

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Katherine Adler 212.636.2680 kadler@christies.com

CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS STYLISH AND IMPORTANT JEWELRY FROM RENOWNED JEWELRY HOUSES WITH EXCEPTIONAL PROVENANCE

Jewels of Style from the Private Collection of Fred Leighton Highlights Christie's Magnificent Jewels Sale

Magnificent Jewels

October 12, 2004

New York, NY – Christie's *Magnificent Jewels* sale on October 12 will present rare and important diamonds and gemstones and exquisite signed jewelry that represent each major period of jewelry design.

Christie's will also feature a single-owner sale titled *Jewels of Style from the Private Collection of Fred Leighton*. Jeweler 'extraordinaire,' Fred Leighton, unveils one of his greatest treasures, his private collection of jewels, designed by, belonging to and worn by icons of style. The collection offered for sale includes twenty-nine jewels highlighted by 'The Tudor Rose,' a diamond brooch belonging to Princess Mathilde, niece of Napoleon, and magnificent jewelry from the collection of the Duchess of Windsor. (*Please see separate release*).

Important Gemstones

The captivating purity and magnificence of the white diamond is captured in an exceptional D color diamond ring of 40.42 carats, VVS1 (estimate: \$1,400,000-1,600,000) and a stunning D color pair of diamond ear clips (estimate: \$300,000-400,000). Sapphires of velvety rich blue and unusual hues of pinkish-orange include the cushion-cut sapphire of 19.45 carats from Kashmir (estimate: \$150,000-

200,000); a pair of Burmese sapphire and diamond ear clips (estimate: \$180,000-220,000); and a Padparadscha (pinkish-orange) sapphire and diamond ring of 17.90 carats from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) (estimate: \$80,000-100,000).

Antique Jewelry

Elegance, symbolism and naturalism were prominent themes in the mid-19th century and the natural pearl, ruby and diamond pendant necklace (estimate: \$50,000-70,000) perfectly embodies these sentiments. A simple and delicate strand suspends the most captivating natural pearl of 13.5 mm x 21.6 mm. Fantastic, imaginative creatures are captured in a pair of antique sapphire brooches of sparrows with cabochon ruby eyes (estimate: \$12,000-15,000) and an antique ruby and diamond brooch of a spider with a ruby-lined body and diamond curved legs by Boucheron (estimate: \$18,000-22,000). Portraying the decorative beauty of the Belle Epoque period is an elegant diamond and natural pearl brooch (estimate: \$35,000-45,000); an extraordinary diamond lavalier necklace (estimate: \$150,000-200,000); and a beautiful diamond necklace of graduated European-cut diamonds by Raymond C. Yard (estimate: \$25,000-30,000).

Art Deco

Formerly from the collection of Her Majesty, Queen Geraldine of Albania, is a spectacular Art Deco diamond bracelet (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) and diamond double-clip brooch (estimate: \$60,000-80,000) that epitomize the design of the late Art Deco period, with its bold, all-white style. Both jewels were created by the Vienna firm of Marianne Ostier, the official jewelers to the Albanian Royal Court. King Zog, the King of Albania, purchased the magnificent bracelet and the double clip brooch from Ostier in 1938 to present as gifts to his fiancée. Subsequently, she wore the brooch on their wedding day, April 27, 1938. In 1960, Ostier was commissioned by the King and Queen to sell these pieces, along with others from her personal collection, to aid Albanian refugees fleeing from their homeland. They have remained in a private collection ever since.

Best representing the *joie de vivre* of the Art Deco period is a stunning emerald and diamond sautoir necklace by Tiffany & Co. (estimate: \$150,000-180,000). The sautoir presents exceptional workmanship as seen by the geometry, linearity and stylization of the piece. Coco Chanel's elegant and classy style introduced in the 1920s can be seen in a multi-gem and silver tiara, circa 1925 (estimate: \$35,000-45,000), whose dazzling bursts of vivid aquamarine, tourmaline, amethyst and citrine reflect the glamorous fashion of the age.

Contemporary

Contemporary jewelers are represented in the sale with a mystical rubellite tourmaline, sapphire and diamond pendant necklace by the Hong Kong jewelry firm Carnet (estimate: \$60,000-80,000)

and a bold and colorful single-strand emerald and coral necklace (estimate: \$50,000-70,000) by Verdura.

Other Highlights

Other highlights in the sale include a gold medallion sculpted with a portrait of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis by George Illes, a celebrated Hungarian portrait painter (estimate: \$20,000-25,000). This medallion was given to Jacqueline Kennedy by the artist in 1961. Also offered is an Art Deco “WWI Allied” multi-gem ring, which includes the flags of the nine World War I Allies in calibr -cut diamonds, rubies, emerald, citrines and onyx (estimate: \$9,000-11,000).

Auction:	Magnificent Jewels	October 12
Viewing:	Christie’s Galleries at 20 Rockefeller Plaza	October 7 - 11

More information about Christie's sale of *Magnificent Jewels* can be found on 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 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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Images available on request

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