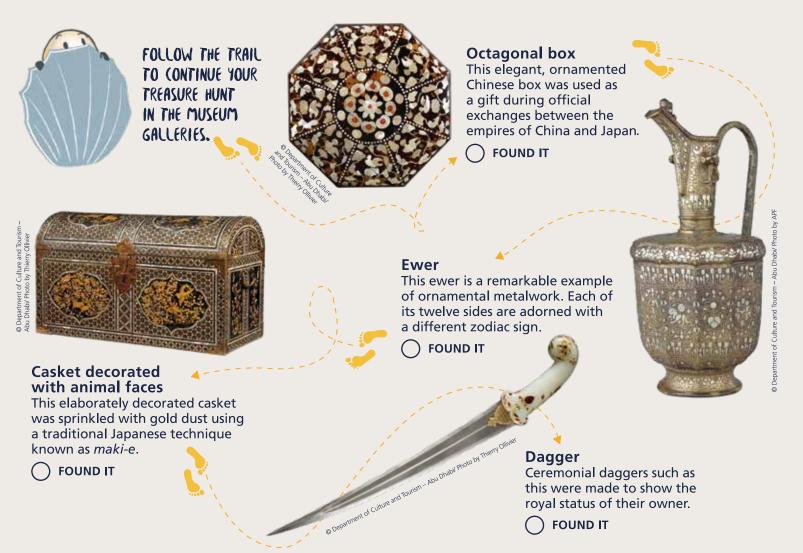
# ARE YOU READY TO EXPLORE 10,000 YEARS OF LUXURY?



Let's discover what luxury is across different times and cultures through more than 350 objects, artworks, and treasures from important local and international museums and fashion houses.

LET'S BEGIN!





RIOOLES AND STICKERS





Introduction

# RIOOLE

I belonged to a woman whose voice stole the show!

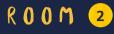
I can also be the star, with my glitter and glow.

## OIO YOU KNOW?

This necklace reflects the UAE's long history in pearling. The discovery of the world's oldest known pearl in Marawah Island, Abu Dhabi, shows how pearls have been harvested and valued for nearly 8000 years. This beautiful necklace was gifted to the great singer Umm Kulthum by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father of the UAE. With nine rows, it is decorated with pearls, gemstones and gold pendants.

### A(TIVITY

Where would you wear this sparkling necklace if it were given to you?



The Origins of Luxury

# RIOOLE

Like the moon and stars against night skies,

My pearls and dark hair will catch your eyes.

The type of jewellery in this portrait was considered to be the most expensive and popular during the Roman period, 2,000 years ago. The most beautiful pearls were from the island of Dilmun, in present day Bahrain.

# A(TIVITY

Try to find other precious objects decorated with pearls in the exhibition.



Luxury at the Table

# RIOOLE

You'll find me in your tea cup,

When you want to cosy up.

I go round and round in circles, you see.

Oh, how much fun that is for me.

In Europe around 500 years ago, spoons were regarded as personal items. Although this spoon was not for tea, many guests used to bring their own spoons when invited to lavish meals.

### A(TIVITY

The handle of the spoon is made of silver, and the head is made of a very luxurious material.

Can you guess what it is?

- Ivory
- Shell
- Rock



The Thousand Faces of Luxury

# RIOOLE

Look closer... and take a sneak peek.

I am metal and shiny, with words around me.

When you see me, you'll find what you seek.

The craftsmen of Mosul, Iraq, created many of these luxurious basins around 800 years ago. Some of these may have been part of an Iraqi prince's collection, or given to other royals as gifts.

## A(TIVITY

Look at all the objects in the room. Which one would you offer as a gift of friendship?



Luxury at Court

# RIOOLE

Well-decorated twins, with a flower considered so rare.

How beautiful it would be, for you to stop and stare.

The tulip was a rare flower in Europe 400 years ago. Many people had tulip vases made for them to reflect their wealth.

## A(TIVITY

What is the most beautiful flower from your home country?
Why would you choose this flower to decorate a vase?



The Far Reaches of Luxury

# RIOOLE

Though I have horns, fangs and fire,

Fear me not! Come close and admire.

The object here represents a 'Qilin', a Chinese mythological animal associated with wisdom, peace and prosperity.

## A(TIVITY

Take a closer look and find these details:

- Beard
- Red flowers
  - Blue scales



Beyond Luxury

# RIOOLE

You would take me with you for a picnic in the park,

To eat and enjoy 'til it starts to get dark.

This lunch set is an example of what you would find at a luxury Parisian boutique around 300 years ago. Such shops also sold other luxurious objects, like furniture and paintings.

## A(TIVITY

In the shop in front of you, have fun finding a birdcage and a perfume fountain.



The Luxury Industries

# RIDOLE

Beautiful blue rays shine from within,

Reflecting the meanings my words were given.

# OIO YOU KNOW?

Two hundred years ago,
Europeans were fascinated by
objects that came from the Orient:
Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.
European artists would often imitate
their forms and decorations.

# A(TIVITY

The objects in this showcase are special because of the Arabic calligraphy.

If you were to design a lamp for your bedroom, what would you write on it?

# ROOM 11

The Ambivalences of Luxury

# RIOOLE

Foxes, squirrels, parrots, a rabbit...

There is a whole zoo in the forest I inhabit.

# OIO YOU KNOW?

This decorative screen is from a fashion designer's dining room! It impressed many guests thanks to its fine details and the way the gold threads play with the light.

### A(TIVITY

If you were recreating this screen, what would you do differently?
Which colours or animals would you include?



Simple Luxury

# RIOOLE

I can keep you warm when it's cold.

Try to find me before I get sold!

This entirely hand-made jacket is made from ostrich feathers. While the delicate art of feather work is very ancient, it remains popular in today's fashion designs.

## A(TIVITY

In this showcase, there is also a dress made from feathers. Can you find it? How is it different from the jacket?



The Great Luxury of Time

# RIOOLE

I'm always moving forward; never going back.

With this much time, you'll never lose track!

This hourglass represents how time today is viewed as a luxury. The gold-plated nano beads show the importance of each passing second in our lives.

# A(TIVITY

Take a minute to think about how this hourglass is related to luxury. Why is time important to you?



- A. Necklace presented to the celebrated singer Umm Kulthūm by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, India, c. 1880, Zayed National Museum
- B. The Hourglass (Le Sablier), Marc Newson, Switzerland, 2015
- C. Coat, Lemarié, c. 1985, Musée des Arts Décoratifs D. Shell spoon, Germany? 16th century, Musée des Arts Décoratifs



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- E. Basin, Signed Dāwud ibn Salāma al-Mawsilī, Iraq or Syria, 1252 1253, Musée du Louvre, on long-term loan from the Musée des Arts Décoratifs
- F. Painted portrait, Egypt, Antinopolis, Mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century, Musée du Louvre G. Pair of pyramid vases, Netherlands, c. 1700 1710, Musée des Arts Décoratifs
- H. Qilin, a mythological animal, China, 1736 1896, Musée des Arts Décoratifs





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- I. Travel luncheon set, France, c. 1740, Musée des Arts Décoratifs J. Mosque lamp, France, c. 1885, Musée des Arts Décoratifs
- K. Ten-leaved foxes screen, Armand-Albert Rateau, France, Paris, c. 1921-2, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, 1965