



# Rings of the 20th and 21st Centuries

**The Alice and Louis Koch Collection  
Beatriz Chadour-Sampson**

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- Six hundred rings by international artist jewellers give an insight into the contemporary jewellery scene
- Author Beatriz Chadour-Sampson examines how the decorative item became a miniature work of art
- Sorted by country, the publication documents international trends of the last sixty years in artist jewellery

The Alice and Louis Koch Collection of finger rings was originally collated by a jeweller from Frankfurt am Main, once described as the German 'Cartier and Fabergé'. By 1909 the collection comprised 1,722 rings from Antiquity to 1900. Rene Lalique, a contemporary of the time, was included, undoubtedly as a moderniser of the ring form. In the past twenty-five years the fourth generation of the family continued where Louis Koch and his wife Alice left off and expanded the collection to include rings from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

This publication will present the complete collection of contemporary rings, now kept in the Swiss National Museum, Zurich. Nearly 600 rings by artist jewellers from around the world document how these miniature works of art have become modern sculptures showcasing new materials and techniques, daring designs and current themes.

Text in English and German.

Based in England **Beatriz Chadour-Sampson** is an international jewellery historian, scholarly author and lecturer. Her extensive publications range from Antiquity to the present day, such as the jewellery collection of the Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Cologne (1985) and *2000 Finger Rings from the Alice and Louis Koch Collection, Switzerland* (1994) of which she continues to be consultant curator for the Swiss National Museum, Zurich. She was consultant curator in the re-designing of the William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and guest curator of the Pearls exhibition. Currently she is involved in the research of the Asenbaum Collection, in the Dallas Museum of Art.