

Single progressing strand of pearls

£445



Description

A single progressing strand of cultured pearls with a platinum and diamond clasp, circa 1920.

Cultured pearls revolutionised the jewellery industry in the early 20th century. Their history traces back to Japan, where Kokichi Mikimoto pioneered the process in 1893. By implanting irritants into oysters, Mikimoto replicated natural pearl formation. This innovation democratised pearls, making them more accessible than rare, natural pearls.

The industry flourished, with Akoya pearls leading the market, later joined by South Sea and Tahitian varieties. Cultured pearls remain symbols of elegance, blending natural beauty with human ingenuity.