

THE MET GALA 2025

A Deep Dive into the Evolution of Jewelry Trends



The Met Gala is not just an annual spectacle of fashion. It's a mirror reflecting the changing values, creativity, and cultural climate of our times. While haute couture gowns tend to dominate headlines, for those in the jewelry industry, it's the sparkle and symbolism of the accessories that truly tell the deeper story. And this year, that story was one of heritage, reimagination, color, and identity.

The Lab Perspective: Observing the Trends Up Close

At Gemological Science International (GSI), we enjoy a unique privilege to work directly with jewelry retailers, designers, manufacturers as well as gem traders, examining thousands of jewelry pieces every week. What walks into our labs often predicts what is up and coming and gives us a reasonable hint on what will walk onto the red carpet months later. This access gives us a powerful lens through which we witness emerging preferences and market shifts, sometimes even before they make headlines. Over the past year, we've seen a growing demand for personalized and repurposed pieces, an uptick in colored gemstone certifications, and the revival of family heirlooms being transformed into modern expressions. It's not just about aesthetics anymore; it's about storytelling.

From a gemological point of view, we're seeing an expansion in the diversity of stones used, not just emeralds, sapphires, rubies, and timeless diamonds, but a new wave of morganites, spinels, tourmalines, aquamarines, kunzites, peridots, and even moonstones and opals entering high jewelry. These aren't passing trends; they represent a

broader acceptance of individuality and emotional resonance over brand-led conventions. This shift also includes men's jewelry; a category that's growing not just in volume but in imagination. Men today are experimenting with everything from rings and lapel pins to earrings, brooches, pearl strands, tennis bracelets and single line neck pieces and heritage-inspired cufflinks. They're not shy about embracing statement pieces that would once be considered too opulent or too "fashion forward."

Through our certification process, we can see how consumers are not only valuing uniqueness, but also returning to their roots, reviving old treasures, mixing classic cuts, rose cut diamonds with modern silhouettes, and embracing color like never before.

A Night Where Jewelry Was the Story

This year's Met Gala was a celebration of art and fashion archives, but its jewelry choices brought that idea of revival to life in the most personal way.

Heirlooms Reimagined

Isha Ambani's appearance was a classic example of blending tradition with modernity. Adorning herself with heirloom pieces from her mother's collection, she showcased an 80.73-carat cushion-cut diamond



necklace, reminiscent of the Maharaja of Nawanagar's 1931 Cartier creation. The necklace, featuring 89 diamonds totaling 481.42 carats, took approximately 15,000 hours to craft. Her ensemble was further elevated by a "sarpech" worn at the waist, a family heirloom previously seen on Nita and Anant Ambani. Such instances highlight a growing trend: the younger generation's inclination to repurpose and reinterpret ancestral jewelry, breathing new life into timeless pieces.

Originally commissioned by Maharaja Ranjitsinhji of Nawanagar, this remarkable necklace was crafted using rare colored diamonds. After his passing, the piece was dismantled and eventually lost. Cartier later recreated it using crystals, and the design gained renewed attention when it appeared in the film 'Ocean's 8', where the storyline centered around its theft at the Met Gala. Now, the Ambani family has reimagined this iconic necklace at an entirely new level. Nita Ambani commissioned its recreation using 481 carats of natural diamonds. This is more than a piece of high jewelry; it's a legacy revived with unmatched craftsmanship.

One of the most powerful undercurrents we're seeing, both in our labs and at events like the Met, is the rise of emotional luxury. Consumers are no longer just looking for high-value gemstones; they're seeking connection, memory, and meaning. Nowadays, we are increasingly observing heirlooms taking center stage. In our work, we're increasingly seeing heirlooms come in for gemstone identification, metal purity testing, and also screening for possible lab-grown!.

Pieces that belonged to grandmothers are now reinterpreted as engagement rings. A brooch from the 1960s may find its place as a pendant in a multi-strand necklace. We see family treasures reimagined into newer silhouettes; brooches converted into chokers, diamond bracelets layered with enamel bangles, or earrings worn asymmetrically to reflect a more avant-garde look. Pieces that had been passed down through generations aren't just worn; they are given new life by newer generations.

The Rise of Colored Gemstones

Celebrities have also stepped away from the expected; trading massive diamonds for narrative-rich colored stones. Emeralds were everywhere, reminding us of their regal allure, but so were unexpected choices. Morganites, with their soft blush tones, made quiet but powerful statements. Spinel and tourmalines added playful color stories, while pearls, long considered classic, emerged in experimental forms, strung in tiers, wrapped around necks, and even styled in men's looks. In fact, Pharrell, Men's Creative Director for Louis Vuitton, wore a meticulously hand-stitched jacket made with approximately 15,000 pearls.

Designers such as Cartier, Boucheron, and Bvlgari leaned into both archival glamour and modern edge, creating pieces that honored the past while signaling the future. Emerging independent brands, too, made waves offering customized pieces with sustainability narratives, modularity, and emotional context.

Emeralds: The Gemstone of the Moment

Emeralds have firmly established themselves as the gemstone of choice for

many. Priyanka Chopra's appearance in Bvlgari's Magnus Emerald Necklace, featuring a 241.06-carat octagonal emerald, was a testament to this trend. The necklace, set in platinum and surrounded by a mix of diamonds and buff-top emeralds, exemplified Roman opulence. Lucia Silvestri, Bvlgari's creative director, emphasized the importance of enhancing the gem's unique "liquid" quality without adding unnecessary weight.

Diljit Dosanjh also embraced emeralds, donning a layered diamond set by Golecha's Jewels, inspired by the iconic Patiala necklace. His ensemble, complete with a bejeweled turban and ceremonial sword, paid homage to Sikh grandeur and the rich tapestry of Indian royalty.

While emeralds took center stage, other colored gemstones made notable appearances. Anne Hathaway debuted Bvlgari's Cosmic Vault Necklace, centered with a 123.35-carat royal blue sugarloaf sapphire, complemented by 331 buff-top sapphires and over 300 diamonds. The increasing popularity of gemstones like morganites, aquamarines, and tourmalines indicates a shift towards more diverse and personalized choices in jewelry.

Men's Jewelry: A Nod to History

Men at the Met Gala showcased a renewed interest in jewelry, drawing inspiration from historical figures and motifs. Shah Rukh Khan's Sabyasachi ensemble featured monogrammed horn buttons and a Bengal Tiger cane set in gold, evoking images of maharajas draped in pearls and gemstones. A\$AP Rocky stood out with Bvlgari's High Jewelry pieces, including a 12.29-carat pear-shaped ruby necklace and a brooch centered with a 15.34-carat cushion-shaped peridot. His ability to mix jewelry periods, from Edwardian to contemporary, highlights a broader trend of men embracing ornate and historically inspired jewelry.



Accessories and Statement Pieces

Beyond necklaces and rings, accessories like brooches, hairpins, and luxury watches gained prominence. Zendaya's back brooch, Lisa's pearl chain, and Teyana Taylor's serpentine back ornament highlighted the versatility and statement-making potential of such pieces.

Luxury watches, long the staple of men's jewelry, were complemented with colored gemstone accents, intricate metal work, and bespoke engraving. Maluma's Jacob & Co. Billionaire III Emeralds watch, valued at \$5 million, was a standout accessory.

The GSI Wrap-Up: A Lab's View of Jewelry's Future

What we saw at the Met Gala this year and what we continue to see across GSI's global labs is that jewelry is no longer confined by rules. It's an open canvas, blending tradition and innovation, sentiment and style, rarity and accessibility.

From a gemological standpoint, this is a thrilling time. Our labs are increasingly certifying non-traditional gemstones, often in custom cuts or freeform settings. We're testing materials used in newly fashioned heirloom pieces and noting the increasing demand for stones like zircon, chrysoberyl, labradorite, and even treated or composite gems that are chosen not for their rarity but their personal resonance. We're seeing consumers become more educated, asking the right questions, seeking certifications not just for high-value pieces, but for everything that holds emotional value. This rise in awareness is encouraging. It's shaping a future where jewelry isn't just about trends; it's about identity, memory, and legacy.

The Met Gala offered a dazzling visual of this transition, but for us at GSI, it's a story we witness unfolding every single day.

Image source:

Vogue, Heritage Lab, web



By
Ramit Kapur
Managing Director
Gemological Science International (GSI)

