



# A Rare Gem

Stunning handcrafted chandeliers light up period furniture, while a gold leaf wall frames a beautiful artwork and highlights antique Burma teak pillars. From single-edition Geisha dolls to a beautifully carved wooden rocking horse, Rahul Singh, the creative director of House of Heirloom, an exclusive art curatorial space, styles a living room setting that shows how every decor piece can be elevated to a work of art.

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“Art is the application of creative skill and imagination to produce something that has the power to evoke an emotional response through its mesmerizing beauty. This ability to illicit a sentiment is key and integral when it comes to any form of art. I feel, interior design or the creation of a home is making art for an individual; one that is a reflection of his personality. This living room set-up perfectly captures the essence of the space. It is royal, majestic, eternal and opulent. However, regardless of these adjectives, it the strong emotional connect that converts a space from an image to one that leaves an indelible impact and finds itself embedded in your consciousness.



CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Rahul Singh

To create such an imposing scene, the first step is to focus on the one art collectible that is the star of the space and design around it. An old silk carpet passed down from many a generation can be the star or a painting which you adore. Just remember, do not over clutter or go for an overkill. Less is more. Also, focus on ceilings, these are often neglected and can be brought to life with a chandelier or an

installation. You can even opt to paint it in a bold colour keeping in mind the ambiance you intend to create.

Another important aspect is to give yourself the liberty to experiment. Take for instance the gold leaf wall with exposed brick at the far end... it highlights the space and forms a dramatic backdrop for a beautiful framed artwork.

When it comes to art whether it is a painting or a carpet, buy with your eyes and heart. Do not 'decorate' with art. See how beautifully the Himen Mazumdar graces the space and merges in seamlessly. It almost feels that it belongs on the gold wall. A work of art isn't just what is displayed. In this set-up, everything is art, right from the detailed pattern on the silver bench, the antique carpet and rocking horse to the porcelain dolls. They come together and accentuate the painting on the wall. Complementing hues and vintage cues meets modern styling techniques to make this space stunning.

Art is an extension of your innate being; it should be reflective of your personality and what's going on in your head — not reflective of the colours in vogue.”



- 1 These breathtaking Geisha dolls are crafted in marble and adorned in semiprecious stones. Each figurine has an inlay of jewels in green, red and blue. While the fan on one of the Geisha is studded with green and red onyx, the sleeves of another playing her flute are studded with Gumedak (one of the stones forming part of the Navratna). The largest doll's feet are highlighted by elegant enamel in a Prussian blue.
- 2 Juxtaposed with an imposing antique family heirloom piece in stone (not for sale), is an art connoisseur's delight — a rare work of MF Hussain depicting Goddess Lakshmi. This artwork is painted on a board.
- 3 Silver furniture brings with it a sense of royal splendour. Seen here is a pretty bench that finds its design roots in the Rococo, an exclusive style period that flourished in aristocratic France. Adorned in the finest hand-spun silk, this bench is multifunctional — it can be used as a separator in a large space, as a seater while entertaining guests or just to relax on. Delicate leaves and flet designs protrude and enliven the piece.



- 4 For those fond of fine living, nothing spells luxury more than vintage silver ware. The embossed silver tray with its floral motif and chiselling is sure to charm you with its opulence. Further, the vintage coffee and tea pot will add the right amount of magic when you have your daily cup of refreshments. The tray and sets are retailed separately.
- 5 These old pillars in Burma teak with fine carving are over 10 ft tall and embedded in stone. The vintage set of four have been sourced from old mansions and painstakingly restored. With their grandiose and stately disposition, they can add more character to a space.
- 6 The artwork by Himen Mazumdar may set you back a fair amount (he is one of India's finest artist who along with Jamini Roy and others set up the Indian Academy of Fine Art in Kolkata), but it surely will be the envy of all your friends.
- 7 Mouth-blown and hand-cut, these finally chiselled glass candle-stands are the perfect accessory to add a dramatic flair to your home. Add stalks of fresh flowers to make them vases; ` 7,000 (for two).



**8** Along with the Rocco bench, the colonial design-inspired sofa in pure silver draped in ox blood red breathes royal grandeur. Its beauty lies in its curvaceous form, which takes the contours of your body and allows you to literally sink in and be embraced by the soft textures of the fabric. A statement piece, the sofa can be incorporated into any decor for palatial drama.

**9** The Nizam is a smaller chandelier compared to Moussaieff, and stands three feet tall. This 10-edition piece has 16 arms and is hand blown and hand crafted. A true testament to the exquisite craftsmanship available in India, this beauty in gold will light up any space it adorns and add a warm golden hue to your interiors.

**10** The Moussaieff is a single-edition chandelier, which is a breathtaking spectacle in glass and crystal. The vibrant Moussaieff is a tribute to its namesake diamond, the largest red diamond known to mankind (Also known as the Red Shield

diamond, this jewel was discovered in Brazil, and was showed at the Smithsonian museum as a part of the Splendour of Diamonds).The chandelier is no less and is equally goegous — it is 12 foot long and five foot wide and has a jaw-dropping 48 arms. Additionally, 100 man hours were spent gold leafing and painting the many shades that adorn this piece.

**11** Making the ground beneath your feet more stylish is a vintage silk on silk carpet with a rare geometric design. Made with vegetable dyed colours, the product's beauty has not been marred with age. Sourcing rare vintage carpets and restoring them to their former glory is one of the specialized services provided by the store.

**12** Art can be whimsical and this is best demonstrated by the beautifully carved wooden rocking horse in teak.

*Unlisted prices are on request. Prices are subject to taxes wherever applicable.*