

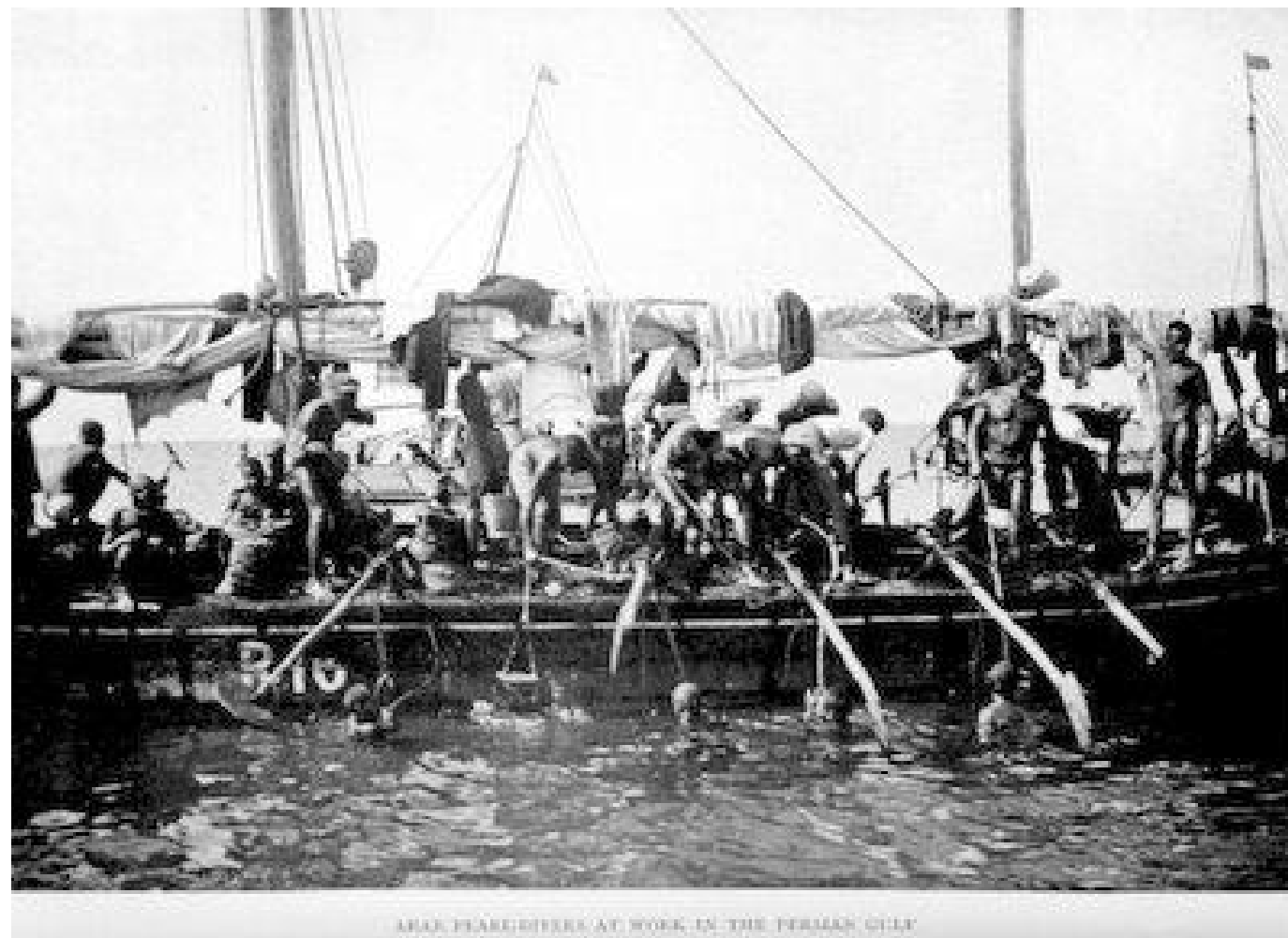
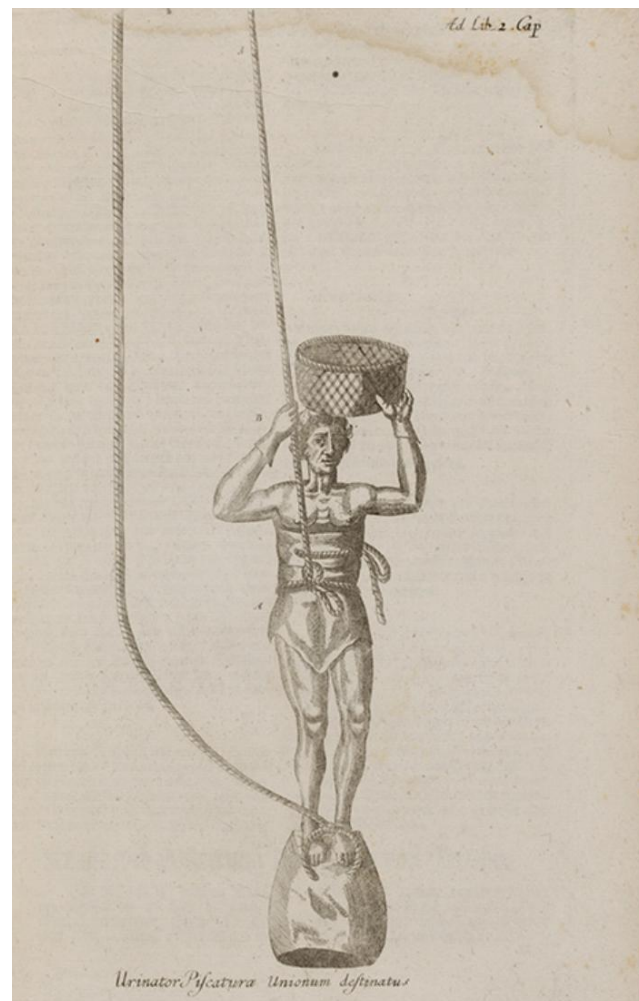
Vanities with Pearls

Within the Liang Yi Collection

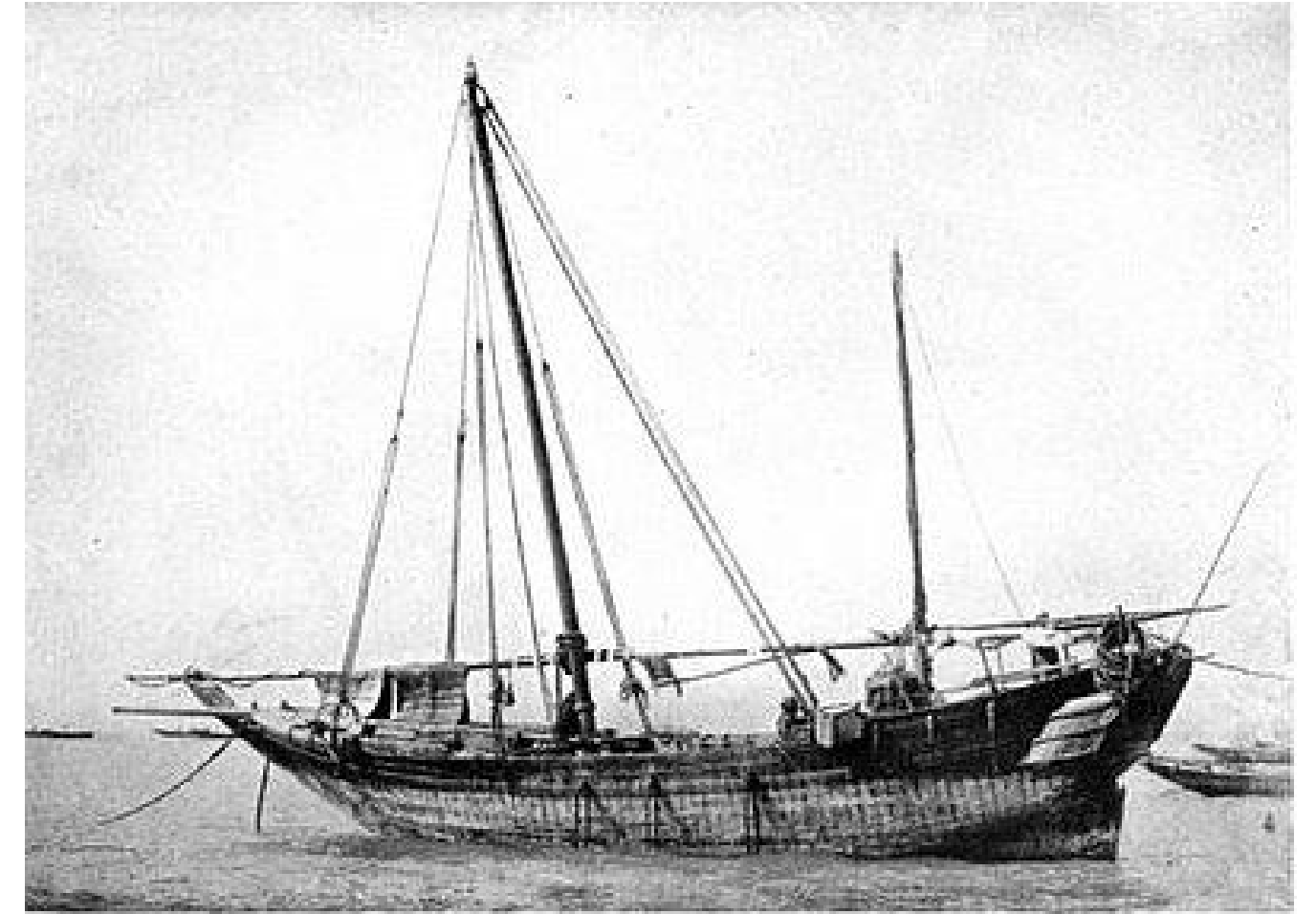
FOREWORD

The Allure of Natural Pearls in Fashion

The trade in natural pearls has been a cornerstone of luxury, particularly for countries along the Arabian Gulf. As early as the 7th century, Arab merchants traversed the Indian Ocean, establishing trade networks that brought prized pearls to various ports, including India. By the early 19th century, the Gulf had become the world's leading supplier of natural pearls, with European jewellery houses seeking the exquisite 'oriental' pearls that epitomised opulence.



Pearl Fishers



Cargo boat in pearl fishery of the Persian Gulf

Pearl Fishery Boat in the Persian Gulf

In Paris, jewellers working in the Art Nouveau style were captivated by the extraordinary shapes of natural pearls, transforming them into breathtaking interpretations of nature. Iconic figures like Coco Chanel embraced the allure of these gems, elevating them to symbols of modern femininity. Chanel famously remarked that "a woman should be two things: classy and fabulous," a sentiment perfectly illustrated by her use of natural pearls in her designs. Notably, she was also the first designer to introduce faux pearls and gemstones into her collections, sparking a trend that remains popular today. Despite this, the intrinsic value of natural pearls—prized for their rarity and unique beauty—has only grown, reaffirming their status as timeless icons of luxury and elegance.



Portraits of Coco Chanel

In 1916, one of the chief architects of the Art Deco movement, Pierre Cartier, traded a two-strand oriental pearl necklace with Mae Plant, or Maisie as she was known, for a Neo-Renaissance mansion on Fifth Avenue, which remains New York's House of Cartier to this day. Both the necklace and the mansion were valued at \$1.2 million, a fair exchange at the time.



Pierre Cartier, 1910



The 5th Avenue Mansion in 1920



A Portrait of Maisie
Painted by Alphonse Jungers



A Cartier Pearl Evening Bag
Liang Yi Collection



The Vanity Collection at the Liang Yi Museum features cases from 1900 to 1950, elegantly adorned with natural pearls, reflecting the wealth and sophistication of their owners. These rare gems, formed within oysters, epitomise luxury due to their labour-intensive harvesting. The collection proudly includes exquisite pieces from esteemed brands such as Cartier, Boucheron, Lacloche, and Buccellati, as well as compacts fully adorned with natural pearls.

Additionally, our collection showcases contemporary jewellery featuring pearls from the late 20th century to the present, underscoring the enduring allure of these exquisite gems.

Through this carefully curated selection, we invite visitors to explore the cultural significance of pearls and vanity cases, appreciating their artistry and the narratives they convey about societal values across generations.

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02 Jewelleries: Late 20th century-now (Total: 33)

Total no. of objects: 58

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VANITY CASES

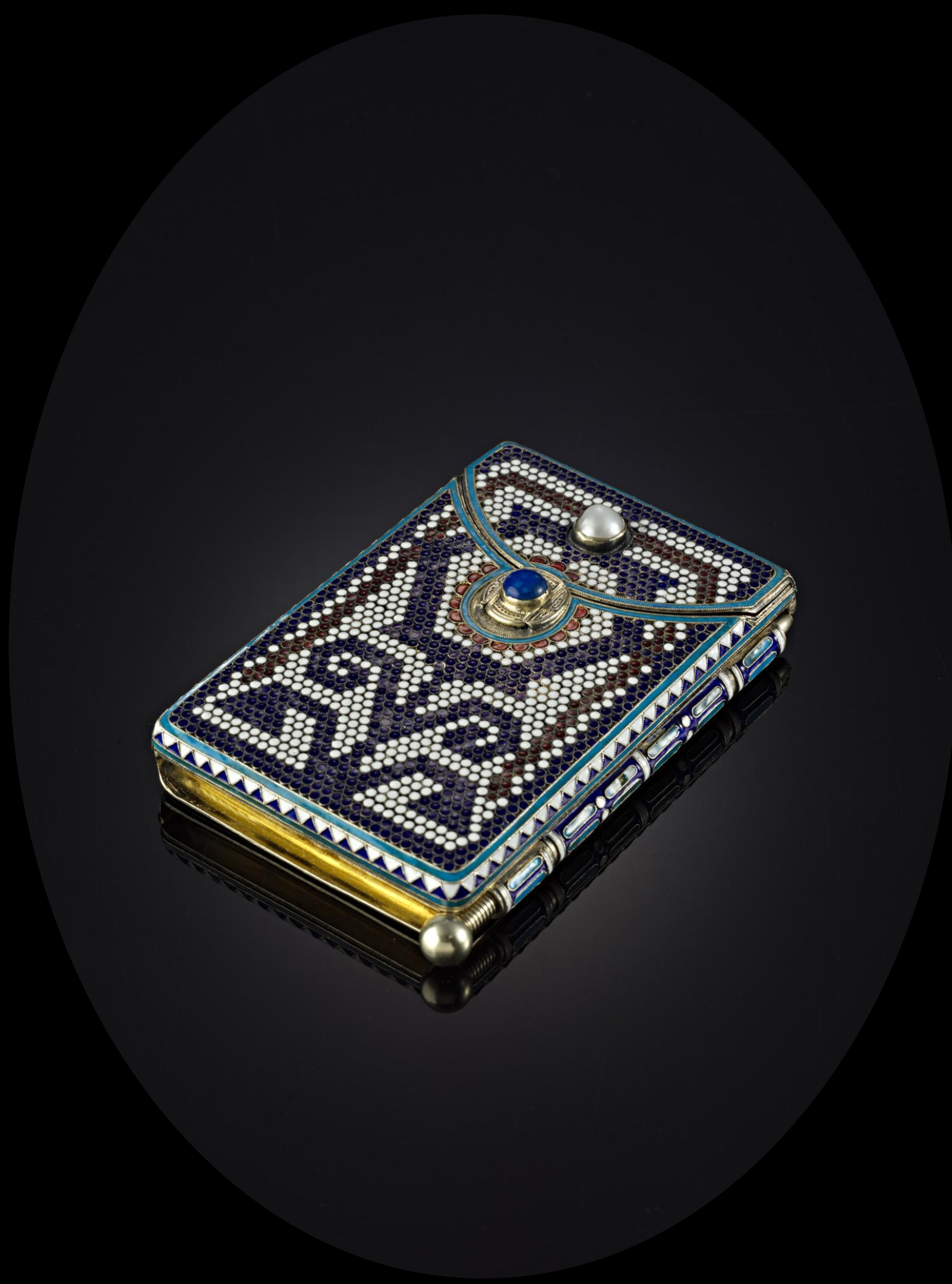
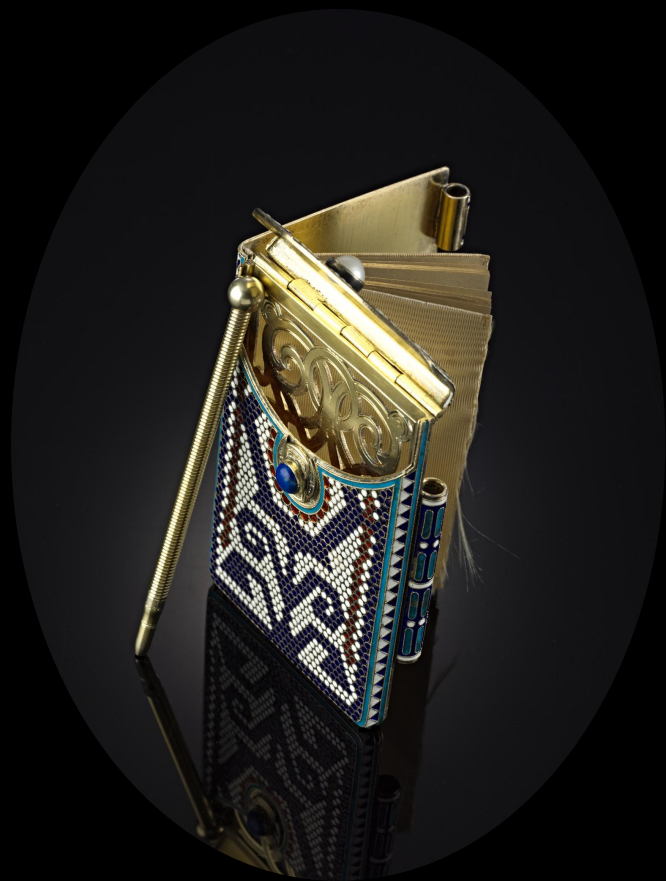
1894-1950

Exquisite Artistry and Craftsmanship

The Vanity Collection at Liang Yi Museum boasts an exquisite selection of artistry and craftsmanship, where the illustrious presence of pearls from the early 20th century commands particular admiration. These exquisite gems epitomise both opulence and social standing.

During this era, pearls were primarily natural, formed through a complex and unpredictable process within oysters. This rarity, combined with the labour-intensive harvesting methods employed by divers, made natural pearls not just precious but emblematic of wealth and sophistication.

Art Nouveau Style



A-29

Carnet de bal

Antip Kuzmichev (Moscow)

Retailed by Tiffany & Co

1894

Enamel, silver, lapis lazuli, pearl and gold

10 x 6.8 x 1.6cm



N-169

Evening Bag

Cartier

c. 1910

Silk, gold, garnet, pearl and enamel

22 x 15 x 3cm



N-82

Compact

Unknown

1900-1910

Gold, pearl, diamond, sapphire,
enamel and ivory

8.6 x 4.7 x 1.46cm





N-113

Evening bag

Buccellati

1900-1910

Satin, silver and pearl

17.5 x 16 cm



A-76

Evening Bag

Unknown

c. 1910

Gold, pearl, diamond

2.3 x 9.9cm





N-81

Compact

Unknown

c. 1920

Gold, pearl, sapphire, diamond
and ivory

8.59 x 4.72 x 1.61cm





A-232

Evening Bag

Unknown

c. 1930

Gold and pearl

13 x 10.5 x 0.6cm

Orientalism in the Art Deco Period



A-22

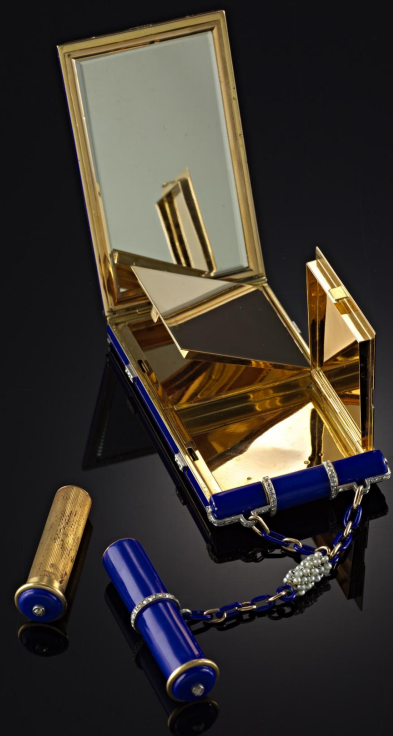
Compact with a separate lipstick

Cartier

c. 1920

Enamel, gold, diamond and pearl

7.9 x 4.4 x 0.9cm





A-199

Evening Bag

Cartier

c. 1924

Silk, pearl, diamond, gold, enamel
and crystal

22.4 x 13.5 x 0.7cm



26

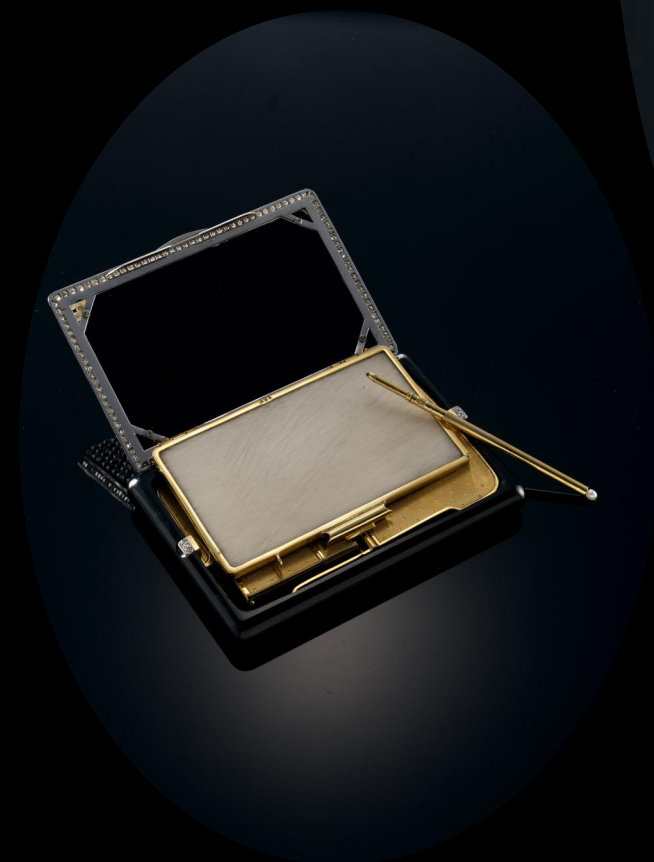
Nécessaire

Unknown

c. 1925

Gold, enamel, pearl, diamond,
platinum and ivory

7.2 x 5.1 x 1.1cm





X-65

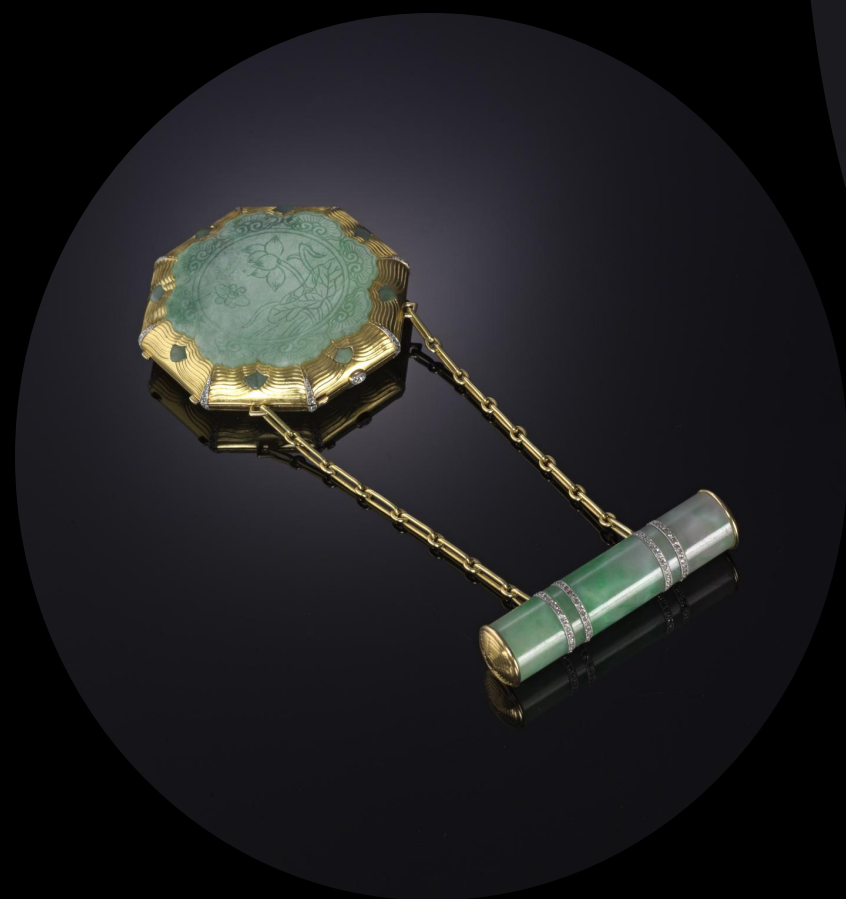
Compact with a Separate Lipstick

Boucheron

c. 1920

Jade, gold, diamond, ivory and pearl

6.4 x 1.41cm





20

Compact

Lacloche Frères

1923-24

Gold, enamel, diamond and pearl

8.2 x 3.8 x 1cm



A-21

Compact

Lacloche

c. 1923-24

Enamel, gold, diamond and pearl

8.6 x 4.8 x 1.1cm





N-166

Compact

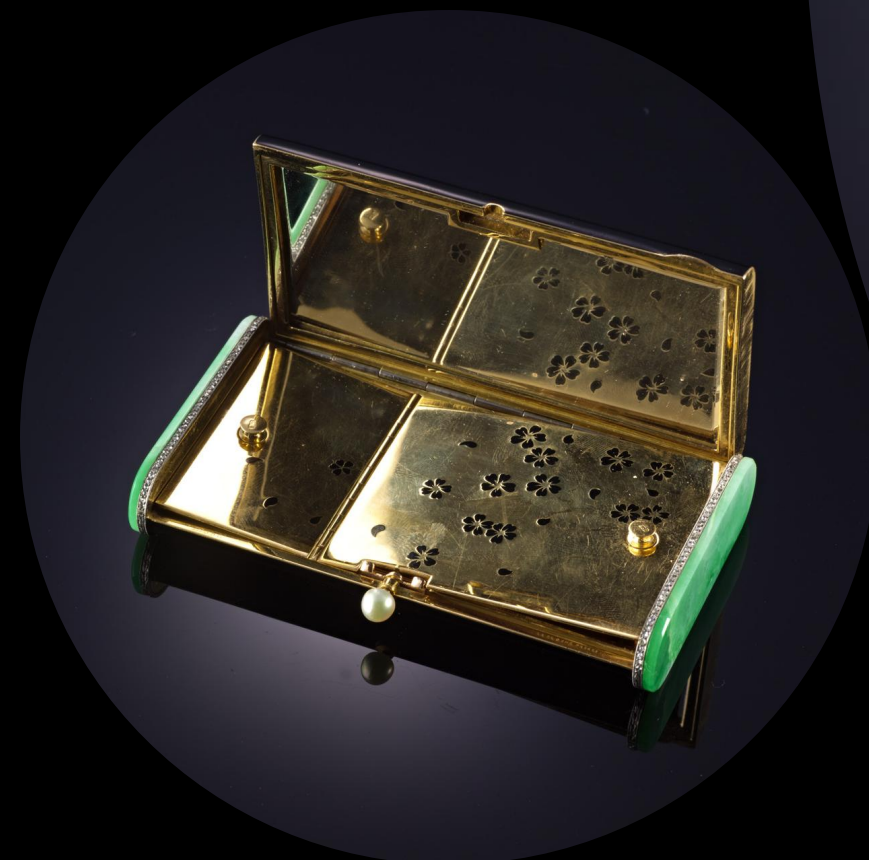
Unknown

c. 1925

Gold, enamel and pearl

5.1 x 5.1 x 0.9cm





X-15

Nécessaire

Lacloche Frères

c. 1925

Gold, onyx, diamond, jadeite,
rock crystal and pearl

8.74 x 4.6 x 1.23cm



N-79

Compact

Lacloche Frères

c. 1925

Amber, onyx, gold, diamond,
enamel, amethyst and pearl

7.29 x 5.22 x 1.57cm





13

Nécessaire

Janesich

c. 1925

Enamel, gold, diamond, pearl and ivory

7.1 x 4.5 x 1.2cm



A-40

Compact

Strauss Allard & Meyer

c. 1930

Platinum, lapis lazuli, diamond,
pearl and carnelian

8.38 x 5.03 x 1.79cm



A-71

Nécessaire

Strauss Allard & Meyer

c. 1930

Gold, diamond, jasper and pearl

9.2 x 5.08 x 3.3cm





A-255

Compact

Unknown

c. 1930

Gold, enamel, ruby, pearl and onyx

4.8 x 12.3cm



A-304

Compact

Cartier

c. 1940

Yellow gold, diamond, pearl

6.2 x 4.9 x 0.9cm

Cubism



X-56

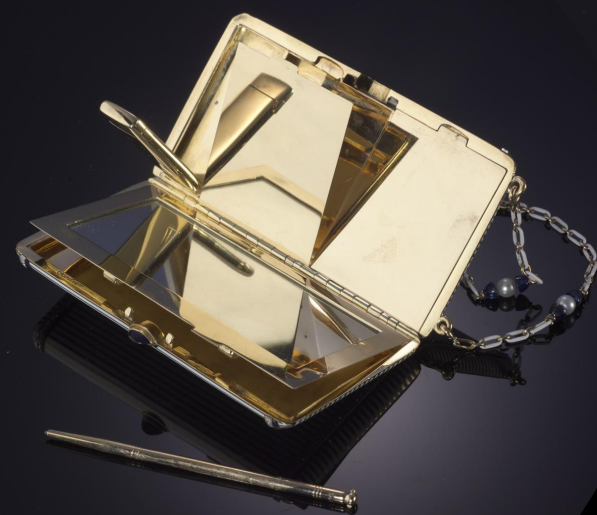
Nécessaire

Cartier

c. 1920

Enamel, diamond, sapphire, pearl
and ivory

8.88 x 4.71 x 0.92cm





X-3

Compact

Cartier

c. 1930

Gold, enamel, diamond, pearl
and onyx

9.81 x 6.38 x 1.6cm



N-127

Compact

Charlton & Co

c. 1950

Satin, silver and pearl

8.05 x 5.9 x 1.84cm





X-30

Compact

Cartier

c. 1950

Silver, pearl and enamel

6.13 x 5.91 x 1.13cm



JEWELLRIES

Late 20th century-now

Contemporary Elegance

In addition to the vanity cases from 1900-1950, our collection features jewellery adorned with pearls from the late 20th century to the present day. This juxtaposition highlights the enduring appeal of pearls across generations, showcasing how they continue to symbolise luxury and elegance.

The rarity of these exquisite pearls rendered their embellishment on vanity cases a genuine hallmark of luxury, inviting visitors to delve into the historical significance and captivating allure of these remarkable pieces. Together, these elements shed light on the esteemed cultural value of pearls as cherished adornments, bridging the gap between a bygone age and contemporary artistry.

Necklaces



BJ-P-8

Pendant with Chain

Buccellati

White gold ,pearl and diamond

Pearl: Dia 2cm

Chain: L 21cm



BJ-P-10

Pendant with Chain

Buccellati

White gold ,pearl and diamond

Pearl: Dia 1.6

Chain: L 20.5cm



J-P-N1

Necklace

Gold and pearl

Pearls: Dia 1.3cm

Necklace: Dia 26cm



J-P-N2

Necklace

Pearl and rubellite

Pearls: Dia 1cm

Rubellite: 2.6 x 2.8cm

Necklace: Dia 15cm



J-P-N3

Necklace

Pearl and silver

Pearl: Dia 1.5-1.8cm

Necklace: Dia 16cm



J-P-N4

Necklace

Pearl

Pearls: Dia 1.1-1.3cm

Necklace: Dia 15cm



J-P-N5

Necklace

Pearl, Gold and Diamonds

Pearl: Dia 1cm

Necklace: Dia 14.5cm



J-P-N6

Necklace

Pearl and silver

Pearl: Dia 1.8cm

Necklace: Dia 16cm



J-P-N7

Necklace

Pearl and tanzanite

Pearl: Dia 0.9cm

Tanzanite: 2.4 x 2.4 cm

Necklace: Dia 27cm



J-P-N8

Necklace

Damiani

Pearl, silver pearl, diamond and silver

Pearl: Dia 1.3cm

Silver pearl: 1.3cm

Necklace: Dia 20.5cm



J-P-N11

Necklace

Golen pearl

Necklace: Dia 15cm

Pearl: Dia 1.1-1.5cm



J-P-N12

Necklace

Pearl

Necklace: Dia 18cm

Pearl: Dia 1.4-1.8cm



J-P-P1

Pendant with chain

Chow Tai Fook

Pearl, diamonds and gold

Pearl: Dia 1.6cm

Chain: 1.6 x 21cm



J-P-P2

Pendant with Chain

Pearl, diamonds and white gold

Pearl: Dia 1.8cm

Chain: 1.4 x 22cm

Earrings



BJ-E-11

Earrings

Buccellati

White gold, gold and pearl

L 2.5 x W 1.8cm



J-P-E2

Earrings

Pearl and diamonds

Pearl: Dia 1.2cm

Earrings(each): Dia 2.7cm



J-P-E3

Earrings

Sapphire, pearl, diamonds and gold

Pearl: Dia 1.2cm

Earrings(each): Dia 3cm



J-P-E4

Earrings

Pearl, diamonds and gold

Pearl: Dia 1.3cm

Earrings(each): Dia 2cm



J-P-E5

Earrings

Pearl and ruby

Pearl: Dia12mm

Earrings(each): Dia 2.6cm



J-P-E6

Earrings

Pearl and aquamarine

Earrings(each): Dia 4cm

Aquamarine: Dia 2cm

Pearl: Dia 1.4cm



J-P-E7

Earrings

Golden pearl and diamonds

Pearl: Dia 18mm

Earrings(each): Dia 3.2cm



J-P-E8

Earrings

Pearl and diamonds

Pearls: 1.4-1.5cm

Earrings(each0: Dia 4cm



J-P-E9

Earrings

Black pearl, diamonds and gold

Pearls: 1.5cm

Earrings(each): Dia 4.2cm



J-P-E10

Earrings

Pearl, diamonds and gold

Pearl: Dia 1.5cm

Earrings(each): Dia 4.2cm

Rings



BJ-R-12

Ring

Buccellati

Gold and pearl

Dia 2.5 x W 1.2cm



J-P-R1

Ring

Pearl, diamonds and gold

Pearl: Dia 1.4cm

Ring: Dia 3.3cm



J-P-R2

Ring

Pearl and diamonds

Pearl: Dia 1.8cm

Ring: Dia 4cm



J-P-R3

Ring

Pearl

Pearl: Dia 2.2cm

Ring: Dia 4.3cm



J-P-R4

Ring

Pearl, diamonds and white gold

Pearl: Dia 1.2cm

Ring: Dia 3cm

Sets



BJ-N-9

Set of Necklace and Earrings

Buccellati

White gold, gold and pearl

Earrings(each): W 3 x L 4.5cm

Necklace: L 22.5cm



J-P-N9

Set of Necklace and Earrings

Harry Winston

Sapphire, pearl and diamonds

Necklace: Dia 17.5cm

Pearl: Dia 1.1cm

Sapphire: Dia 1.8cm

earring: Dia 3cm

Sapphire: Dia 1.3cm



J-P-N10

Set of Necklace and Earrings

Golay

Pearl, diamond and semi-precious stones

Necklace: Dia 22cm

Pearl: 1.3-1.6cm

earring: Dia 2.5cm

Pearl: Dia 1.3cm



J-P-E1

Set of Earrings and Ring

Golay

Pearl and diamonds

Earrings(each): Dia 2.5cm

Pearl: Dia 1cm

Ring: Dia 3.8cm

Pearl: 1.4cm