

For Immediate Release

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Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

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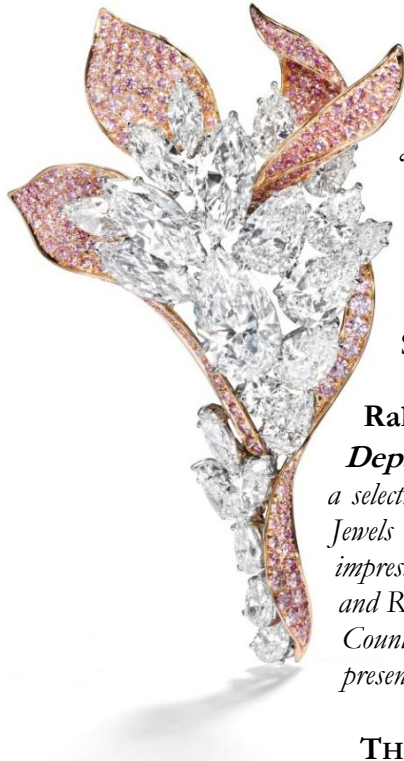
# SPARKLING JEWELS

**CHRISTIE'S**

**Magnificent Jewels**

Geneva, Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues

Wednesday 16 May, 2pm to 7pm



**Geneva** - On 16 May, two days after the exceptional sale of 'Jewels for Hope: The Collection of Mrs Lily Safra', Christie's Geneva will hold its 'traditional' spring auction of 'Magnificent Jewels' at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues. More than 340 lots estimated in excess of \$50 million will be offered in Geneva, including spectacular jewels created by some of the most remarkable designers of all time. The most valuable lot of the sale is a pair of pear-shaped diamond earrings by Harry Winston (16.21 and 15.67 carats, D/VVS2, potentially flawless), estimated SFr.3,000,000-3,750,000 / US\$3,200,000-3,900,000 (*illustrated top right*).



**Rahul Kadakia, Head of Christie's New York and Geneva Jewellery Departments**, commented: "Royal Indian jewels, spectacular gemstones, superb diamonds, and a selection of the finest vintage and contemporary jewels will highlight Christie's 16 May Magnificent Jewels auction in Geneva. Jewellery having once belonged to the movie icon Maria Felix and an impressive coloured diamond ring whose history is closely linked to Hollywood legends Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton will also be featured in the sale. A diamond tiara commissioned for the wedding of Count Carlo Raggio and Marchioness Tea Spinola in 1909 completes the selection with its aristocratic presence."

## THE FINEST GEMSTONES & THE 23.60 CT COLOURED DIAMOND RING

*"I was deeply moved by Richard's gesture of giving me the ring. [...] After a long discussion, we both decided that we would like to build a hospital-clinic in Kasane, Botswana. They need one badly and I certainly don't need another ring".* Elizabeth Taylor, 1975

True to its tradition of offering the best gemstones for sale, Christie's has once again assembled a selection of rare diamonds and gemstones. In addition to the extraordinary pair of pear-shaped diamond earrings by Harry Winston, this section will be highlighted by a Fancy Brown-Orange diamond ring of 23.60 carats estimated at SFr.570,000-760,000 (US\$600,000-800,000; *illustrated right, unmounted*).

The stone had once been offered to Elizabeth Taylor by Richard Burton in 1975 while they were in Africa, but Elizabeth Taylor refused the present, arguing that the money should rather be spent for building a hospital in Botswana. Amongst the finest jewels for sale is a stunning diamond flower brooch estimated at SFr.2,375,000-3,325,000 / US\$2,500,000-3,500,000 (*illustrated left*).

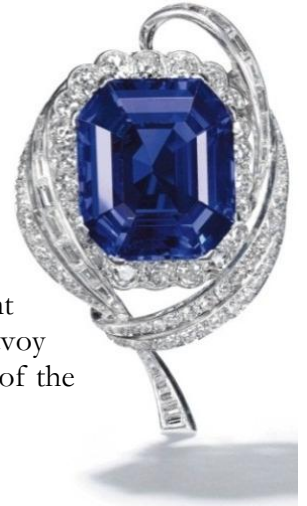




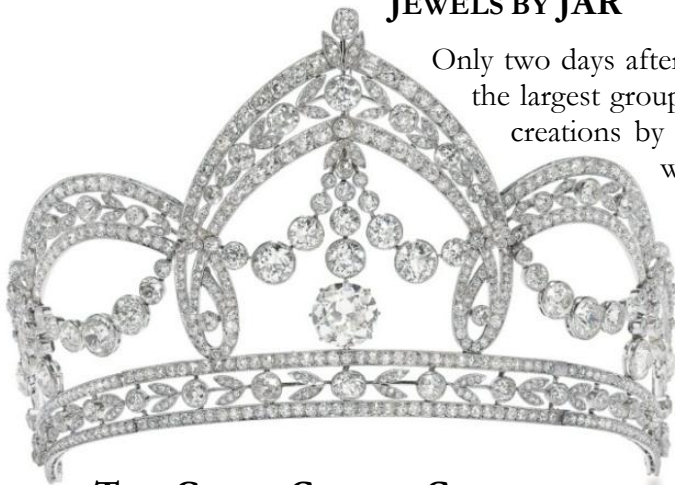
Other outstanding gemstones include a cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire ring of 33.07cts estimated at SFr.2,400,000-2,900,000 / US\$2,500,000-3,000,000 (*illustrated top left, unmounted*); a 14.66 carat Fancy Intense Yellow, a 52.28 carat Fancy Yellow, cultured pearl and ruby brooch (estimate: SFr.760,000-1,150,000 / US\$800,000-1,200,000), and a 47.15 carat octagonal-cut Burmese sapphire and diamond brooch by Mellerio, estimated at SFr.450,000-550,000 / US\$480,000-580,000 (*illustrated right*).

### AN ANTIQUE MASTERWORK

From the collection of a noble Genoese family, a Belle Epoque old-cut diamond tiara of unique quality and elegant design is the highlight of the selection of antique jewellery (estimate: SFr.300,000-500,000 / US\$320,000-530,000; *illustrated below left*). This impressive diamond tiara was part of a large group of exceptional jewels, specially commissioned by Italian jeweller Filippo Chiappe (1863-1936), for the wedding of Count Carlo Raggio and Marchioness Tea Spinola in 1909. Appointed court jeweller to the Savoy House and official supplier to the Italian Royal Family in 1913, Filippo Chiappe is one of the most famous Italian jewellers of his time.



### JEWELS BY JAR



Only two days after the sale of the collection of Mrs. Lily Safra which includes the largest group of jewels by JAR ever seen at auction, another seven great creations by the renowned jeweler will be offered at Christie's Geneva, with estimates ranging from \$5,000 to \$300,000. The highlight of this section is a stunning 3-stone diamond ring estimated at SFr.210,000-290,000 / US\$230,000-310,000 (*illustrated below right*). Also from the same private collection is an ebony, chalcedony and amethyst bangle estimated at SFr.34,000-42,000 / US\$36,000-44,000, while a delicate pair of green beryl and tourmaline spiral ear clips from a different property is estimated at SFr.120,000-180,000 / US\$130,000-197,000.

### THE GREAT CATS OF CARTIER

Jeanne Toussaint was appointed director of jewellery at Cartier in 1933 and went on to become one of the most influential jewellery personalities of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She was given the nickname 'The Panther' by Louis Cartier on account of her choice of panther skin rugs in her apartment, and was credited with the creation of 'Big Cat' jewellery. The Duke of Windsor commissioned a panther brooch in the late 1940s, and since then the panther has become an iconic Cartier motif. The concept of the tiger being used in jewellery was inspired by a personal commission from Barbara Hutton, who requested a brooch and pair of ear clips depicting tigers, which became one of her signature jewels. The strong character of both these women is perfectly mirrored in these bold feline designs.

A great example of the legendary 'Big Cat' series is a diamond, coloured diamond, onyx and emerald tiger brooch created by Cartier in the 1960s. Designed as a tiger hanging from a baguette-cut diamond hoop, its body, tail and head set with yellow diamonds and onyx, this brooch will be offered at Christie's Geneva with an estimate of SFr.270,000-360,000 / US\$290,000-380,000 (*illustrated on the last page, top right*).

A sapphire and diamond panther brooch by Cartier will also be for sale. Designed as a reclining panther, entirely pavé-set with diamonds, with sapphire buff top spots, two pear-shaped emeralds for eyes, and a nose applied with black enamel, this fabulous piece is estimated at SFr.240,000-360,000 / US\$260,000-330,000 (*illustrated on the last page, below left*).





## THE MARIA FELIX PARURE & SUPERB ANTIQUE INDIAN JEWELLERY

The highlight of a section dedicated to antique Indian jewels is undoubtedly the set of impressive diamond, enamel and gold jewellery from the collection of Mexican movie legend

María Félix (1914-2002). Comprising of a brooch designed as a Mughal tulip set with table-cut diamonds (*illustrated below left*),

a bracelet set with octagonal and pear shaped table-cut diamonds (*illustrated top right*), a necklace centering upon a table-cut diamond flower-head with old-cut diamond leaves (*illustrated top left*),

and a pair of modern ear pendants, designed as diamond flower-heads

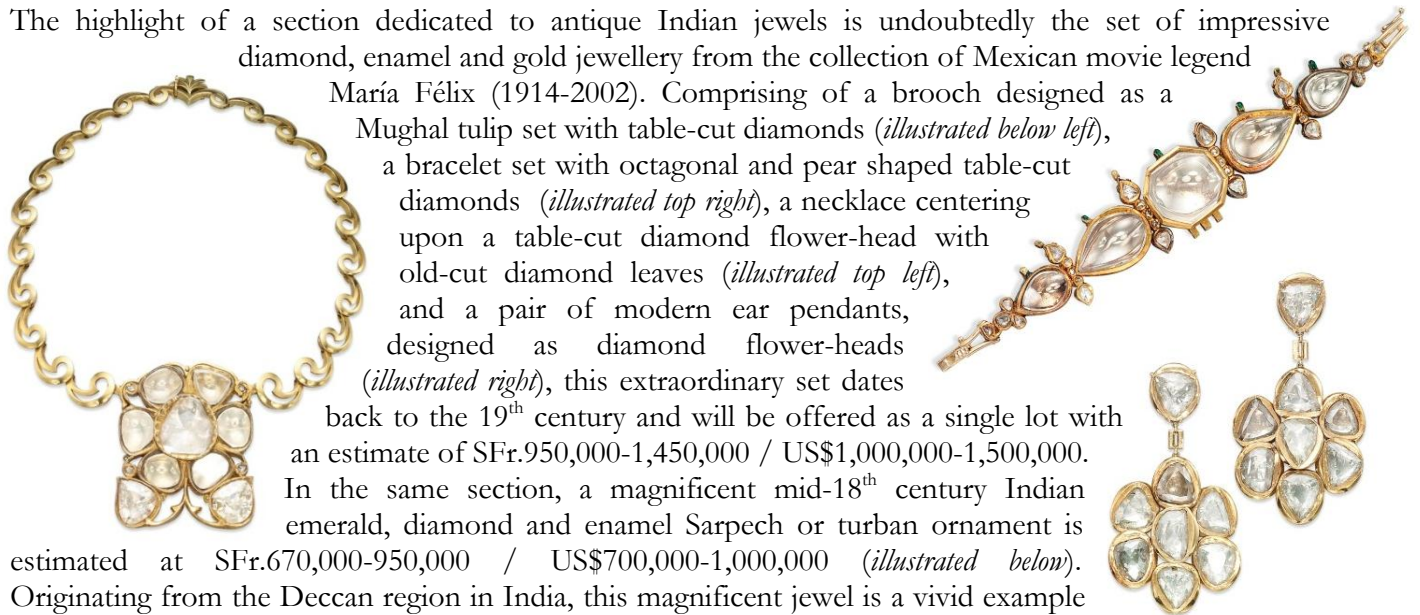
(*illustrated right*), this extraordinary set dates

back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and will be offered as a single lot with an estimate of SFr.950,000-1,450,000 / US\$1,000,000-1,500,000.

In the same section, a magnificent mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Indian emerald, diamond and enamel Sarpech or turban ornament is estimated at SFr.670,000-950,000 / US\$700,000-1,000,000 (*illustrated below*).

Originating from the Deccan region in India, this magnificent jewel is a vivid example of Mughal refinement at its best and almost certainly adorned the turban of a great ruler

during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As one of the most important ornaments in the attire of Mughal Emperors, the Sarpech would symbolize the power and glory of its bearer, just as crowns would do for European Royalty. The design of Sarpechs evolved over time and under the reign of Shah Jahan (1592-1666) they were richly encrusted with precious stones on one side, while the reverse would be enameled with highly ornate motifs, reflecting the taste of the Emperor. The exceptional craftsmanship, very fine enamel decoration and high quality gemstones of the current example make it one of the most important Sarpechs to ever appear on the market.



# CHRISTIE'S

## Magnificent Jewels

Geneva, Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues

### Auctions:

Wednesday 16 May, 2pm & 7pm

### Viewings in Geneva:

11 May, 2pm-6pm

12 May, 10am-7pm

13-15 May, 10am-6pm

16 May, 10am-1pm



### International Tour:

#### **Christie's New York**

20 Rockefeller Plaza

14-15 April, 10am-6pm

16 April 10am-5pm

#### **Beijing**

Great Hall, 2nd Floor, The St. Regis Hotel, 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie

21-22 April, 10am-6pm

#### **Shanghai**

The Rose Ballroom I & II, The Peninsula, No. 32, The Bund

32 Zhongshan Dong Yi Road

24-25 April, 10am-6pm

#### **Christie's Hong Kong**

22nd Floor, Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road, Central

27 April, 10am-6pm

28 April, 10am-5.30pm

### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year. Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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Images available on request

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