

For Immediate Release

16 October 2006

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**EXCEPTIONAL JADEITE, PRECIOUS GEMSTONES AND FLAWLESS
DIAMONDS TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG AUTUMN SALE**

Magnificent Jewellery and Jadeite Jewellery

30 November 2006

In conjunction with Christie's Hong Kong's 20th Anniversary, the Jewellery department will showcase some of the world's best jewellery and jadeite in their forthcoming autumn sale on 30 November, catering for the widest possible audience of Asian and international collectors.

Christie's has maintained its position as market leader for jewellery in the auction world in the past 12 years. Christie's Hong Kong jewellery and jadeite sale this spring totalled over HK\$295 million/ US\$38.3 million, achieving the highest total ever for a jewellery sale in Asia.

Jadeite Jewellery

Over the years, Christie's Hong Kong has evolved into the main sale centre for the most sought-after jadeite jewellery, and is undoubtedly the world's market leader in this category. In the 2006 autumn sale, Christie's Hong Kong is delighted to offer yet another exceptional selection of jadeite jewellery of the highest quality.



Perfection in jadeite is judged by the harmonious balance of six different features: colour, texture, translucency, saturation, evenness and purity. The absence or presence of one or more of these greatly affects the quality and value of the stone. Even rarer is a jadeite boulder encompassing all these qualities and yielding a sufficient amount of material for a jadeite bead necklace. When such a necklace appears at auction, it inevitably generates great excitement. Christie's Hong Kong is proud to

present such a rarity in the form of a superb single-strand jadeite necklace comprising 63 perfectly matched graduated jadeite beads of exceptional glassy material (Lot 3017, Estimate: HK\$20,000,000 – 25,000,000/

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US\$2,600,000 – 3,200,000). An absolute marvel of nature, this is one of the most exquisite jadeite necklaces ever to appear in recent auctions. Measuring 10.3 to 11.2 mm, each bead is carved from the same highly translucent material of the finest texture and purity. Its perfect vivid emerald green colour is evenly distributed throughout without the slightest tinge of any secondary colour. The shape and polish of each bead is also perfect and exemplifies the great challenge of the labour-intensive process of jadeite bead-cutting. A necklace of such perfection is a true rarity in today's market.

Another highlight is a pair of exceptional oval jadeite cabochon and diamond earrings of thick, glassy and fine textured material combined with an even brilliant emerald green colour throughout (Lot 3015, Estimate: HK\$5,600,000-8,000,000/ US\$700,000-1,000,000).

Representing the pinnacle in translucency is a jadeite and diamond ring set with a thick and high-domed jadeite cabochon of vitreous brilliant emerald green colour (Lot 3014, Estimate: HK\$5,600,000-8,000,000/ US\$700,000-1,000,000).

An exquisite Art Deco jadeite, diamond and mother-of-pearl necklace is a fine example of the distinct and creative design of the period (Lot 3008, Estimate: HK\$1,200,000-2,000,000/ US\$150,000-230,000).

Precious Gemstones

Rubies

Burmese rubies are ranked among the most beautiful gemstones, and those of over 5 carats without any thermal enhancement are exceedingly rare in the world. Christie's established the world auction record for any ruby in February 2006 when *The Graff Ruby*, an 8.62 carat unheated cushion-cut Burmese ruby ring sold in St. Moritz for a staggering US\$3,637,480, or US\$425,000 per carat.

Christie's Hong Kong is honoured to offer in the November sale a sugarloaf Burmese ruby ring of 37.52 carats (Lot 2840, Estimate: HK\$7,800,000-12,000,000/ US\$1,000,000-1,500,000). The largest Burmese ruby ever to appear at auction in Asia, it is expected to create a sensation in the world auction market. Its rich saturated purplish red colour, impressive size and unusual shape make it one of the most sought-after gemstones.



Exemplifying the perfect combination of delicate craftsmanship with high quality gemstones is a stunning pair of ruby and diamond ear pendants, set with Burmese rubies of 5.18 carats and 4.82 carats. Exquisitely designed as half-moon ruby flowers, the rubies display a rich and striking red colour which is highly desirable among connoisseurs (Lot 3046, Estimate: HK\$2,800,000-4,000,000/ US\$350,000-500,000).

Sapphires & Cat's Eye Chrysoberyl

Of particular note is the offering of three Sri Lankan gemstones of impressive size and weight that are rarely seen at auctions.

A star sapphire pendant weighing 153.18 carats is unique for its extraordinarily large size. The elegant cut of the star captures fully the intense violetish blue hue (Lot 2837, Estimate: HK\$480,000-650,000/ US\$60,000-80,000). Equally striking is a 130.42 carat circular-cut sapphire that forms the centre-piece of a diamond necklace (Lot 2843, Estimate: HK\$640,000-800,000/ US\$80,000-100,000).

Another notable piece is a cat's eye chrysoberyl and diamond pendant of 123.95 carats which can also be worn as a brooch (Lot 2839, Estimate: HK\$800,000-1,200,000/ US\$100,000-150,000).

Flawless Diamonds

Diamonds have always been prized for their rarity and beauty and throughout the years, Christie's Hong Kong has developed into the main selling centre in Asia for the highest quality diamonds.



A marquise-shaped 'Golconda' diamond of 10.86 carats, D colour, internally flawless, Type IIa, is a prized offering in the sale (Lot 3045, Estimate: HK\$6,400,000– 9,500,000/ US\$800,000–1,200,000). 'Golconda' is the best known diamond mine in India where diamond mining started as early as 400BC. These mines were almost depleted by the mid 18th century and large stones of this famed provenance are incredibly rare. The diamond on offer is graded by the world acclaimed Gübelin Gemmological Laboratory as a stone exhibiting all the qualities of a 'Golconda' diamond with an unrivalled degree of transparency and purity together with a dazzling whiteness reminiscent of the finest stones originated from the legendary 'Golconda' mines. Its antique cutting and Type IIa quality further reinforce its rarity in the world gem market today.

Another highlight is a highly coveted unmounted 12.58 carat D colour, Type IIa, cut-cornered rectangular-cut diamond of flawless clarity. Its polish and symmetry are described as excellent by the Gemological Institute of America (Lot 3041, Estimate: HK\$6,800,000-8,000,000/ US\$850,000-1,000,000).

An alluring diamond necklace consisting of diamonds of various shapes totalling 180 carats is a perfect combination of beautiful stones and intricate workmanship (Lot 3044, Estimate: HK\$5,000,000-8,000,000/ US\$640,000-1,000,000).

Coloured Diamonds

The sale will captivate collectors with exceptional coloured diamonds of all hues, cuts and shapes. The highlights include a magnificent diamond ring set with a 15.47 carat marquise-cut very light pink diamond of internally flawless clarity (Lot 2934, Estimate: HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000/ US\$700,000-850,000). This opulent

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stone portrays a purity of colour and a high degree of transparency epitomizing the finest of natural colour Type IIa diamonds.

Yellow is associated with royalty and sanctity in the East, and yellow diamonds of superlative quality are highly desired by Asian collectors. Christie's is privileged to offer an impressive group of yellow diamonds of fancy vivid yellow colour in the November sale. A 19.04 carat square-cut fancy vivid yellow diamond ring is spectacular for its size and brilliance of colour (Lot 3026, Estimate: HK\$6,800,000-9,000,000/ US\$860,000-1,125,000). A charming heart-shaped fancy vivid yellow diamond of 10.05 carats set in a ring within a diamond surround is a further highlight (Lot 2973, Estimate: HK\$3,200,000-4,800,000/ US\$400,000-600,000).



Of particular interest are three yellow diamonds weighing 8.88 carats each. Eight is an auspicious number to the Chinese and these stones with 'three eights' will be of great appeal to Chinese collectors. These include an exquisite 8.88 square-cut fancy vivid yellow diamond ring (Lot 3027, Estimate: HK\$5,500,000-8,000,000/ US\$705,000-1,000,000), and a splendid pair of yellow diamond and diamond ear pendants, each set with a square-cut fancy intense yellow diamond of 8.88 and 8.88 carats, one internally flawless and the other of VVS2 clarity (Lot 2805, Estimate: HK\$2,250,000-3,200,000/ US\$ 285,000-400,000).

Natural Pearls

Pearls have been highly prized for thousands of years for their purity, beauty and romantic allure. An important two-strand natural pearl and diamond necklace comprising 130 natural pearls, is exceptional for its lustre, whiteness and symmetry. Its opulence is further enhanced by a Cartier diamond clasp (Lot 3005, Estimate: HK\$2,600,000-4,000,000/ US\$330,000-500,000).

Pre-sale exhibitions:

New York	Christie's New York	8-10 October
Tokyo	Christie's Japan	18-19 October
Singapore	Copthorne King's Hotel	23-24 October
Shanghai	Portman Ritz Carlton	1-2 November
Hangzhou	Hyatt Regency	5-6 November
Beijing	St. Regis	8-9 November
Bangkok	The Four Seasons Hotel	13-14 November
Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building	18-19 November
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre	24-29 November

Auction:

Magnificent Jewellery and Jadeite Jewellery, 30 November at 11:30 am & 2:00 pm
Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

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Images available upon request

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About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading auction house, a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and 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 nearly 1,000 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from US\$200 to over US\$80 million. Christie's has 90 offices in 30 countries and 16 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Mumbai, Dubai and the branded sale in Beijing. In 2005 Christie's annual global sales increased 38% to US\$3.2 billion, the highest total in company history and propelling the auction house into global market leadership.