

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

March 10, 2011

Contact: Alexandra Kindermann +44 20 7389 2289 akindermnn@christies.com
Eileen Wallis +9714369 356 eileen.wallis@theportsmouthgroup.com

IMPORTANT NATURAL PEARLS COLOURED DIAMONDS & RUBIES AT CHRISTIE'S SPRING SALE OF JEWELS IN DUBAI



An impressive suite of diamond and fancy coloured diamond jewellery
Estimate: \$450,000-550,000

Auction: Jewels: The Dubai Sale - 20 April, 2011

Sponsored by Credit Suisse

Dubai, 2011 – A spectacular intense and vivid yellow and orange diamond necklace, along with one of the largest drop-shaped natural pearls so far recorded and a natural Burmese ruby weighing 22 carats are among the dazzling highlights of Christie's April 20th sale of *Jewels* at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel in Dubai. Christie's, the world's leading art business, who have been holding regular auctions in the Middle East since 2006, will also be offering *Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art* at auction on the previous evening, April 19th (separate press release available).

David Warren, International Director of Christie's Jewellery department and Head of Jewellery Middle East, commented: "Chic modern jewellery, rare gemstones and carefully chosen examples of work by top Contemporary jewellers, combine to produce an attractive and 'tailored' jewellery auction for our Middle Eastern collectors."

Diamonds and Gemstones

An impressive suite of diamond and fancy coloured diamond jewellery comprising a necklace with a double swag of graduated diamond flowerheads, with matching earrings, is the highest valued lot in the sale at \$450,000-550,000. The earrings and the necklace are mounted with a series of rare Fancy Intense diamonds of yellow and orange hues of impressive size. The necklace converts for use as a tiara and may also be worn as a single row necklace. A spectacular Fancy Brownish Greenish Yellow diamond ring weighing 25.01carats, is another key piece in the sale with an estimate of \$280,000-350,000. Also highlighting this part of the sale are two rare cushion-shaped Burmese ruby rings. One weighing 10.03carats and another of 22.06carats, they are estimated at \$240,000-280,000 and \$200,000-250,000 respectively. Unheated Burmese rubies of these large sizes are rare and highly coveted.



Natural Pearls

Appropriately for the Gulf, Christie's Dubai sales have often featured fine natural pearls. A spectacular 8-strand graduated natural pearl necklace with a late Victorian diamond clasp, is a highlight of the sale with an estimate of \$240,000-280,000 (shown above). To complement this piece is an important natural baroque drop-shaped pearl weighing 239.7 grains (59.92 carats). This impressive pearl was once part of the collection of Valda

Virginia Vaughn Scott, the daughter of an English diplomat and a member of the prestigious Alessi family. Her grandfather and great-grandfather served in the Royal Malta Regiment and the Malta Crown Advocate, and they were in turn descended from the Maltese nobleman, the Marquis di Taflia. This fine provenance also lends itself to the rarity of the pearl, whose size places it as one of the largest natural saltwater pearls so far recorded. It is estimated at US\$180,000-250,000.

Contemporary and Signed Jewels



An imposing oval-shaped sapphire and diamond ring by Van Cleef and Arpels, weighing 30.05 carats, specially commissioned in 1959, is a highlight of this section and is estimated at \$80,000-120,000. Among the contemporary jewels which are much admired by Middle Eastern clients is a striking diamond and multi-gem bracelet by Michael Youssoufian (shown left). The wide band is mounted with a series of oval-shaped moonstone cabochons interspersed by vari-shaped 'paraiba' tourmalines, spinel and tsavorite garnets, accented by brilliant-cut diamonds (estimated: \$30,000-40,000). At \$9,000-12,000 is an amusing multi-gem 'Golden Seahorse' ring by Anna Hu, decorated at the sides with yellow diamonds depicting a 'golden seahorse'. Using sapphire, diamond and green garnet to suggest the



colours of the ocean, this setting supports an oval-shaped rose-cut blue topaz weighing 24.05 carats.

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Notes to editors:

Christie's auction of *Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian and Turkish Art* takes place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7pm

Christie's auction of *Jewels; The Dubai Sale*, takes place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 7pm

Viewing is open to the public at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel:

Sunday 17 April:	2pm to 10pm
Monday 18 April:	2pm to 10pm
Tuesday 19 April:	10am to 10pm
Wednesday 20 April	10am to 4.30pm (Jewels only)

For catalogues and further information, please telephone +971 4425 5647

Christie's in the Middle East

Christie's are the leading art auctioneers in the Middle East and the leading art business in the world. They were the first international auction house to have a permanent presence in the region, as well as the first to hold auctions which provided an international platform for artists of the region. Christie's has sold just under \$200 million of art, watches and jewellery in the Middle East since the first international art auction in the region took place in 2006, and has seen buyers from as many as 30 different countries participating at each sale. In addition to the regular auctions, Christie's is keen to encourage and support educational opportunities and holds exhibitions, educational seminars and charity auctions throughout the region.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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