

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Sara Fox +1 212 636 2680 sfox@christies.com

**INTERNALLY FLAWLESS DIAMOND OF 39.34 CARATS
TO SHINE AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK**

**Jewels ~ The New York Sale
16 April 2008**



New York – One of the most fascinating diamonds to be offered at auction this Spring will be featured in *The New York Sale* of Jewels at Christie's on April 16. The extremely rare cushion-cut diamond of 39.34 carats meets steep criteria — it is graded D color, internally flawless clarity, designated Type IIa, and maintains perfect symmetry and cut (estimate: \$6-8 million).

This superb gem embodies all the trademark characteristics sought-after in a special diamond; limpid transparency, extreme brilliance and a sophistication reserved for the finest diamonds reminiscent of important stones found in the fabled mines of Golconda in India and also Brazil and South Africa. Type IIa diamonds are exceptional gems of the diamond family which have no traces of the colorant nitrogen. The absence of this element, seen in 98% of diamonds, gives the stone a purity of color and degree of transparency that is observed only in the finest diamonds. In addition to its color, clarity and brilliance, the cut of this stone is paramount and has achieved an excellent rating for polish and symmetry, showcasing the diamond cutters focused skill. Its precise cut also allows it to stand perfectly balanced on its culet.

The exquisite cut and soft shape of the 39.34 carat cushion-cut diamond is reminiscent of another famous diamond, the Polar Star, renowned for its unsurpassed brilliance and precision cut. The Polar Star diamond, named for its eight-pointed star faceting arrangement, was discovered in an alluvial deposit of the Krishna River in India at the end of the 19th century. The Polar Star passed through the hands of many illustrious

owners including Joseph Bonaparte and Princess Tatiana Youssouppoff of the Russian elite. The Youssouppoff family is most remembered for their incredible jewelry collection, affiliation with the Romanovs and involvement in the murder of Rasputin. Prince Felix Youssouppoff fled from Russia during the Revolution, taking the treasured gem with him. It was eventually sold to the House of Cartier and offered at auction at Christie's Geneva in 1980.

“The old world charm of this beautiful gem along with a softness to its cut and its superb brilliance ranks it amongst some of the most sensational diamonds to have appeared for sale at Christie's, such as the historical Polar Star to whom it bears a striking resemblance,” said **Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewelry, Americas.**

Auction: *Jewels ~ The New York Sale*

April 15 at 10:00am and 2:00pm

Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

April 11 - 15

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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