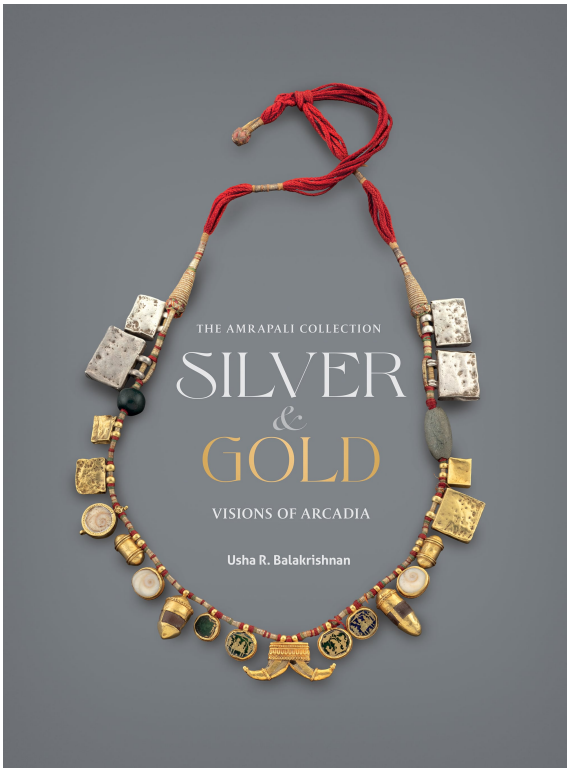
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Silver and Gold

Visions of Arcadia

Usha R Balakrishnan

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- Features one of the largest collections of pastoral jewelry in the world
- Includes jewelry from the diverse communities, religions, linguistic and cultural sensibilities across India
- Exhibits the amazing technical expertise of the traditional gold- and silversmiths of the country
- Presents the jewels as a visual language communicating design, tradition and artistic expression

More than 40 years ago, two friends, united by a passion for the decorative arts, embarked on an exploration of the unique jewels of India. They were motivated by the everyday jewels of the people in the villages—to discover the sources of their inspiration and to unravel the complex ritual of adornment that resulted in ornaments being fabricated for every part of the body, from the top of the head to the toes. The result was the creation of the Amrapali Collection of Indian Jewellery, one of the largest collections of pastoral silver jewellery in the world.

The manifold communities that this collection represents come from different religions, with linguistic differences and diverse cultural sensibilities, but the land that the jewels encompass is geographically contiguous. They exhibit the amazing technical expertise of simple gold- and silversmiths. This volume presents the jewels in all their glory, and as a visual language communicating design, aesthetics, tradition and, above all, the artistic expression of adorning the body.

Dr. Usha R. Balakrishnan is the Chief Curator of the World Diamond Museum and a preeminent historian of Indian jewelry. She is the author of several publications, including *Alamkara: The Beauty of Ornament*, and has co-authored most recently *Treasures of the Deccan: Jewels of the Nizams*, one of the two-volume publication devoted to the fabulous jewels and seminal collection of paintings inherited by the Nizams of Hyderabad. Her curatorial projects include *India: Jewels that Enchanted the World* at the Moscow Kremlin Museum, *Enduring Splendor: The Jewelry of India's Thar Desert* at the Fowler Museum, Los Angeles, and *Shringara: Adornment* at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) Museum, Mumbai.

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