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THE JEWELLERY MUSEUM,

A PRECIOUS TREASURE CHEST IN THE HEART OF VICENZA

[www.museodelgioiello.it](http://www.museodelgioiello.it/)

The first museum of its kind in Italy and one of only a few in the world dedicated exclusively to jewellery art, **Vicenza’s Jewellery Museum** is a permanent 410-square-metre exhibition venue located inside the **Basilica Palladiana**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of the city's historic centre. Opened in 2014 as an **Italian Exhibition Group S.p.A.** project and, since 2025, managed by Vicenza Holding S.p.A., the company that represents the Municipality of Vicenza, the Province of Vicenza and the Vicenza Chamber of Commerce within the scope of the trade show company and organiser of the **Vicenzaoro** international jewellery show. The museum aims to celebrate the tradition of one of Italy's most important goldsmithing districts, offering an original aesthetic and educational experience regarding an object with ancient origins and deeply rooted in human culture. With fittings designed by **Patricia Urquiola**, the museum covers two floors: the ground floor boasts a **bookshop** with national and international publications on the subject and a second room for **temporary exhibitions and workshops**; the **permanent exhibition area,** where long-term exhibitions are hosted, is on the upper floor.

**THE 2021-2025 *ITALIAN JEWELLERY* EXHIBITION**

The evolution of **Made in Italy jewellery** is the focus of the exhibition staged over the five-year period 2021-2025 entitled ***Gioielli Italiani*** (Italian Jewellery), explored through an exhibition itinerary divided into nine rooms: **Symbol, Magic, Function, Beauty, Art, Fashion, Design** and **Future**. The exhibition, curated by **Alba Cappellieri**, full professor at Milan Polytechnic and Stanford University, features the best national goldsmithing stories with a selection of **270 works** by artists, artisans, designers and major jewellery houses. From the sparkle of gold, diamonds and precious stones to the evocative colours of coral and cameos, from filigree work to micro-mosaic miniatures, the Jewellery Museum's precious narrative guides visitors through space and time amid artefacts dating back to the 4th millennium BC to creations from 2020. Among the items on display, the Museum boasts the **Crown and Pectoral of the Madonna of Monte Berico**, unique creations composed of jewels and votive offerings donated in honour of the city's patron saint by noble families from Vicenza and even by Pope Leo XIII, who laid the foundations of the Church's social doctrine. A work of extremely high craftsmanship, it is still an emblem of Vicenza's long and prestigious goldsmithing tradition, which has been documented since 1399, the year in which the “Fraglia degli Orafi”, the goldsmiths’ guild, was established.

**ERAS, FUNCTIONS, CURIOSITIES: THE MOST PARTICULAR PIECES ON DISPLAY**

The Jewellery Museum’s nine rooms showcase different eras, materials, techniques and precious stories. They range from **the oldest piece**, an item made from wolves’ teeth and perforated shells (Magic Room), dating back to the **Copper Age (4th millennium BC),** to **a company made piece with the longest history**, the Autumn Leaves necklace (1996) by Gianmaria Buccellati, whose jewellery house was founded in Milan in 1919. **The most curious piece** is Brush Ring (2005), a real toothbrush to be worn on the finger, by Paolo Ulian, an artist attentive to the social aspect of design (Function Room), while **the most colourful** is the Firefly necklace (2018) by Sharra Pagano, made of glass and crystals in the spirit of the 1970s (Fashion Room). In the Design Room, another curious piece is the Reading Ring (2004) designed by Matteo Ragni: a small object with wings that hold the pages open while you wear it. The **most original material** is found in D'Orica's Living Jewellery (2012) necklace (Sala Futuro), composed of gold elements framing 20 photovoltaic cells that emulate photosynthesis using a magenta dye enclosed between crystal glass. These bright cells are connected via micro-tunnels in the gold frames to transfer the energy needed to power a hidden microcircuit, which allows the necklace to light up. In the Beauty Room, **architecture blends with jewellery**: on display the Lucca Ring (2017) by Alessio Boschi, in rose and white gold, white, black and champagne diamonds, ruby, brown sapphire, yellow diamonds and tsavorites, modelled on the Tuscan city’s amphitheatre square. The Symbol Room boasts a **typical example of Venetian goldsmithing** from the late 18th century, known as the **Manin chain**, whose name derives from the technique used to make it: the tiny rings that make up the necklaces were joined together by small, skilled hands to form numerous strands, which were then divided by mothers into equal parts for their daughters and given as dowries. **The thinnest gold threads** are in the Art Room, where Giovanni Corvaja's Golden Fleece (2008) is on display: soft to the touch like a cloak, it embodies the Greek myth and is the result of 1,300 hours of work, 28 kilometres of gold thread, 1,241,856 gold strands and 4,000 platinum granules, weighing 324 grams. Then there is **the most spectacular cameo**, God's Victory over the Virus, made in 2020 by the historic Ottaviano workshop in Torre del Greco, which contains about 55 figures, including the archangel Gabriel beginning the battle to destroy the Covid-19 virus. Also on display is **the piece created to celebrate the end of the pandemic**: Cuore (Heart) by Crivelli (2020), synonymous with rebirth, rediscovery and the importance of personal relationships.

**A new exhibition will open at the end of the year with a fresh concept and content, for yet another season dedicated to the best Made in Italy goldsmithing tradition.**

**GOLDSMITHING CLASSES. ACTIVITIES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS**

The Jewellery Museum is not just an exhibition venue, it is a place that comes alive with events and initiatives open to the public to promote a unique artistic and cultural heritage, involving the younger generations and adding to the city's tourist offer. Activities on offer include themed **workshops** and **guided tours** for **children and families** in collaboration with the **Scatola Cultura** association. For adults wanting to discover the secrets of jewellery making, a series of **workshops** are organised with **jewellery designer Barbara Uderzo**, whose works have been exhibited in international galleries and museums, such as La Triennale in Milan, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Berlin and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The Jewellery Museum also participates in **national cultural initiatives**, such as Museum Night, and in agreements and activities in collaboration with **Vicenza’s** **Civic Museums** (Palazzo Chiericati Civic Museum, Naturalistic Archaeological Museum, Risorgimento and Resistance Museum, Palazzo Thiene Galleries) and other museums in the city (Palladio Museum, Diocesan Museum). It also offers various types and levels of **educational programmes**.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

The Jewellery Museum is located inside the **Basilica Palladiana**, Piazza dei Signori, no. 44, Vicenza. It is part of the museum and monument circuit in the historic centre that can be visited with the VICENZA PLATINUM CARD, reserved for citizens and those born in Vicenza and its province (personal card at a cost of €20, unlimited admission for one year to 7 locations); VICENZA GOLD CARD (valid for 12 days from the date of purchase for 11 venues at a cost of €22, €17 reduced, €26 Family); VICENZA SILVER CARD (valid for 8 days from the date of purchase for 4 venues of your choice from the 11 on the circuit at a price of €16, reduced €14). In collaboration with the Vicenza è Consortium, which already coordinates the city's tourist locations, the operational management of the ticket office and bookshop.

**Opening times**: Tuesday to Friday 10 am – 1 pm and 3 pm – 6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am – 6 pm. For the event calendar and discounts: [www.museodelgioiello.it](http://www.museodelgioiello.it). For further information, please refer to the Museum’s social network channels on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/museodelgioiello/?ref=ts&fref=ts) and [Instagram.](https://www.instagram.com/museo_del_gioiello/)

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