**Rolls-Royce**

## Media Information

**THE ROLLS-ROYCE ‘SPIRIT OF ECSTASY’
FABERGÉ EGG**

9 April 2020, Goodwood

As we approach the festive Easter season, Rolls-Royce is pleased to share previously unreleased images of the Spirit of Ecstasy Fabergé Egg, a contemporary objet d’art created for a discerning collector of Rolls-Royce and Fabergé.

The history of Fabergé Eggs is closely linked with Easter. In 1885, Emperor Alexander III of Russia wanted to give his wife, Empress Maria Feodorovna, a truly memorable Easter gift. The chocolate Easter egg that had first gone on sale in Britain a dozen years before fell far short of the exacting standards set by the towering, forceful man. Something altogether more impressive, magnificent and enduring was required.

The Emperor therefore commissioned the celebrated Saint Petersburg jeweller House of Fabergé to create a spectacular jewelled egg. The firm obliged with an egg crafted from gold, with an opaque white enamelled shell that opened to reveal a yellow-gold yolk. This contained a golden hen, which in turn concealed a tiny diamond replica of the Imperial crown, from which a small ruby pendant was suspended.

The Emperor was so delighted that giving Fabergé eggs became an Easter tradition for Russia’s ruling dynasty. The firm produced a further nine exquisite examples for Alexander during his reign, and 40 for his successor Tsar Nicholas II (who was also a connoisseur of fine motor cars: his collection famously included a Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost finished in a suitably imperial shade of purple).

Many of these remarkable Imperial Eggs were lost following the Revolution of 1917. The survivors are now among the most coveted and valuable objets d’art ever created. In 2014, the Third Imperial Fabergé Egg, dating from 1887, was sold at auction in London for a reputed $33 million.

In 2018, Fabergé and Rolls-Royce joined forces to produce a new, contemporary Imperial Egg on behalf of a patron of both luxury houses. Only the second object to be commissioned in the Imperial Class – a category reserved for Fabergé’s most illustrious creations – since the fall of the Romanovs in 1917, the Spirit of Ecstasy Fabergé Egg reflects the extraordinary attention to detail and consummate craftsmanship for which both brands are renowned worldwide.

Conceived by Rolls-Royce and brought to life by Fabergé, the egg stands at 160mm high and weighs 400g, embodying the ‘surprise and delight’ attributes of the original Imperial Eggs.

The Egg rests on an engine-turned, hand-engraved, purple enamel guilloché base of 18-carat white gold. Arms of rose gold define the shape of the egg, acting as a protective chamber for its precious contents. Operating a discreet lever at the base of the stand opens the shell to reveal a Spirit of Ecstasy figurine hand-sculpted in frosted rock crystal. The rose gold vanes, embellished with nearly 10 carats of round white diamonds, resolve into swathes of natural amethyst weighing over 390 carats, specially selected for its colour saturation and quality. The purple hue of the enamel and amethyst provide a playful nod to the use of colour found in Fabergé’s heritage.

The operating mechanism, thought to be the most complicated ever created for a Fabergé Egg, blends the latest computer-aided design and micro-engineering technology with the traditional goldsmiths’ art.

The ‘Spirit of Ecstasy’ Fabergé Egg was premiered at the House of Rolls-Royce in Goodwood, West Sussex, England, to a party of distinguished guests and patrons in October 2018, before going on public display in the window of Fabergé’s premises in London’s Mayfair.

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**Editors’ notes:**

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the BMW Group and is a completely separate company from Rolls-Royce plc, the manufacturer of aircraft engines and propulsion systems. Over 2,000 skilled men and women are employed at the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars’ head office and manufacturing plant at Goodwood, West Sussex, the only place in the world where the company’s super-luxury motor cars are hand-built.

**Further information:**

You can find all our press releases and press kits, as well as a wide selection of high resolution, downloadable photographs and video footage at our media website, [PressClub](http://www.press.rolls-roycemotorcars.com/).

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