
© Cartier Collection

# Jeanne Toussaint's Sources of Inspiration



In the 1950s, the new artistic director, Jeanne Toussaint, sought creative ideas in other parts of the world. She found inspiration in the designs of traditional North African jewellery.

This necklace features a date palm tree design, with its fruit represented by two enormous clusters of rubies!

**Designers have always looked to nature for new ideas.  
What natural elements from the UAE's landscape would you  
choose to create a necklace?**