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CHRISTIE'S AUTUMN JEWELLERY AUCTION IS SET TO SPARKLE IN HONG KONG

- Exquisite Diamonds, Gems & Jadeite valued in excess of US\$55 million
- Star Lot: The Perfect Pink, a rare 14.23 ct Fancy Intense Pink diamond

Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale
29 November, 2010

Hong Kong – Christie's, the worldwide market leader of jewels at auction for 17 years, will present its Autumn sale of magnificent jewellery on 29 November at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The sale will offer collectors a selection of **over 300 of the rarest and the most beautiful gemstones as well as exquisite jadeite jewellery, with a combined value in excess of US\$55 million.** Leading the sale is one of the more important diamonds offered at auction in recent years: **The Perfect Pink, a rare 14.23 carat Fancy Intense Pink diamond** that stands as a phenomenon in the world of gems and is offered with an estimate of HK\$110-150 million (US\$14-19 million).

UNRIVALLED COLORED DIAMONDS



Leading the season's selection of colored diamonds is **The Perfect Pink**. [Separate press release available [here](#)]. Gem connoisseurs have long considered pink diamonds to be among the most beautiful of gemstones since they were first discovered in the ancient mines of India. **Larger specimens rarely come up for auction and their scarcity makes the sale of The Perfect Pink, a 14.23 carat fancy intense pink diamond, an extraordinary event.** Beyond its impressive size, The Perfect Pink is a paragon of

perfection in terms of its color, which exhibits no color modifier; its VVS2 clarity; and its classic rectangular cut, which signals that no additional facets were needed to intensify its perfect tone. Taken together, The Perfect Pink is unmatched and stands as a diamond of the highest caliber fit for the world's most discerning collectors.

Also highlighting the sale is **an oval-shaped Fancy Vivid, Internally Flawless yellow diamond of 12.02 carats from Tiffany & Co.** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$10-15 million /US\$1.25-1.9 million).

The Gemological Institute of America's fancy color grades describe the combined effect of tone (lightness to darkness) and saturation (weakness to strength, or intensity). In yellow diamonds, the term Fancy Vivid is used to describe a medium to light toned color in the strongest saturation range.

While the yellow hue is more common among colored diamonds, depths of color corresponding to the Fancy Vivid range are not. From past studies, no more than 5% of the yellow diamonds submitted to the GIA are Fancy Vivid. The combination of such high color with an Internally Flawless clarity grade makes this diamond exceedingly rare on the market.



LUMINOUS WHITE DIAMONDS

The sale features a range of important white diamonds, including a number of rare **Golconda diamonds**, universally esteemed as the finest diamonds in the world. The characteristic which sets Golconda diamonds apart from all other diamonds is a subtle luminous quality; **Golconda diamonds have a degree of transparency rarely seen in stones from other localities, such as Africa, Brazil, Russia or Australia.** It is a quality variously called soft, limpid, watery or pure, and not to be confused with clarity or color grade. Rather, it is a quality in which light appears to pass through the stone as if it were totally unimpeded. Whiter-than-white, these “diamonds of first water” appear luminous, similar to fresh, clear water or frozen transparent ice.



Leading the selection of Golconda diamonds is an exceptional diamond necklace by Nirav Modi, featuring 34 square and rectangular-shaped pink diamonds and over 86 carats of colorless diamonds, including the stunning D color, Internally Flawless pear-shaped Golconda diamond of 12.29 carats at its center (*image left*, estimate: HK\$22-32 million / US\$2.8-4 million). The pink diamonds set into this necklace are the finest from the Argyle mine in Australia. These pinks, each with vivid and intense pink certificates from the GIA, are carefully matched to create two supporting lines. **The resulting neckpiece is linked by special diamond chains,**

whose cutting took over a year to develop. This striking diamond necklace is a symphony of sparkling color and light, with the diamond chains allowing for a flexible link that uses hardly any metal. This in turn maximizes the light return of the major stones, showing them off to their greatest advantage. **The combination of the rarity of the stones and the originality of the mount makes this an *objet d'art* that would be a priceless addition to the jewellery collection of any connoisseur.**

A further Golconda highlight is the **exceptional D color, Internally Flawless, Type IIa marquise-cut diamond of 16.72 carat** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$17.6-25 million/ US\$2.2-3 million). Type IIa diamonds are the most chemically pure type of diamonds and this lovely example displays a color and degree of transparency that is truly exceptional.



Other white diamond highlights include **a double-strand diamond necklace** set with fifty-seven D color, Internally Flawless pear and brilliant-cut diamonds with a combined weight of just under 70 carats (estimate: HK\$8-12 million / US\$1-1.5 million) and **a delicate diamond cluster bracelet** featuring thirty-nine marquise and pear-shaped D color, Internally Flawless diamonds with a total weighing of over 45 carats (estimate: HK\$5.5-8 million / US\$700,000-1 million).

A RAINBOW OF COLORED GEMS



This season Christie's will offer a range of important sapphires, with top examples from each of the sapphire producing regions: Kashmir, Burma, and Ceylon and Madagascar. Leading the group is **an exquisite pair of sapphire and diamond earrings, each set with a cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire of 8.74 and 8.65 carats** (*image left*, estimate: HK\$11.8-20 million / US\$1.5-2.5 million). These natural sapphires show no indication of heating and possess extraordinary characteristics of the finest Kashmir sapphires. With their exceptional vivid blue color, impressive saturation, and excellent shape and cutting style, they are indeed an outstanding matching pair and a remarkable treasure.

Burmese sapphires generally have a stronger, more forceful hue than that of their Kashmiri counterparts, as seen in the **pair of 17.25 and 15.09 cushion-shaped sapphire ear pendants** (estimate: HK\$6.4-8 million /

US\$800,000-1,000,000). Exhibiting the classic Burmese ‘royal blue’ hue, these gems are extremely well-matched and strikingly rare given their size and quality. For more than 2000 years Ceylon (Sri Lanka), has remained a key source of sapphires, which are noted for their lighter, brighter and more delicate blues. **A suite of sapphire jewellery stands as a remarkable assembly of 39 extremely well-matched, top quality stones from Sri Lanka and Madagascar**, which each boast a high clarity and well-proportioned cut resulting in vibrant, richly saturated internal color reflections (estimate: HK\$4.8-6.4 million / US\$600,000-800,000).



A stunning pair of ruby ear pendants from Etcetera leads the selection of rubies presented this season (*image left*, estimate: HK\$13.6-18 million / US\$1.7-2.3 million). Each is centered on an extraordinary oval-shaped ruby weighing 5.02 and 4.25 carats. Featuring the ‘pigeon’s blood red’ of the finest Burmese rubies and showing no indication of heating, these gems are rarely encountered in the market and are rare for their size, excellent transparency and brilliancy, luminous color, and exceptional clarity. Also of note is **a rare ruby ring set with a 7.04 carat oval-shaped gem** that merits particular appreciation not only for its size, but for the extremely well-saturated and homogeneous vivid red color that it possesses (estimate: HK\$11-15 million / US\$1.4-1.9 million).

MAGNIFICENT JADEITE JEWELS

Jadeite jewels form an important cornerstone of Christie’s sales in Hong Kong each season. Known as the ‘Stone of Heaven’, jadeite has great cultural significance in China, and is associated with human qualities such as hardness, constancy, purity, energy, beauty and even immortality. Leading the sale is **a jadeite and diamond bracelet boasting seven graduated oval-shaped jadeite cabochons** of rich emerald green color and excellent transparency (*image right*, estimate: HK\$4-6 million / US\$500,000-750,000). Also of note are **two jadeite gems from Cartier**: a jadeite bead bracelet comprising 91 jadeite beads of intense emerald green color and high translucency (estimate: HK\$800,000-1.2 million / US\$100,000-150,000), and a elegant jadeite brooch carved with an auspicious scene of bats and peaches (estimate: HK\$2.5-3.5 million / US\$320,000-450,000).



In advance of the 29 November sale in Hong Kong, highlights from *Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale* will be on view in the following cities around the world:

Date	Location	Venue
24-25 October	Beijing	St. Regis Hotel
27-28 October	Shanghai	Four Seasons Hotel
30-31 October	Xiamen	Humble Art & Antique Museum
4-5 November	Tokyo	Christie’s Tokyo
9-10 November	Bangkok	Christie’s Bangkok
14-16 November	Geneva	Four Seasons, Hotel des Bergues
20-21 November	Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building
25-29 November	Hong Kong	Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

IMAGES OF SALE HIGHLIGHTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED HERE:

<http://cshk.myftp.org/Fall%202010%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/Jewels/Images/>

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. For the first half of 2010, art sales totaled £1.7 billion/\$2.57 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 \$100 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.