

Eye on the Prize

15TH INTERNATIONAL GOLD + DIAMOND CONFERENCE

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY, JULY 14 – 16, 2025

Rotating Drum Tests in Senegal. Photo: courtesy of the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM).



*Ute Decker, Calligraphy Ring, 18kt gold.
Photo: Jamie Irounce, courtesy of Ute Decker.*



Aerial Image of the City of Paraisópolis in Minas Gerais in the Region of Serra da Mantiqueira. Photo: Paulo, Adobe Stock.



Emefa Cole, Erosion 1, oxidized bronze with gold leaf. Photo: courtesy of Emefa Cole.



The King of Asante or Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II Inspecting the Returned Objects From the British Museum and the V & A, April 2024, Kumasi, Ghana. Photo: courtesy of Ivor Agyeman-Duah.

Eye on the Prize

IAC's 15TH INTERNATIONAL GOLD + DIAMOND CONFERENCE

For 15 years, IAC's Gold + Diamond Conference has been informed by two primary concerns: how to define and achieve responsible practice on the one hand, and how to preserve and celebrate artisanry and artistic vision on the other. While our perspective on these concerns is ever-broadening, our goal is unchanged: to initiate dialogue and inspire change without fear.

As the precious metals, gemstone, and jewelry sectors face upheaval, whether political, military, economic, or technological, we must keep our "eye on the prize": a flourishing and habitable planet on which the centrality of heritage and artisanry is recognized. Now, more than ever, we need an inclusive conversation with input from every corner of industry, from large-scale mining entities to craftspeople at the bench, if this prize is to be won.

We will make the case that the objects we craft, the techniques used in the crafting, and the impulse to make them (in sum, cultural tradition) are critical resources meriting protection. And we will stress that the practice and preservation of cultural tradition is inextricably linked to human rights and responsible practice.

The Conference will also consider Heritage Houses, an iconic watch brand, innovations in traceability, nomenclature underpinning clear discourse, artisanal makers pushing the boundaries of craft, and a major chapter in cultural restitution. We'll also look closely at case studies demonstrating effective solutions across a range of challenges in the precious metals, gemstone, and jewelry sectors.

The preeminent global gathering of professionals in precious metals, gemstones, and jewelry, IAC's Gold + Diamond Conference has, since 2011, brought together key players from industry, government, NGOs, academia, museums, and the collecting community, as well as jewelers, goldsmiths, and designers to discuss issues of critical importance, to seek common purpose regarding responsible practice, and to celebrate the highest standards in jewelry craft and design. IAC is known throughout the industry as a nonpartisan player and an ethically driven convener focused on creating an open forum for discourse, building consensus, and finding solutions.

Conference partner



Sponsors*



*As of July 12, 2025



Lion Ornament, Akan peoples, Asante group, Ghana, 19th century, gold, 1½ × 2⅛ × 2¼ in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Collection. Bequest of Nelson A. Rockefeller, 1979. Object Number: 1979.206.227.

Monday, July 14

Opening evening at Heritage Auctions, 445 Park Ave, New York, NY (between 56th and 57th Streets).

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Reception at Heritage Auctions celebrating the opening of “Eye on the Prize”

Welcoming remarks.

Roberta Krammer

(VP | Strategy & Business Development, Heritage Auctions).

Why Are We Here? Eye on the Prize: Collaborating for Change, IAC, and Cruziero. Lisa Koenigsberg

(Founder / President, Initiatives in Art and Culture).



Duchess of Devonshire Portrait Diamond, 19th century England, diamond and painted ivory, height 1⅞ in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gift of Benjamin Zuckerman, in celebration of the Museum's 150th Anniversary, 2019. Object Number: 2019.22.

Tuesday, July 15

Formal sessions take place at Bohemian National Hall, 321 E. 73rd St., New York, NY (between First & Second Avenues).

8:45 – 9:10 a.m.

Registration and continental breakfast

9:10 – 9:20 a.m.

Welcome. Gaetano Cavalieri (President, World Jewellery Confederation [CIBJO]).

9:20 – 9:30 a.m.

Opening remarks. Lisa Koenigsberg.

9:30 – 10:25 a.m.

Trust, Traceability, Transparency.

David Block (CEO, Sarine Technologies); **Brad Brooks-Rubin** (Partner, Arktouros; former Senior Advisor, Office of Sanctions Coordination, US Department of State); **Laurent E. Cartier** (Head of Special Initiatives, Swiss Gemmological Institute; co-founder, Sustainable Pearls); **Jennifer Moriconi** (Chief Sustainability Officer, iTraceIT; President, OWIT Brussels); **Kat Weymouth** (Director, Diamond and Jewelry Services, SCS Global Services); **Sara Yood** (President, CEO & General Counsel, JVC); Moderator: **Rob Bates** (News Director, JCK).



Craftsman at Work. Photo: courtesy of The Royal Mint.

10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Ghana and Gold. Ivor Agyeman-Duah (Historian of the Central Bank of Ghana; Director, The Manhyia Palace Museum).

11:20 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Responsibly Sourced Gold: Issues and Options. **Charlie Betts** (Managing Director, Betts Metals); **Rachel Brandrick** (Marketing Director, 886 by The Royal Mint); **Gina D'Amato** (Executive Director, Alliance for Responsible Mining); **Lester Friedlander** (President, Clover II Corporation); **Holly McHugh** (Vice President, Sustainability & Social Impact, Mejuri); Moderator:



Endeavor Mining's Ity Mine (Côte d'Ivoire) at Night. Photo: courtesy of SMO.

John Mulligan (Head of Sustainability Strategy, World Gold Council; President, Sustainable Development Commission, World Jewellery Confederation [CIBJO]).

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Luncheon & discussion

A Question of Value and Impact: Is Gold Special? **Lisa Koenigsberg**; **John Mulligan**; **Elizabeth Emma Ferry** (Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University and contributor, *The Anthropology of Precious Metals*).

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.

Sculptural Expression. **Ute Decker** (Artist-jeweller) in conversation with **Lisa Koenigsberg** on responsibly mined materials and commitment to design.

2:20 – 3:30 p.m.

How Can Producing Nations Retain Greater Value In-country? **Brad Brooks-Rubin**; **Shari Gittleman** (Head of Social Performance and Human Rights, Newmont); **Estelle Levin-Nally** (CEO and Founder, Levin Sources); **Longo Mulaisho-Zinsner** (Founder and President, Jewellery and Gemstone Association of Africa [JGAA]); **Giorgio de Tomi** (Professor, Polytechnic School and Director, Research Center for Responsible Mining, University of São Paulo); **Simon Watt** (Co-owner, Mayer & Watt); Moderator: **Brecken Branstrator** (Editor-in-Chief, GemGuide).

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:50 – 4:35 p.m.

CIBJO & IAC Present The CIBJO Blue List – Public Consultation: The Responsible Jewellery Supply Chain Lexicon. **Lisa Koenigsberg**; **Sara Yood**; **Feriel Zerouki** (Chief Trade and Industry Officer, De Beers Group and President, World Diamond Council [WDC]); Moderator: **Steven Benson** (Director of Communications, CIBJO).

4:40 – 5:45 p.m.

Diamonds at a Crossroads. **David Block**; **Kathy Hillelson** (CEO, OWL Financial Group); **Raj Mehta** (Board Member, Watch & Jewelry Initiative 2030; strategy advisor on luxury and business innovation); **Stuart Samuels** (President, DMIA); **Matthew Schamroth** (Partner, M. Schamroth & Sons); **Amish Shah** (Founder & CEO, ALTR Created Diamonds and J'evan Co.); **Feriel Zerouki**; Moderator: **Rob Bates**.

5:45 – 7:00 p.m.

Awards Presentation and Reception

Presentation of IAC's eighth **Award for Leadership in Responsible Practice** in Jewellery to artist-jeweller **Ute Decker** in recognition of her transformational contribution to ethical sourcing and responsible practices in the worldwide gem and jewelry industry; and of IAC's fifth **Award for Extraordinary Contributions to the Diamond and Jewelry Industries** to **David Block**, CEO, Sarine Technologies in recognition of his extraordinary ongoing engagement and commitment to the realization of positive change through collaboration in these industries.

Opportunity to review and purchase *Cruziero Mine: In the Heart of the Earth*.



Women Miners of Kedougou, Senegal. Photo: courtesy of ARM.

Wednesday, July 16

Formal sessions take place at Bohemian National Hall, 321 E. 73rd St., New York, NY (between First & Second Avenues).

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and continental breakfast

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Opening remarks. Lisa Koenigsberg.

9:20 – 10:20 a.m.

Understanding Climate Justice & Just Transition. Shari Gittleman; Kiff Gallagher (Executive Director, Global Heat Reduction Initiative, SCS Global Services); Rebecca Villalobos (Founder, Earthly Strategies); Moderator: John Mulligan.



Grizzly Mining Emerald. Photo: courtesy of Gemworld.

10:25 – 11:10 a.m.

Holding the Line on Human Rights. Brad Brooks-Rubin; Estelle Levin-Nally.

11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Who Owns Cultural Resources? Ivor Agyeman-Duah; Emefa Cole (Jeweler, goldsmith, and Curator, Jewelry of the Diaspora, Victoria & Albert Museum); Jaasi Munanka (Head of Legal Operations, Africa, AngloGold Ashanti); Lucian Simmons (Head of Provenance Research, The Metropolitan Museum of Art); Moderator: Liz Fraccaro (Assistant Counsel, JVC).

12:10 – 1:05 p.m.

Sharing in Sustainable and Responsible ASM Development: Beyond Sourcing to Nurturing. Edward Bickham (Senior Advisor, World Gold Council); Giorgio de Tomi; Gina D'Amato; Longo Mulaisho-Zinsner; Ruby Stocklin-Weinberg (Program Manager, GemFair, De Beers); Cristina Villegas (Founder / Director, Nature's Wealth); Moderator: Rachel Perks (Senior Mining Specialist, Energy and Extractives Global Practice, World Bank).



Mario Buccellati, Tulle Bracelet, 1920s. Photo: courtesy of Buccellati.

1:05 – 2:20 p.m.

Luncheon & discussion

Following last year's luncheon discussion on social and environmental performance in ASM, we focus this year on the World Bank's emerging initiative to build a community of practice to improve ASM performance. Discussion centers on best practices and approaches to mine site safety, environmental stewardship, and security. We also explore how to improve organizational collaboration. A concept note will be made available to conference participants in advance for the discussion.

Rachel Perks; Estelle Levin-Nally.

2:20 – 3:15 p.m.

The Preciousness of Time: Celebrating Bulova Watches at 150 Years.

Donnell Hutson (Design Director, Citizen Watch America); **Carl Rosen** (Bulova Historian and former Chief Operating Officer, Bulova); Moderator: **Barbara Palumbo** (Watch and fine jewelry journalist; creator / editor, WhatsOnHerWrist.com).

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:20 p.m.

The Heritage House: How Has the Definition Evolved?

Mark Emanuel (Co-owner, David Webb Jewelry);
Tom Heyman (President, Oscar Heyman);
Nicolas Luchsinger (CEO, Buccellati);
Raj Mehta; Moderator: **Jean Z. Poh** (Chief Business Officer & Head of Compliance, Clover II Corporation).

David Webb, *Zebra Bracelet*, cabochon rubies, brilliant-cut diamonds, black and white enamel, 18kt gold, and platinum. Photo: courtesy of David Webb Jewelry.

4:25 – 5:20 p.m.

IAC + CIBJO Industry Voices: What Does “Precious” Mean Now?

Steven Benson; **Laurent E. Cartier**; **Elizabeth Ferry**; **Laurie Watt** (Co-owner, Mayer & Watt); **Benjamin Zucker** (Author, authority on precious stones, and gem merchant); Moderator: **Kyle Roderick** (Journalist; founder and Editor-in-Chief, BIJOUXreview).

5:20 p.m.

Closing remarks. Lisa Koenigsberg.



Registration

To register on-line, scan the QR code:

By phone: Using American Express®, Visa® Card, Discover®, or MasterCard®, call (646) 485-1952.



Fee: The conference fee is \$350 with single-day registration options available. Student \$100 (with ID). To receive a discounted rate, you must provide proof of status. Please send inquiries to: info@artinitiatives.com or call (646) 485-1952.

Withdrawal and refunds: Notice of withdrawal must be made in writing to: Initiatives in Art and Culture, 333 East 57th Street, Suite 13B, New York, NY 10022 or to the Program Office via e-mail at info@artinitiatives.com, or call (646) 485-1952. No refunds will be made.

Conference location: Formal sessions take place at Bohemian National Hall, 321 E. 73rd St., New York, NY.



Bulova, *Classic BUL Ladies Watch*. Photo: courtesy of Bulova.