

The Splendour of the Mughals and Maharajas: Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal

*A new Montblanc collection captures the opulence and magnificence of the
great Mughal jewellery traditions*

Pieces of fascinating beauty, Montblanc High Artistry editions bring together technical excellence and unrestrained creativity. Combining the many traditional skills honed over generations and today's high precision and high technology tools, Montblanc artisans have succeeded in taking their craft beyond functionality and into the realm of fine artistry. Leaning into the rare métiers d'arts nurtured in Montblanc's Ateliers, writing instruments are transformed into dazzling objets d'art that defy imagination. Goldsmiths and gem-setters demonstrate artistry and virtuosity to create magnificent high jewellery pieces, achieving challenging shapes and embellishing each piece with brilliant stones. Paying homage to the traditions of fine craftsmanship, each edition draws from Montblanc's rich heritage to articulate the story of great figures or cultural heritage sites. The new Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal Edition celebrates the rich artistic traditions of the Mughal dynasty in India and the influence of one of its most enlightened rulers, Shah Jahan.

Under the rule of the great emperor, Mughal art and architecture reached its zenith with the construction of the Taj Mahal of Agra. The monumental tomb was commissioned by the ruler as a declaration of love to his late wife Mumtaz who died in childbirth, and has become an enduring symbol of the magnificence of Indian culture. The latest High Artistry edition evokes the opulence of Mughal ornament and jewellery making, and its influence on Western craftsmanship. The elaborate writing masterpieces are inspired by the brilliant regalia of the maharajas, meticulously set with sparkling stones to achieve a level of rarity and sophistication.

The **Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal** collection is made up of three different precious writing instruments, each limited to just one piece worldwide, making it one-of-a-kind. Many techniques have been used to bring to life the fascinating world of the Mughal from stone cutting and setting to hand engraving, enamelling and elaborate gold work. While materials and gemstones may be different from one edition to the next, each one features a slightly curved shape inspired by a traditional Mughal dagger, an insignia of power. The cap top is reminiscent of the dome of the Taj Mahal, built during the Golden Age of the Mughals. The forepart of the pen features an intricate display of traditional Mughal decorations – India's famous landmark. While the edition does not feature a clip, a peacock feather adorns the front of the writing instrument, a reference to the peacock throne made for Shah Jahan in the early 17th century. Featuring two open gilded peacock's tails set with diamonds, rubies and other precious gemstones, it was regarded as one of the most magnificent throne ever made.

Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal, Limited Edition 1 Black Myth

The striking black and white design scheme of this edition is inspired by the legend that Shah Jahan planned to build himself a mirror image of the Taj Mahal, only in black. It was supposedly intended to stand on the opposite side of the Yamuna River from his wife's resting place.

- Writing instrument made from solid Au 750 white gold fully covered with thousands of black sapphires and brilliant cut diamonds in pavé-setting.
- 6.24 ct., FL round brilliant cut diamond as centre stone
- Peacock feather set with square and individual-cut diamonds, approx. 13.68 ct.; centre adorned with a white round opal cabochon that can be detached to reveal a lotus flower in mother-of-pearl marquetry beneath. The lotus is the national flower of India. It represents purity of heart and mind.
- Symbol of the eternal love between Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal, the solid Au 750 yellow gold nib is adorned with two love birds surrounded by flower and foliage, and set with a brilliant cut diamond.

Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal, Limited Edition 1 Insignia of Power

The name of this edition draws inspiration from the symbolism of the dagger in the Mughal tradition as an insignia of power. Shah Jahan received a personal dagger from his own father at the time of his crowning to confirm his powerful status.

- Writing instrument made of solid Au 750 yellow gold adorned with rough rubies set in a style reminiscent of traditional Kundan stone setting
- 6.42 ct., F VVS 2, old mine diamond as centre stone, representing the world's first diamond mines in India and the legendary stones that came from them.
- Peacock feather set with baguette and individual-cut diamonds; approx. 16.78 ct.; centre adorned with an engraved 2.45 ct. ruby cabochon that can be detached to reveal a miniature enamel painting of a daisy beneath, traditional symbol of true love.
- Nib made of solid Au 750 yellow gold adorned with two love birds set with a brilliant cut diamond.

Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal, Limited Edition 1 Tears of the Moon

At the Mughal court and throughout the empire, emeralds had a special name and meaning. Called "Tears of the Moon" because of their mysterious green fire ranging from lunar opacity to clear transparency, emeralds were often inscribed with sacred text. These dynastic heirlooms passed from father to son, were worn as personal talismans.

- Writing instrument made of solid Au 750 yellow gold adorned with rubies, emeralds and diamonds that are set in a style reminiscent of traditional Kundan stone setting.
- 6.10 ct., step-cut emerald as centre stone
- Peacock feather set with square and individual-cut diamonds; approx. 14.79 ct.; centre adorned with an individual rose cut diamond, detachable to reveal a miniature enamel painting of a bird beneath.
- Symbol of the eternal love between Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal, the solid Au 750 yellow gold nib is adorned with two love birds and set with a tsavorite.

Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal, Limited Edition 5

Honouring old Kundan stone setting & engraving techniques, the design of this edition of just five pieces is reminiscent of the delicate arabesques and flower garlands that adorn the white marble façade of the Taj Mahal.

- Made of solid Au 750 yellow gold, the cap and barrel are artfully hand engraved with Mughal motifs.
- Approx. 1.9 ct., IF, brilliant cut diamond as centre stone
- Cone and cap top embellished with rubies, emeralds and diamonds set in a style reminiscent of the Kundan stone setting technique.
- Peacock feather set with square and individual-cut diamonds; centre adorned with an oval faceted ruby that can be detached to reveal a hand-engraving of a fern beneath, a traditional filigree technique motif.
- Nib made of solid Au 750 yellow gold adorned with the two love birds engraving and a brilliant cut diamond.

Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal, Limited Edition 10

A tribute to the craftsmanship of the Mughal dynasty, the writing instrument is entirely decorated with beautifully engravings inspired by the traditional granulation technique and ancient Indian hand engravings.

- Made of solid Au 750 champagne-tone gold, with a cone adorned with diamonds. The delicate rhombus and triangle decorations that adorn the cap, cap top and barrel are inspired by granulation art and honour the refinement of Indian jewellery making.
- Peacock feather set with white sapphires, baguette cut, in a famed channel setting effect, centre adorned with a round cabochon malachite.
- Yellow sapphire, approx. 3.75 ct. as the centre stone
- Nib made of solid Au 750 champagne-tone gold adorned with the two symbolic love birds.

Montblanc High Artistry, A Celebration of the Taj Mahal, Limited Edition 76

A red lacquer and champagne-tone gold edition inspired by the extraordinary magnificence of Maharajas and the art forms that flourished during their reign. The red colour represents the love and passion between Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It also mirrors the colour of the stone inlays on the Taj Mahal.

- Made of solid Au 750 champagne-tone gold, with a cap and barrel featuring dark red lacquer inlays.
- Peacock feather is made of polished gold, rhodium-coated; adorned with mother-of-pearl “rose” at its centre underneath a solid gold grid and a brilliant-cut diamond in the middle.
- Cap top adorned with a mother-of-pearl emblem in black onyx.

A universally admired masterpiece, the Taj Mahal is the ‘jewel of the Mughal Empire’, the ultimate expression of the skill, creativity and opulence of this dynasty. With its own passion for craftsmanship and artistry, Montblanc brings to life the exceptional beauty of the art, architecture and craftsmanship that flourished under the great Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.



About Montblanc

Synonymous with excellence in craftsmanship and design, Montblanc has been pushing the boundaries of innovation ever since the Maison first revolutionized the culture of writing in 1906. Ingenuity and imagination continue to be driving forces for the Maison today as it advances its expression of fine craftsmanship across product categories: luxury writing instruments, watches, leather goods, new technologies and accessories. Reflecting upon its ongoing mission to create fine lifetime companions born from bold ideas and expertly crafted through the skills of the Maison's artisans, the iconic Montblanc Emblem has become the ultimate seal of performance, quality and an expression of sophisticated style. With its origins deeply rooted in the culture of handwriting, Montblanc continues to assert its cultural commitment around the world honouring modern day patrons who support the advancement of the arts, as well as wide-ranging initiatives that promote arts and culture.

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