

For Immediate Release

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**EXCEPTIONAL DIAMONDS LEAD CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK SALE
AS COLLECTOR DEMAND FOR INVESTMENT-QUALITY JEWELS
GAINS MOMENTUM WORLDWIDE**

**JUNE 15 SALE OF 175 ITEMS INCLUDES COLORED AND COLORLESS DIAMONDS,
RARE GEMSTONES AND SIGNED JEWELS BY LEADING DESIGNERS**



"THE CLASSIC CUSHION"

An exquisite D color diamond ring of 27.03 carats

Estimate: \$2,500,000-3,500,000

New York – As investment interest in top-quality diamonds and gemstones continues to draw new collectors into the auction market, Christie's is pleased to preview a selection of exceptional items that will highlight its *New York Jewels* sale on June 15. Over 170 individual pieces will be offered, including fine colored and colorless diamonds, important gemstones, and signed jewels from major designers, including Boucheron, Buccellati, Cartier, Oscar Heyman & Brothers, Mauboussin, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Van Cleef & Arpels, David Webb, and Harry Winston, among others. The total sale is expected to achieve in excess of \$10 million.

Among the top lots of the sale is an exquisite cushion-cut D color diamond ring of **27.03 carats**, mounted in platinum (pictured above; estimate: \$2,500,000-3,000,000). This exceptional stone, reminiscent of old Golconda diamonds in look and cut, has been determined to be a Type IIa gem, the





most chemically pure type of diamond. The stone is accompanied by a report from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) stating that the diamond is of VVS1 clarity, with excellent polish and excellent symmetry.

“Exceptional diamonds remain the hottest commodity within the jewelry market, with per-carat prices reaching ever-higher levels in our salerooms worldwide this spring. As large diamonds of this quality, polish and symmetry become increasingly difficult to find, collectors rely on Christie's as the trusted source for investment-quality jewels of this caliber,” said Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewelry at Christie's New York.

Additional top diamonds well-suited for investment or for pure enjoyment include a magnificent circular-cut F color diamond ring of **37.08 carats**, mounted in platinum (pictured at right; estimate: \$1,300,000-1,500,000). As noted in the GIA report for this stone, the diamond offers the rare combination of having excellent polish, excellent symmetry, and excellent cut. To achieve such perfection in a round diamond of this size, 50 to 60 percent of the weight of the original crystal must be sacrificed as part of the cutting process, making the resulting finished diamond a true rarity.



The sale also features an excellent selection of colorless and colored diamonds in a variety of sizes and cuts, including:

	An extremely rare find – a matched pair of circular-cut D color diamond ear studs of 7.85 and 7.67 carats, mounted in platinum Estimate: \$1,800,000-2,500,000
	A pair of superb diamond ear pendants with cushion-cut diamonds of 12.02 and 11.60 carats, respectively and single-cut diamond surrounds Estimate: \$550,000-650,000
	A diamond “Legacy” ring by Tiffany & Co., set with a modified cushion-cut diamond of 5.56 carats, signed and mounted in platinum Estimate: \$150,000-250,000, offered without reserve
	A cushion-cut D color, internally flawless diamond ring of 3.03 carats, by Tiffany & Co., signed and mounted in platinum Estimate: \$80,000-120,000

COLORED DIAMONDS

	A square-cut fancy intense orangy pink diamond ring of 10.19 carats and VS1 clarity, flanked by shield-shaped diamonds and mounted in platinum and rose gold Estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000
	A pear-shaped light pink, internally flawless diamond ring of 12.50 carats in 18k rose gold with a diamond surround Estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000
	A hexagonal fancy intense pink diamond ring of 3.01 carats mounted in 18k rose gold Estimate: \$550,000-700,000
	A superb rectangular-cut fancy vivid yellow diamond ring of 6.36 carats and VS1 clarity, mounted in gold and platinum Estimate: \$250,000-350,000
	A pear-shaped fancy dark brown diamond ring of 37.07 carats mounted in 18k rose gold Estimate: \$120,000-150,000

COLLECTING CLASSICS: SIGNED JEWELS FROM TOP HOUSES

In keeping with the growing demand among collectors for vintage and modern pieces from top jewelry houses, Christie's is pleased to offer a selection of exquisite necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and brooches from the finest designers. Among the vintage items in the sale is a trio of designs by **Louis Comfort Tiffany** (1848-1933), the son of Tiffany & Co. founder Charles Tiffany and a pioneer of American jewelry design. Unlike any other designer of his era, Louis Comfort excelled at combining gemstones, enamel and multi-colored opals in unexpected ways, creating extraordinary jewels that exhibit a play of color and light – not unlike the great Impressionist painters that were his contemporaries.

Comfort Tiffany's unique skill is evident in a sapphire, emerald, and gold necklace *circa* 1928 that features an openwork plaque of violet sapphires and cushion-cut emeralds on a three-row gold neckchain of intricate design (pictured at right; estimate: \$50,000-70,000). Also featured is an elegant Art Nouveau opal, enamel and gold brooch *circa* 1905 (estimate: \$10,000-15,000) and an Art Deco brooch *circa* 1920 comprised of yellow sapphires, emerald, citrines and onyx gemstones (estimate: \$10,000-15,000).



Additional signed jewels from the Art Deco era – a favorite among collectors of vintage jewels – include a **Tiffany & Co.** bracelet *circa* 1925 that features five openwork plaques set with old European-cut diamonds (estimate: \$45,000-65,000), a **Mauboussin** diamond and sapphire bracelet *circa* 1925, set with cabochon sapphires and rectangular-cut diamonds (estimate: \$15,000-20,000), a **Cartier** amethyst, diamond, and enamel jabot pin *circa* 1925 (estimate: \$22,000-28,000), and an eye-catching pair of signed clips by **Oscar Heyman & Brothers** *circa* 1930 that incorporates pearls, diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires (estimate \$18,000-22,000).



Leading the selection of modern signed jewels in the sale is a unique multi-gem necklace by **Prince Dimitri** that has as its centerpiece the Tsar Alexander III amethyst, a legendary cushion-cut 42.44 carat gemstone from the imperial Russian mines (pictured at left; estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Tsar Alexander III gave this exquisite gem, along with a large collection of other amethysts, to Prince Dimitri's great-grandmother, Queen Elena of Italy. Set among a stunning array of diamonds, pearls, and precious stones on a woven leather cord, the necklace is finished with a sculpted gold Knot of Savoy clasp - a nod to the symbol of Italy's House of Savoy and the designer's royal ancestry.

An exciting item with celebrity provenance is a stunning Cartier diamond ring that was formerly owned by **Sir Elton John** (pictured at right; estimate: \$60,000-80,000). The modified square-cut diamond of 10.63 carats flanked by trillion-cut diamonds was originally sold in *The Elton John Collection Jewellery Sale* in London in 1993, and last appeared at auction at Christie's Geneva in 2003. It comes with an image of the singer wearing the ring, and a signature Cartier red leather box.



Rounding out the selection of signed jewels is large group of over 20 items by the late designer David Webb, including a diamond-encrusted leopard brooch with emerald eyes (estimate: \$60,000-80,000), an elegant emerald and diamond cocktail ring of bombé design, weighing 23.68 carats (estimate: \$15,000-20,000) and an elegant white enamel and gold necklace of scalloped oval links that is perfect for summer accessorizing (estimate: \$6,000-8,000).

The complete e-catalogue for this sale is available at
www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?saleid=22632

Auction: *New York Jewels*

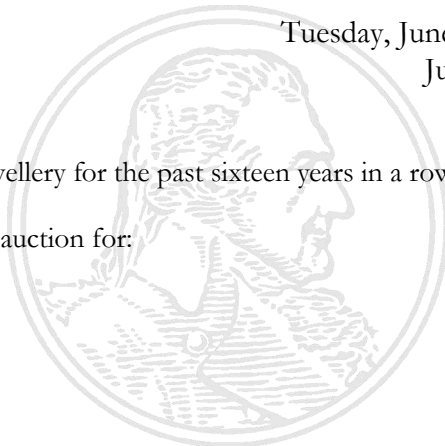
Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

Tuesday, June 15 at 10:30am

June 12-14, 2010

NOTE TO EDITORS:

- Christie's has been the world market leader in jewellery for the past sixteen years in a row, with jewellery sales totalling over \$272.9 million in 2009.
- Christie's holds the current world record price at auction for:
 - Any jewel
 - A Golconda diamond
 - A blue diamond



- A pink diamond
- These records were set with the sale of the historic **Wittelsbach** blue diamond (now known as the Wittelsbach-Graff) for \$24.3 million, at Christie's London in December 2008 and with the sale of the 5-carat **Vivid Pink** diamond for \$10.7 million at Christie's Hong Kong in December 2009
- Christie's also holds the per-carat records for:
 - Any gemstone
 - A colourless diamond
 - These records were set with the recent sales of the **Vivid Pink** diamond (see above) and the 32.01 carat **Annenberg Diamond** for \$240,000 per carat at Christie's New York in October 2009

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2009 that totaled £2.1 billion/\$3.3 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 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in 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 United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai. *All auction sales figures include premium.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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