

ARE YOU READY TO EXPLORE
10,000 YEARS OF LUXURY?



Let's discover what luxury is across different times and cultures through more than 350 objects, artworks, and treasures from important local and international museums and fashion houses.

LET'S BEGIN!

MAD
MUSEE DES ARTS
DECORATIFS

LUXURY

10,000 YEARS OF TREASURES

LOUVRE ABU DHABI
اللؤلؤ والمرجان



FOLLOW THE TRAIL
TO CONTINUE YOUR
TREASURE HUNT
IN THE MUSEUM
GALLERIES.



Octagonal box
This elegant, ornamented Chinese box was used as a gift during official exchanges between the empires of China and Japan.

FOUND IT



Casket decorated with animal faces
This elaborately decorated casket was sprinkled with gold dust using a traditional Japanese technique known as *maki-e*.

FOUND IT

Ewer
This ewer is a remarkable example of ornamental metalwork. Each of its twelve sides are adorned with a different zodiac sign.

FOUND IT



Dagger
Ceremonial daggers such as this were made to show the royal status of their owner.

FOUND IT

KIDLES
AND
STICKERS

ROOM 1

Introduction

RIDDLE

*I belonged to a
woman whose voice
stole the show!*

*I can also be the star,
with my glitter and glow.*

DID YOU KNOW?

This necklace reflects the UAE's long history in pearling. The discovery of the world's oldest known pearl in Marawah Island, Abu Dhabi, shows how pearls have been harvested and valued for nearly 8000 years.

This beautiful necklace was gifted to the great singer Umm Kulthum by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father of the UAE. With nine rows, it is decorated with pearls, gemstones and gold pendants.

ACTIVITY

Where would you wear this sparkling necklace if it were given to you?

ROOM 2

The Origins of Luxury

RIDDLE

*Like the moon and stars
against night skies,*

*My pearls and dark hair
will catch your eyes.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The type of jewellery in this portrait was considered to be the most expensive and popular during the Roman period, 2,000 years ago. The most beautiful pearls were from the island of Dilmun, in present day Bahrain.

ACTIVITY

Try to find other precious objects decorated with pearls in the exhibition.

ROOM 4

Luxury at the Table

RIDDLE

*You'll find me in
your tea cup,*

*When you want
to cosy up.*

*I go round and round
in circles, you see.*

*Oh, how much fun
that is for me.*

DID YOU KNOW?

In Europe around 500 years ago, spoons were regarded as personal items. Although this spoon was not for tea, many guests used to bring their own spoons when invited to lavish meals.

ACTIVITY

The handle of the spoon is made of silver, and the head is made of a very luxurious material.

Can you guess what it is?

- Ivory
- Shell
- Rock

ROOM 5

The Thousand Faces of Luxury

RIDDLE

*Look closer... and
take a sneak peek.*

*I am metal and shiny,
with words around me.*

*When you see me,
you'll find what
you seek.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The craftsmen of Mosul, Iraq, created many of these luxurious basins around 800 years ago. Some of these may have been part of an Iraqi prince's collection, or given to other royals as gifts.

ACTIVITY

Look at all the objects in the room.
Which one would you offer
as a gift of friendship?

ROOM 7

Luxury at Court

RIDDLE

*Well-decorated twins,
with a flower
considered so rare.*

*How beautiful it
would be, for you
to stop and stare.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The tulip was a rare flower in Europe 400 years ago. Many people had tulip vases made for them to reflect their wealth.

ACTIVITY

What is the most beautiful flower from your home country?
Why would you choose this flower to decorate a vase?

ROOM 8

The Far Reaches of Luxury

RIDDLE

*Though I have horns,
fangs and fire,*

*Fear me not!
Come close and admire.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The object here represents a 'Qilin', a Chinese mythological animal associated with wisdom, peace and prosperity.

ACTIVITY

Take a closer look and find these details:

- Beard
- Red flowers
- Blue scales

ROOM 9

Beyond Luxury

RIDDLE

*You would take me
with you for a picnic
in the park,*

*To eat and enjoy
'til it starts to get dark.*

DID YOU KNOW?

This lunch set is an example of what you would find at a luxury Parisian boutique around 300 years ago. Such shops also sold other luxurious objects, like furniture and paintings.

ACTIVITY

In the shop in front of you, have fun finding a birdcage and a perfume fountain.

ROOM 10

The Luxury Industries

RIDDLE

*Beautiful blue rays
shine from within,*

*Reflecting the meanings
my words were given.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Two hundred years ago, Europeans were fascinated by objects that came from the Orient: Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. European artists would often imitate their forms and decorations.

ACTIVITY

The objects in this showcase are special because of the Arabic calligraphy. If you were to design a lamp for your bedroom, what would you write on it?

ROOM 11

The Ambivalences of Luxury

RIDDLE

*Foxes, squirrels,
parrots, a rabbit...*

*There is a whole zoo
in the forest I inhabit.*

DID YOU KNOW?

This decorative screen is from a fashion designer's dining room! It impressed many guests thanks to its fine details and the way the gold threads play with the light.

ACTIVITY

If you were recreating this screen, what would you do differently? Which colours or animals would you include?

ROOM 12

Simple Luxury

RIDDLE

*I can keep you warm
when it's cold.*

*Try to find me
before I get sold!*

DID YOU KNOW?

This entirely hand-made jacket is made from ostrich feathers. While the delicate art of feather work is very ancient, it remains popular in today's fashion designs.

ACTIVITY

In this showcase, there is also a dress made from feathers. Can you find it? How is it different from the jacket?

ROOM 13

The Great Luxury of Time

RIDDLE

*I'm always
moving forward;
never going back.*

*With this much time,
you'll never lose track!*

DID YOU KNOW?

This hourglass represents how time today is viewed as a luxury. The gold-plated nano beads show the importance of each passing second in our lives.

ACTIVITY

Take a minute to think about how this hourglass is related to luxury. Why is time important to you?



A



B

© Philippe Joner, 2015



C

© MAD, Paris – Jean Tholance



D

© MAD, Paris – Jean Tholance

- A. Necklace presented to the celebrated singer Umm Kulthūm by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, India, c. 1880, Zayed National Museum
- B. The Hourglass (Le Sablier), Marc Newson, Switzerland, 2015
- C. Coat, Lemarié, c. 1985, Musée des Arts Décoratifs
- D. Shell spoon, Germany? 16th century, Musée des Arts Décoratifs

**E**

© Musée du Louvre, Dist. RMNGrand Palais/Étienne Revault

**F**

© Musée du Louvre, Dist. RMNGrand Palais/Georges Poncet

**G**

© MAD, Paris – Jean Tholance

**H**

© MAD, Paris – Jean Tholance

E. Basin, Signed Dāwud ibn Salāma al-Mawsili, Iraq or Syria, 1252 – 1253, Musée du Louvre, on long-term loan from the Musée des Arts Décoratifs

F. Painted portrait, Egypt, Antinopolis, Mid-2nd century, Musée du Louvre

G. Pair of pyramid vases, Netherlands, c. 1700 – 1710, Musée des Arts Décoratifs

H. Qilin, a mythological animal, China, 1736 – 1896, Musée des Arts Décoratifs

© MAD, Paris – Jean Tholance



I



© MAD, Paris – Jean Tholance

J



© MAD, Paris – Jean Tholance

K

- I. Travel luncheon set, France, c. 1740, Musée des Arts Décoratifs
- J. Mosque lamp, France, c. 1885, Musée des Arts Décoratifs
- K. Ten-leaved foxes screen, Armand-Albert Rateau, France, Paris, c. 1921–2, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, 1965