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**CHRISTIE'S TO HONOUR VAN CLEEF & ARPELS WITH CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE AUCTIONS**

*Van Cleef & Arpels: A Centennial Tribute*

**Part I: Christie's New York – October 11, 2006**

**Part II: Christie's Geneva – November 16, 2006**

**New York/Geneva** – Christie's International Jewellery Department is proud to honour the centennial of renowned jewellers Van Cleef & Arpels with two specially-curated tribute auctions this fall. The auctions will be staged in New York on October 11 and Geneva on November 16 in conjunction with the fall *Magnificent Jewels* sales.

Christie's team of jewellery specialists in New York, London, Paris and Geneva worked in close partnership with Van Cleef & Arpels on these commemorative sales, a collaboration that marks an exceptional venture between the firms. The *Centennial Tribute* sales will each feature 50 jewels, offering collectors a total of 100 pieces that each celebrates the art of the jewel at its most rarefied and daring. While the sales laud the glamorous heritage of this esteemed house, they also aim to honour its future by offering two one-of-a-kind pieces specially-designed by Van Cleef & Arpels for Christie's. These incredible jewels are poised to be among the most sought-after in the sales and further mark this unique collaboration between Christie's and Van Cleef & Arpels.

Collectors will be treated to a special limited-edition catalogue featuring archive materials and offering extensive photography supplied to Christie's by Van Cleef & Arpels. Further, each jewel will be sold with a Van Cleef & Arpels Centenary commemorative certificate to mark the occasion.

*"This special project provides an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime overview of this famous house,"* says François Curiel, Deputy Chairman of Christie's and International Head of Jewellery. *"It pays tribute to the unique position Van Cleef & Arpels occupies in the rarefied world of the finest jewellery design. It will,"* he continues, *"be a major event on this year's international jewellery calendar."*

"We look forward to these Christie's auctions, as they are a tribute of the enduring values of Van Cleef & Arpels - superb creativity, incomparable craftsmanship and superior quality gemstones", says Stanislas de Quercize, President & CEO, Van Cleef & Arpels International. "This collection of jewellery is the finest representation of the ideals that have defined the House for the past one hundred years."

### CHRISTIE'S CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

The 100 jewels presented for sale in New York and Geneva will offer collectors all over the world exquisite examples of hallmark Van Cleef & Arpels designs, each showcasing the elegance and unparalleled craftsmanship of this renowned jeweller. The sale will offer a full spectrum of remarkable pieces that represent each era and each style, from a stunning Art Deco diamond feather brooch and revolutionary Mystery Setting ruby and diamond bracelet, to the signature "Ludo Hexagone" diamond and gold bracelet-watch, and charming, multi-functional sapphire, ruby and gold ladybug bracelet that also can be worn as a ring--all representing the skillful mastery of the Van Cleef & Arpels jeweller-craftsman.



Chief among the highlights is the famous *Millennium Brooch*, an exquisite one-of-a kind ruby and diamond double brooch designed as two imaginary flowers (*estimate upon request, image left*). This extraordinary creation, to be offered in Geneva, is the result of over 2,800 hours of workmanship and features 817 Burmese rubies (67.66 carats), 636 brilliant-cut diamonds (33.53 carats), 10 pear-shaped diamonds (6.41 carats) and 20 baguette-cut diamonds (2.37 carats). A true masterpiece, this exceptional jewel was created to celebrate the advent of the new Millennium and beautifully showcases the magnificent art of the signature Van Cleef & Arpels Mystery Setting, or Serti Mystérieux.

### SPECIAL CREATIONS

Leading each sale is a unique jewel designed by Van Cleef & Arpels especially for Christie's *Centennial Tribute* auctions. For the New York sale, Van Cleef & Arpels has created a jadeite necklace, (*estimate upon request; detail image right*). Centering upon an extremely rare jadeite disk, this one-of-a-kind piece is inspired by the classic Art Deco *sautoirs* of the 1930's. As this is the first time that Van Cleef & Arpels has designed a jewel around a piece of jadeite as important as this disc, this stunning jewel is sure to be among the most desired pieces offered.



The necklace was made in the Paris Van Cleef & Arpels studio, taking 250 working hours to complete. The rich and intense colour of the jadeite disk, its flawless quality, and its unique shape – the symbolic *bi* – all combine to present a truly remarkable piece of jadeite for collectors worldwide.

For the Geneva auction, Van Cleef & Arpels has created a delicate fairy clip – one of the House's most celebrated and enduring designs (*estimate upon request; design sketch image right*). This fanciful, enchanting piece of diamonds and pink sapphires celebrates the very essence of Van Cleef & Arpels, combining graceful sensuality with the natural world.



**Auctions:** *Van Cleef & Arpels: A Centennial Tribute*  
**Part I: Christie's New York – October 11, 2006**  
**Part II: Christie's Geneva – November 16, 2006**

<b>Exhibition:</b>	Hong Kong	September 4-5
	Tokyo	September 7-8
	Geneva	September 11-13 ( <i>by appointment only</i> )
	Paris	September 15-16
	Los Angeles	September 19-21
	Chicago	September 23-27

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### **CHRISTIE'S - JEWELLERY MARKET LEADERS SINCE 1994**

Christie's has been the world market leader in jewellery for over 12 years, with sales totaling a record \$280 million in 2005, a +28% increase from 2004 and the highest sales total ever realized. The first half of 2006 saw jewellery sales at Christie's increased by +21%, with a total sales figure of \$167 million. Christie's jewellery auctions take place in Geneva, Hong Kong, London, New York and Paris. Christie's jewellery sales cater to a vast audience of international collectors looking to buy a range of magnificent jewellery, from a single pair of ruby-inlaid cufflinks to a 100 carat diamond.

### **VAN CLEEF & ARPELS: 1906-2006**

Founded in 1906 by Alfred Van Cleef, his wife Estelle Arpels and her brother Charles Arpels on the Place Vendôme in Paris, Van Cleef & Arpels is one of the world's most prestigious and innovative jewellers. They are renowned for their use of only the highest quality gemstones as well as creative designs and techniques, such as the Mystery Setting or Serti Mystérieux, in which the prongs are hidden underneath each gemstone.

The House has always given form to the recurring motifs of nature and movement through

inventive, very complex and continuously evolving techniques. The Van Cleef & Arpels touch: asymmetry for a sense of life and movement, metamorphosis as a guiding principle in transformable jewellery, and a mingling of the transparent and the opaque.

Van Cleef & Arpels' immediate success prompted the founders to expand to important seaside resorts in France, as well as abroad. New York City became their first location in the United States in 1939. Maria Callas, Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Jackie Onassis, the Maharani of Baroda, the Royal Family of Egypt, the Shah of Iran, to name just a few, were all devoted clients of the firm and regularly wore their most astonishing creations. Today, the radiant glamour of Julia Roberts, Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Stone, Zhang Ziyi and Uma Thurman is lit up by the jeweller.

**~CHRISTIE'S 2006 FALL JEWELLERY SALE SCHEDULE~**

Tuesday 10 October	<i>Fine Jewels</i>	London, South Ken
Tuesday 10 October	<i>Magnificent Jewels from the Collection of Ellen Barkin</i>	New York
Wednesday 11 October	<i>Van Cleef &amp; Arpels: A Centennial Tribute (Part I) &amp; Magnificent Jewels</i>	New York
Tuesday 17 October	<i>Jewellery</i>	Amsterdam
Tuesday 14 November	<i>Magnificent Collection from a Royal House</i>	Geneva
Thursday 16 November	<i>Van Cleef &amp; Arpels: A Centennial Tribute (Part II) &amp; Magnificent Jewels</i>	Geneva
Wednesday 30 November	<i>Magnificent Jewellery &amp; Jadeite</i>	Hong Kong
Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 December	<i>Jewellery</i>	Milan
Wednesday 6 December	<i>Important Jewellery</i>	London, King Street
Tuesday 12 December	<i>JLS section in House Sale</i>	New York
Thursday 14 December	<i>Important Jewels</i>	New York
Thursday 14 December	<i>Jewellery</i>	Paris