

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Extraordinary Jewels from an Esteemed Private Collection

### *Plus*

## Rare Diamonds, Coloured Gems & Jadeite

## Highlight Christie's Fall Sale of Magnificent Jewels

**Hong Kong** – Christie's, the world's leading auction house for the sale of extraordinary jewels at auction, will present its annual Fall sale of magnificent jewels on 1 December at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. Featuring over 250 jewels valued in excess of HK\$260 million/US\$33 million, this sale will present to the region's sophisticated collectors and connoisseurs an array of important diamonds, fine coloured gemstones, signed creations from the likes of Bulgari, Cartier, Graff, Van Cleef & Arpels, and Wallace Chan, as well as top jadeite jewels.

### MAGNIFICENT JEWELS FROM AN ESTEEMED PRIVATE COLLECTION



The December 1 sale will include four magnificent jewels from an esteemed private collection, led by **"The Vivid Pink"**, one of the finest Vivid Pink diamonds to ever appear for sale at auction (estimate: HK\$39,000,000-\$55,000,000/US\$5,000,000-7,000,000). Weighing an exacting 5.00 carats and set in a ring by leading international jeweller Graff, it is the largest Fancy Vivid Pink Potentially Flawless diamond to ever be offered for sale at auction. While the vast majority of natural pink diamonds exhibit a colour modifier like purple, orange or grey, "The Vivid Pink" shows absolutely no trace of a secondary colour, making it exceedingly rare both commercially and naturally. *More information on the "The Vivid Pink" can be found [here](#).*

Also offered from this important collection is a **superb oval-shaped Fancy Vivid Yellow VVS1 diamond of 9.03 carats** (estimate: HK\$7,000,000-9,000,000 / US\$900,000-1,200,000).

Set in a ring by Graff, this stone offers the first-rate combination of pure colour, high clarity and important size which together combine in an eagerly sought-after stone that is rare on today's market. While yellow is a common coloured diamond hue, most yellow diamonds seen on the market do not offer the depth and intensity of colour exhibited in this stone. The outstanding saturation and strong colour of this stone place it in a coveted category of its own.



From Van Cleef & Arpels comes a **sumptuous 16.65-carat cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire ring** (estimate: HK\$5,600,000-8,000,000 / US\$700,000-1,000,000). Sapphires from Kashmir are the world's finest and most sought-after sapphires. Discovered in 1881, the Kashmir mines were exhausted by the early decades of the twentieth-century,



making their sapphires exceedingly rare today. Featuring a finely-proportioned cut, this 16.65 carat azure gem is an exemplary specimen of the fabled Kashmir sapphire and its highly-esteemed 'cornflower' blue, a splendid and unrivalled depth of colour that is distinctive and treasured for its velvety appearance



The final jewel offered from this esteemed private collection is **The Cartier Diamond Love Cuff** (estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000 / US\$250,000-350,000). Studded with high-quality diamonds, this jewel-cuff is a custom one-of-a-kind creation commissioned from Cartier's famed Love collection – a series of the most romantic jewellery formed around the idea of a screw-head covered bracelet which could only be locked and unlocked with a screwdriver, representing one's commitment to a beloved. The jewel opens as a clasp and while it does not require a screwdriver, it bears three onyx screw-head designs at its opening, symbolising those heartfelt connotations of the collection. Luxurious, stylish and elegant, The Cartier Diamond Love Cuff is the only one of its kind in the world. Demand for one-of-a-kind jewels and special contemporary creations has risen dramatically in recently years, making the appearance of such a remarkable jewel on the auction market a singular opportunity for collectors around the world.

### SUPERB COLOURED & COLOURLESS DIAMONDS



Among the many stand-out colourless diamonds offered is a **magnificent unmounted 16.99 carat brilliant-cut, D colour, Flawless clarity, Type IIa diamond** (estimate: HK\$17,000,000-25,000,000 / US\$2,200,000-3,200,000). Unlike 98% of all diamonds, Type IIa diamonds have no traces of the colorant nitrogen. The absence of this element makes Type IIa diamonds the most chemically pure type of diamond in the world, with a purity of colour and degree of transparency that is exceptionally rare and observed only in the finest stones originating from the fabled mines of Golconda, Brazil and South Africa. In addition to its Type IIa classification, the present diamond flaunts the GIA's top grading with Excellent polish, Excellent cut, and Excellent symmetry, resulting in truly superlative stone.

Also of note among the colourless diamonds is an **important 11.00 carat pear-shaped D colour, Flawless clarity, Type IIa diamond pendant necklace** (estimate: HK\$6,500,000-8,500,000 / US\$800,000-1,200,000). The impressive size, pleasing shape, and high quality material of this stone result in a truly first-class gem for discerning collectors.



The sale will also offer a number of rare and important coloured diamonds in addition to "The Vivid Pink." Of note is a **rare rectangular-cut Fancy Intense blue diamond of 3.02 carats** (estimate: HK\$7,500,000-10,000,000/US\$940,000-1,280,000).

Strongly coloured blue diamonds are one of the most sought-after gems; indeed, supply has been far outstripped by the demand. Blue diamonds have historically come from very few sources and their rare presence on the market offers an uncommon opportunity for collectors.

Highly saturated diamonds ranging in the red to purple hues are considered to be the rarest of all fancy coloured diamonds, making the sale of the **rectangular-shaped Fancy red diamond of 0.84 carats** a most remarkable event for diamond connoisseurs (estimate: HK\$2,000,000-3,000,000/ US\$250,000-375,000). While the cause of its colour is not yet thoroughly understood, it is generally concluded that the red colour results from structural features in the diamond's crystal lattice combined possibly with minute quantities of nitrogen.





Additional coloured diamond highlights include a **pair of 8.52 and 8.39-carat pear-shaped Fancy Yellow Internally Flawless diamond ear pendants** (HK\$3,200,000-4,800,000 / US\$400,000-600,000). These well-matched diamonds boast a bright, beautiful strong colour worthy of the Fancy Yellow designation, making them rare and desirable collectors' specimens.

**IMPORTANT GEMSTONES, NATURAL PEARLS & JADEITE, PLUS ELEGANT SIGNED JEWELS**

An elegant **25.04-carat pear-shaped Burmese sapphire and diamond pendent necklace** is featured among the offerings of coloured gems featured in the sale (estimate: HK\$4,800,000-6,500,000 / US\$600,000-800,000). Possessing a rich and finely saturated colour, this remarkable sapphire has been spared thermal treatment, a key factor for collectors today. Such a combination of characteristics is rare in natural Burmese sapphires of this size, making this stone among the top sale highlights.



From famed Italian jewellery house **Bulgari** comes an **emerald and diamond necklace from its *Perentisi* collection** (estimate: HK\$650,000-850,000/US\$80,000-120,000). Showcasing a modern interpretation of one of the firm's iconic creative designs originally inspired by the joints of the Roman pavements, this graceful necklace exhibits the superior workmanship reflective of Bulgari's ancient roots and Italian craft heritage and is one of only two such creations ever produced by the jeweller.

Among the ruby highlights is an **exquisite Art Deco ruby and diamond bracelet by Cartier** (estimate: HK\$5,000,000-8,000,000/US\$625,000-1,000,000). Featuring a sleek and simple geometric design indicative of this bold period in the history jewellery, this rare jewel displays 24 untreated Burmese rubies, favoured by collectors for their distinct 'pigeon's blood' red hue.



Natural pearls have been highly prized throughout the ages and are a strong draw for collectors in Asia. Among this season's natural pearl highlights is an **elegant pair of diamond and natural pearl ear pendants from Chaumet** (*image left*, estimate: HK\$1,800,000-2,800,000/US\$230,000-350,000), a **multicoloured graduated natural pearl necklace** (estimate: HK\$1,200,000-1,800,000/US\$150,000-230,000), and a **rare pair of natural pearl and diamond ear clips by Cartier** (estimate: HK\$1,280,000-1,800,000 / US\$160,000-230,000).



Jadeite forms an important cornerstone of Christie's sales of magnificent jewels each season in Hong Kong and among this season's stand-out offerings are a **magnificent carved jadeite Guanyin** (*image left*, estimate: HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000 / US\$1,000,000-1,500,000) and a **carved jadeite figure of**

**Metteyya Buddha**, commonly referred to as the "Laughing Buddha" or "Buddha with a Big Belly" due to his physical features (*image right*, estimate: HK\$6,000,000-8,000,000 / US\$750,000 – 1,000,000). These two extremely precious objects are carved from old-mine jadeite and boasts uniform colour, rich and detailed texture, excellent translucency despite its thickness, and extraordinary craftsmanship in the carving.





Also of note is a **rare jadeite *bi* and diamond pendant necklace** (estimate: HK\$4,500,000-6,500,000 / US\$565,000-800,000). The exquisite material of the jadeite with its even emerald green colour and high translucency is enhanced by its form: a flattened disc with a hole in the centre, referred to as *bi*. In ancient Chinese cosmology, the *bi* mirrored the rounded arch of the sky across which the sun moved and the stars revolved. This outline also recalled the ancient Chinese pictograph for the sun, a circle with a dot within.

Other jadeite highlights include a **stylish pair of jadeite ear pendants from Hong Kong jewellery designer Wallace Chan** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$1,200,000-1,800,000 / US\$150,000-230,000); and a **pair of three-coloured jadeite bangles** (estimate: HK\$1,800,000-2,800,000 / US\$230,000-350,000).



*\*Images Available upon Request\**

For more information in English and Chinese about Christie's Hong Kong Fall 2009 Season Highlights go to [www.christies.com/chinese](http://www.christies.com/chinese)

**Auction:**

*Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale*

Tuesday, December 1, 3:00pm

**Free Public Exhibition:**

Fubon Life Assurance Building, Taiwan

Saturday to Sunday, November 21-22  
10.30am-6.30pm

Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Thursday November 27-  
Tuesday December 1  
10.30am-6pm

**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

- **Christie's – The World's Leading Auction House for Magnificent Jewels**  
Christie's has been the world market leader in jewellery for the past fifteen years in a row, with jewellery sales totalling over \$383 million in 2008.
- **In the first half of 2009**, Christie's international jewellery department sold 16 lots above US\$1million, compared with only 8 at the nearest competitor. And indeed, 7 out of the top 10 jewels sold at auction worldwide during the Spring 2009 season were offered at Christie's.
- **In 2008, Christie's sold the most valuable jewel ever offered at auction** – the historical Wittelsbach blue diamond for US\$24 million.
- **Christie's: The leading auction house in Asia for the finest jewels**: Since its first auctions in Taipei in 1993 and Hong Kong in 1994, Christie's has held a dominant position for jewellery in Asia. Christie's May 2008 sale was the most important jewellery auction ever held in Asia with total sales of US\$60 million, including US\$6.2 million for the largest diamond ever sold in the region weighing 101.27cts. Christie's May 2009 sale totalled US\$33 million, the highest total at Christie's for the Spring 2009 season, with 8 lots above US\$1 million.

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. 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 450 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 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.