

## **Lady Gaga Just Showed up to the Oscars in One of the World's Most Famous Pieces of Jewelry**

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Country LivingFebruary 25, 2019Best Actress nominee Lady Gaga arrived at the 2019 Oscars in a custom Alexander McQueen gown with major Audrey Hepburn vibes-and one of the most iconic pieces of jewelry in history.

The Tiffany diamond, the most notable piece in the Tiffany & Co. archives, is a 128.54-carat fancy yellow diamond which typically sits on display (under lock and key) in the brand's Fifth Avenue flagship location. Given the value and its place in the 142-year history of the brand, this marks its third occasion of being worn publicly.

The diamond was first discovered in South Africa in 1877, and acquired by Tiffany one year later. Upon its discovery, the stone was 287.42 carats, and was later cut down by Dr. George Frederick Kunz, Tiffany's chief gemologist at the time, into its current shape, a cushion-cut brilliant with 82 facets-24 more facets than a standard brilliant-cut stone.

The Tiffany diamond was first worn by Mrs. Mary Sheldon Whitehouse at the 1957 Tiffany Ball in Newport, Rhode Island. Following that public appearance, Audrey Hepburn was granted permission to wear the diamond, in a Jean Schlumberger necklace of diamond ribbons surrounding the stone, for publicity photographs for her iconic role in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. According to the brand, "For Tiffany's 175th anniversary in 2012, this priceless gem was reset in a magnificent necklace of dazzling white diamonds, totaling over 100 carats."

The Tiffany Diamond has never been worn to an award show in its history.

As for the price of the necklace in its current setting, the piece is not for sale, though it once was. Tiffany & Co. famously published an advertisement for the diamond in 1972 in the *New York Times*, offering any interested parties 24 hours to purchase the stone for \$5,000,000 (approximately \$30,000,000 today). According to Tiffany, "whether for reasons of thrift or disbelief, there were no buyers."

Lady Gaga, the singer-songwriter-turned-actress, is known for making history, so it comes as no surprise that her nomination for a Best Actress Oscar offers an ideal setting for the diamond's first-ever appearance on the red carpet.