



Malachite

From a country plagued by civil war and fighting for independence since the early 1900's comes a mineral so beautiful that it is difficult to accept it without consideration for the turmoil of its people.

Due to the continued unrest in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa, it is difficult to source Malachite today. From a colleague in Belgium, René was able to secure this parcel of Malachite which had been mined and carved in the period between 1908 and 1960 when the country was the Belgium Congo, later known as Zaïre.



These often clumsy carvings are very typical of Zaïre and a testament to the African craftsman who carved them by hand more than 50 years ago.



Malachite makes stunning jewellery, often cut into cabochons and set into sterling silver. Except for its vibrant green color, the properties of Malachite are similar to those of

Azurite and the two minerals often occur together. Crystal Malachite appears as fibrous, needle-like crystals or drusy clusters.



Malachite is also found in Australia, USA, Mexico and Russia.