

Van Cleef & Arpels

Van Cleef & Arpels, Exclusive Sponsor of Dubai Opera For Dance and Ballet

July 25, Dubai, UAE: In celebration of the enduring bond between Van Cleef & Arpels and the world of ballet and dance, the Maison proudly announces its partnership with Dubai Opera, exclusively supporting the genre of ballet and dance arts.

Dubai Opera will offer a variety of spectacular dance shows and ballets at the multi-format performing arts theatre located in the heart of Downtown Dubai. The venue, which has 2,000 seats, will stage its first two classical ballets *Coppélia* on the 15th and 17th of September and *Giselle* on the 16th September, both performed by The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia. Further captivating dance performances in 2016 include Sara Baras, Spain's most prevalent flamenco dancer, from 13th -14th October, and *Ballet for Life* and a *Ballet Gala* from Béjart Ballet Lausanne on the 21st and 22nd October.

Van Cleef & Arpels is renowned for featuring a radiant homage to the art of dance within each season of creations. Van Cleef & Arpels – for whom a sense of beauty and harmony goes hand in hand with the quest for excellence – has made dance one of its major sources of inspiration. The Maison's first ballerina clips were created in the 1940s in New York, at the request of Louis Arpels, a great ballet and opera lover. Highly sought after by collectors, these creations soon became a signature of Van Cleef & Arpels. Not long afterwards, these links with the world of dance were strengthened by a decisive encounter. In New York, where he had settled in 1939, Claude Arpels (Louis Arpels' nephew) met George Balanchine, the well-known choreographer and co-founder of the New York City Ballet, and invited him to the 5th Avenue boutique. Their shared passion for gems blossomed

into the Balanchine ballet *Jewels*. Inspired by emeralds, rubies and diamonds, it was first performed in New York in April 1967.

The duet continues in the shape of this collaboration with Benjamin Millepied, previously principal dancer at the New York City Ballet and founder of L.A. Dance Project in 2012. The Maison's attachment to dance and creativity also finds expression in other artistic projects, such as its patronage of the Opéra National de Paris' 3e Scène and the Prix Fedora - Van Cleef & Arpels pour le Ballet.

The Maison's friendship with the Dubai Opera adds a new and enthralling chapter to Van Cleef & Arpels' enduring links with ballet and dance.



Ballerina Pierina Variation clip, 2016. White gold, round and rose-cut diamonds, yellow gold, round diamonds, pink and yellow round sapphires, round spessartite garnets.

“Femininity and grace have always provided constant inspiration for our creations, giving rise to various artistic collaborations,” says Alessandro Maffi, Managing Director of Van Cleef & Arpels Middle East & India. “We are proud to embark on a new friendship with the Dubai Opera, in bringing the art of ballet & dance to the Emirate.”

“Van Cleef & Arpels has such an incredible affinity with ballet and dance which stretches back decades,” commented Jasper Hope, Dubai Opera - Chief Executive. “We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Van Cleef & Arpels.”

Drawing inspiration from its extraordinary collaborations with major figures in the arts, Van Cleef & Arpels orchestrates fruitful encounters and uniting art forms.

About Dubai Opera:

Dubai Opera will be a truly unique venue and the city's first purpose built multi-format performing arts theatre situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai. Set to open late 2016, Dubai Opera will offer the ultimate flexibility of a proscenium arch theatre, an acoustic concert hall and a 2,000m² flat floor event space. The configuration will allow for approximately 2,000 seats for a concert and up to 1,000 for a gala dinner. Outside of the main auditorium, the venue has a smaller performance space and rehearsal room and a stunning rooftop restaurant and sky garden with views of Burj Khalifa and The Dubai Fountain.

www.dubaiopera.com

Twitter: @dubaiopera

Facebook: [facebook.com/dubaiopera](https://www.facebook.com/dubaiopera)

Instagram: @dubaiopera

www.vancleefarpels.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/vancleef.arpels

Instagram: @VanCleefArpels

Hashtag #VCAOpera