

## **For Immediate Release**

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### ***CHRISTIE'S SALE OF MAGNIFICENT JEWELS PRESENTS RARE AND TREASURED GEMSTONES AND NOTABLE ESTATE COLLECTIONS***

#### **Magnificent Jewels**

**April 12**

**New York, NY** – Leading the international jewelry market into the spring auction season on April 12, Christie's sale of *Magnificent Jewels* will present treasured gemstones and flawless diamonds that transcend the traditional jewelry market. Important and exquisite jewelry from notable estates will also be offered, including the collections of Mrs. Jane Engelhard, Mrs. Caroline Wiess Law and Mrs. Lucille Roberts.

#### **Diamonds**

Leading the sale is a magnificent D color and flawless rectangular-cut diamond ring of 50.01 carats by Laurence Graff (estimate: \$3,000,000-4,000,000). The pinnacle of perfection, the stone's remarkable beauty is attributed to the exceptional cut showing wonderful elegance in such a large gem. Mr. Graff is known as one of the world's leaders in the diamond industry having handled some of the most spectacular gemstones including The Idol's Eye, The Emperor Maximilian, The Porter Rhodes, The Windsor Diamonds and The Hope of Africa.

A signature piece from the important jewelry collection of Mrs. Jane Engelhard is a magnificent rectangular-cut diamond ring of 34.15 carats by Van Cleef & Arpels. The stone is G color and VVS2 clarity and exhibits elegant proportions and shape (estimate: \$600,000-800,000). Mrs. Engelhard was a fixture of international society holding positions as a Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a Trustee of the Pierpont Morgan Library, a member of the Trust Fund Board of The Library of Congress, and a founding member of Jacqueline Kennedy's committee to restore the White House. She led a stylish and glamorous life with husband Charles W. Engelhard who was a powerful figure in the international finance and business community.

From the Estate of Lucille Roberts is a suite of antique diamond jewelry including a two-strand rivière necklace of graduated old mine and old European-cut diamonds and suspending a two-stone old mine-cut diamond pendant, and a pair of ear pendants *en suite* (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). Mrs. Lucille Roberts was considered the diva of women's health and fitness by creating the first unique 'women-only' gym environment in the American Northeast in the 1960s.

Other diamond highlights include a fancy intense yellow square-cut diamond ring of 50.04 carats (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000) and a marquise-cut D color, internally flawless diamond pendant necklace of 24.84 carats that exhibits superb purity of color and an exceptionally high degree of transparency (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000).

### **Colored Stones**

The ideal gem, highly romanticized and once worthy of kings, is a Burmese oval-cut ruby of 8.01 carats (estimate on request). Its pigeon-red color typical of old Burmese material and strong fluorescence, which makes the stone illuminate from within, are qualities that define a true rarity. It also possesses a flawless clarity, perfect size and cut. Rubies from Burma, one of the most valuable gem deposits in the world, are exceedingly rare and this exceptional example is a treasure of international appeal.

An exquisite octagonal-cut emerald ring of 14.75 carats by Bulgari (estimate: \$400,000-500,000) will also highlight the sale. The emerald comes from a rich, old Columbian mine and is characteristic of old Indian material that was favored by royalty as early as the 1700s.

From the estate of Caroline Wiess Law sold to benefit The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is an important and exquisite cushion-cut Ceylon sapphire ring of 41.20 carats (estimate: \$120,000-150,000). Caroline Wiess Law was a philanthropist from Texas and a remarkable patron of the arts as well as a connoisseur of culture and beauty. Her unwavering dedication to 20<sup>th</sup> century art was shown in a \$25 million endowment of important artworks to The Museum of Fine Art in Houston. In honor of her forty-year commitment to the museum, the main building was renamed after her.

### **Exquisite Jewelry**

The sale also includes a large group of Art Nouveau pieces signed by the epoch's greatest jewelry makers. René Lalique created a genuine piece of art with a diamond and gold dog collar plaque set with four carved French ivory hawthorn flowers, circa 1902 (estimate: \$20,000-30,000). Also offered is an ivory, diamond and enamel pendant of an ivory nude with a blue enamel flowing headdress by Henri Vever (estimate: \$35,000-50,000) and Lucien Gaillard's enamel and gold pendant necklace of a sculpted gold fairy (estimate: \$18,000-22,000). Luis Masriera, one of the most significant Spanish Art Nouveau jewelers, will be represented in the sale with a rare ivory, enamel

and gem-set pendant brooch designed as a green, blue, pink and white *plique-à-jour* enamel gothic window (estimate: \$25,000-30,000).

A stunning antique enamel, ruby and diamond orchid brooch created by Tiffany & Co, as part of the 1889 *Exposition Universelle* in Paris (estimate: \$100,000-150,000), will also highlight the sale. The fascination with orchids reached its height in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was regarded as a symbol of wealth and prestige. Tiffany's masterpiece caused a stir, earning the firm a gold medal for their display.

Also featured is a great selection of retro jewelry including a spectacular and unique pair of emerald and diamond clip brooches by Paul Flato (estimate: \$30,000-50,000). Flato, a native Texan, was known for his whimsical designs, charismatic personality and sharp eye for style. By the late 1930s Fulco di Verdura became his chief designer and together they created sophisticated and amusing designs for Hollywood's leading ladies, such as Katherine Hepburn and Joan Crawford. By Van Cleef & Arpels is a retro diamond, ruby and gold 'Ludo-Hexagone' bracelet (estimate: \$25,000-30,000).

A most unusual jewel is an impressive suite of peridot, diamond and gold jewelry by the Spanish painter Salvador Dalí, circa 1960 (estimate: \$150,000-200,000). Dalí ventured into jewelry in the late 1930s as a further expression of his artistic talents. He drew special blue prints, worked directly with the jewelry manufacturer Alemany and Ertman in New York City, and picked his own stones, not only based on color and quality but also for the 'feel' of the stone.

An Egyptian-revival mother-of-pearl, coral and onyx carriage clock (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) is a wonderful Art Deco example by Cartier. Other highlights include a diamond *sankhla*, a modern interpretation of the flexible old Indian anklets, by Bhagat (estimate: \$150,000-200,000), a superb emerald and diamond necklace by Bulgari (estimate: \$350,000-500,000) and a cushion-cut Kashmir sapphire and diamond ring of 16.79 carats (estimate: \$200,000-300,000).

<b>Auction:</b>	Magnificent Jewels	April 12
<b>Viewing:</b>	Christie's Galleries at 20 Rockefeller Plaza	April 7-11

More information about Christie's sale of *Magnificent Jewels* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

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