

## CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG MAGNIFICENT JEWELS AUTUMN AUCTION 2013



### LED BY THREE EXTREMELY RARE BURMESE UNHEATED RUBIES

**Hong Kong** – On 26 November 2013, Christie's Hong Kong will stage its **Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels** auction. Presenting over 300 pieces of jewellery and estimated to fetch a combined total of approximately HK\$720 million / US\$90 million, the sale is headlined by a Burmese unheated pigeon's blood red ruby and diamond necklace and ear pendants, a 13.21-carat oval-shaped Burmese no heat ruby and diamond ring, as well as a diamond rivi re composed of all D colour brilliant-cut diamonds. While the rubies lead the show, a sensational array of rare diamonds, coloured stones, natural pearls and jadeite jewellery will offer up a wide spectrum of choices for collectors, with a group of important pieces from international design houses adding to the dazzle. Highlights from these categories include a pair of natural pearl and diamond ear pendants, a pair of significantly sized emerald and diamond ear pendants, and a vivid emerald green double-strand jadeite bead necklace.

### THE RUBY PASSION

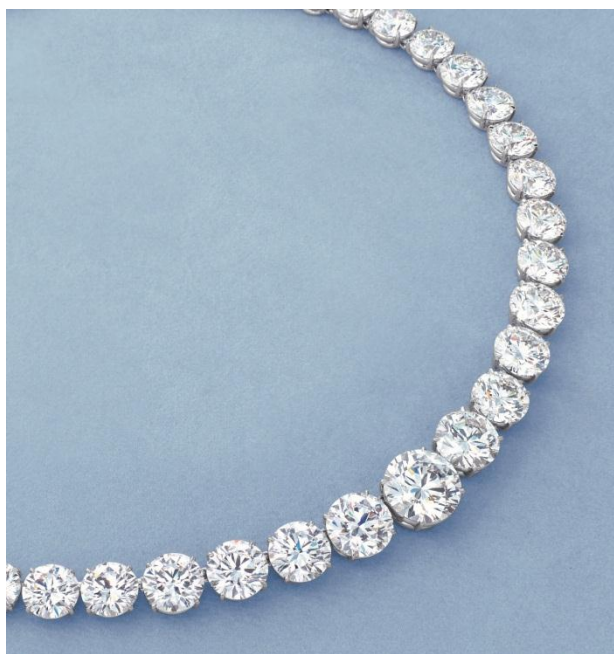
Beautiful, rare and of great worth, rubies have been widely appreciated and collected since ancient times. In Indian civilization, they are known as *ratnanayakaya*, meaning the "Lord of the Gemstones"; while in the Bible, they appear in the book of Proverbs as a metaphor for one of the most precious materials. During medieval times, rubies were also hailed as "the gem of gems... (which) surpasses all other gems in value" by Philippe de Valois (1293 – 1350), the first King of France of the House of Valois.

The sale is topped by the astonishing Crimson Garland suite by Etcetera comprising **a magnificent Burmese no heat ruby and diamond necklace** (*Illustrated middle*, lot 2109, est. HK\$38,000,000-58,000,000 / US\$4,800,000-7,250,000) and **a pair of Burmese no heat ruby and diamond ear pendants** (*Illustrated right*, lot 2110, est. HK\$15,000,000-25,000,000 / US\$1,875,000-3,200,000). All the rubies used in the necklace and ear pendants are

vivid “pigeon’s blood” red, the most desirable colour for rubies, and consist of top-quality rubies totalling 99.98 carats in weight and diamonds of over 70 carats combined. In addition, despite the fact that rubies weighing over five carats are known to be extremely scarce, it contains two cushion-shaped rubies each weighing 10.32 and 10.03 carats as its centrepieces, making it an extraordinary collectible. Meanwhile, the pair of ear pendants is set with two cushion-shaped rubies of 6.17 and 6.03 carats, respectively, each within an oval-shaped diamond border.

Also from the Burmese unheated ruby family is **an exceptional ruby and diamond ring named “The Regal Ruby”** (*Illustrated left on page 1*, lot 2075, est. HK\$38,000,000-58,000,000 / US\$4,870,000-7,250,000). Set with an oval-shaped ruby weighing an imposing size of 13.21 carats, the ring is flanked by half-moon diamonds and mounted in 18k white and yellow gold.

## DIAMONDS AND COLOURED DIAMONDS



Diamonds continue to play an important part in Christie’s Hong Kong’s jewels sale, with one particular **superb D colour flawless and internally flawless clarity (Ex/Ex/Ex) diamond rivière** (*Illustrated left*, lot 2103, est. HK\$56,000,000-72,000,000 / US\$7,000,000-9,000,000) among this season’s top lots. Mounted in platinum, this diamond stunner is designed as a graduated line of 52 brilliant-cut diamonds, five of which have been determined as Type IIa, meaning that they are the most chemically pure type of diamonds and have exceptional optical transparency. In addition, they have all been graded as “triple excellent” in cut, polish and symmetry.

In the coloured diamonds category, two pieces of jewels take the spotlight. The first is **a rare oval-shaped fancy intense orangy pink diamond and diamond ring** (lot 2063, est. HK\$33,000,000-50,000,000 / US\$4,200,000-6,250,000). Centring upon a 12.85-carat, VVS1 clarity fancy intense

orangy pink diamond, one of the most sought-after diamond colours to be known, the ring boasts a brilliant-cut diamond border and pear-shaped diamond surround, joined to the brilliant-cut diamond bifurcated half-hoop. The second is a **“Starlight” pendent necklace set with a pear-shaped W to X range, light brown colour VS2 clarity (Ex/Ex), Type IIa diamond of 90.80 carats designed by William Goldberg** (lot 1978, est. HK\$24,000,000-35,000,000 / US\$3,000,000-4,500,000). The diamond pendant came from a diamond rough of a very rare hefty weight of 268.79 carats. The odds of finding such a significant rough is very high when historically, approximately one ton of ore is processed in order to yield a one-carat diamond crystal. It ultimately fetched two diamonds, in which one of them is the pear-shaped diamond pendant of an imposing size of 90.80 carats. The necklace is accented by a series of pear-shaped pink diamond flower heads and suspended from a three-strand brilliant and baguette-cut diamond neck chain. With such an intricate structure and eye-catching design features, the necklace showcases Goldberg’s unique flair.

## PEARL AND JADEITE

On the other hand, the pearls & jadeite category, one of the most prominent collections at Christie’s Hong Kong, offers a quartet of top pieces. **“The Empresses of the Orient” – a unique pair of natural pearl and diamond ear pendants** (lot 2095, est. HK\$18,000,000-28,000,000 / US\$2,300,000-3,500,000) is set with two white natural pearl drops measuring approximately 11.3-11.4 x 17.8 and 12.0-12.0 x 18.5 mm each, surmounted by natural white perfect button pearls measuring approximately 13.7-13.7 x 11.3 and 13.7-13.8 x 12.0 mm, to the brilliant-cut diamond hook. Another pearl highlight is **“The Aurora Pearl” – a natural pearl and diamond pendent necklace by Etcetera for Paspaley** (lot 2092, est. HK\$1,500,000-2,500,000 / US\$190,000-300,000). Named after

the Roman Goddess of the Dawn and discovered in 2003, the 102.4-grain Aurora Pearl is the largest “virgin” or undrilled pearl ever offered at auction and one of the largest pieces from the Paspaley collection. Its beauty is characterised by a play of colours between intense pink, blue and green orient on a pure white ground.



With growing interest and demand from both Chinese and international collectors, the price of top-class jadeite continues to gain momentum in the high-end jewellery market. Following Christie's Shanghai Inaugural Auction in September, where a carved jadeite laughing Buddha ignited a fierce bidding war and was eventually sold for 13 times its original estimate, a fabulous line-up of jadeite pieces will be featured in the autumn 2013 auction. The two exceptional highlights in this category are epitomes of the three major quality criteria for jadeite: colour, translucency and thickness. One is a **superb jadeite bead and diamond necklace** (lot 2086, est. HK\$16,000,000-25,000,000 / US\$2,000,000-3,200,000). Designed as a two-strand necklace, the piece comprises 107 slightly graduated jadeite beads of even, vivid emerald green colour and high translucency. The other is a **jadeite and diamond necklace** (*Illustrated left*, lot 2017, est. HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000 / US\$1,000,000-1,500,000) with its front set with seven thick high-domed oval jadeite cabochons of bright emerald green colour and high translucency, linked by brilliant-cut diamond spacers.

## COLOURED GEMSTONES

A rare pair of emerald and diamond ear pendants (lot 2049, est. HK\$9,500,000-12,000,000 / US\$1,200,000-1,500,000) stands out in the Coloured Gemstones section. Each of this significantly sized ear pendant pair is set with a Colombian moderate oil emerald drop weighing over 30 carats and suspended from an emerald bead surmount of approximately 8.17 and 7.24 carats, respectively, within a brilliant-cut diamond surround and centre.

Other highlights include a **37.32-carat cushion-shaped Burmese no heat “royal blue” sapphire and diamond brooch** (lot 1914, est. HK\$10,500,000-18,000,000 / US\$1,350,000-2,250,000), and a **square-shaped Colombian no oil emerald and diamond brooch of approximately 12.00 carats from the Thurn and Taxis collection** (lot 2000, est. HK\$4,800,000-6,500,000 / US\$600,000-800,000).

## HONG KONG MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

*Grand Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, No. 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai*  
26 November 2013, Sale 3268

### PREVIEW:

21-25 November 2013

10:30am to 6:00pm

### AUCTION:

26 November 2013 (Friday)

1:30pm

### PRESS CONTACTS:

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Please click [here](#) to view the factsheet and images of the above auction highlights.

## About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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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## FACTSHEET

### CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG AUTUMN AUCTIONS 2013 HONG KONG MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

Please [click here](#) to view the complete press releases and images of the auctions mentioned.

#### THE RUBY PASSION



Lot 2109

#### **A MAGNIFICENT BURMESE NO HEAT PIGEON'S BLOOD RUBY AND DIAMOND NECKLACE, BY ETCETERA**

The front designed as two rows of graduated oval-shaped diamond swags, interspersed and gathered by oval and cushion-shaped rubies, further embellished by a fringe of pear-shaped diamonds suspended by brilliant-cut diamond triangular shape surmounts, to the similarly-set back chain, joined by brilliant-cut diamond half-moon links; mounted in 18k white and yellow gold, *37.2 cm long*

Estimate:

HK\$38,000,000-58,000,000

US\$4,800,000-7,250,000



Lot 2110

#### **A PAIR OF BURMESE NO HEAT PIGEON'S BLOOD RUBY AND DIAMOND EAR PENDANTS, BY ETCETERA**

Each ear pendant set with a cushion-shaped ruby weighing 6.17 and 6.03 carats, within an oval-shaped diamond border, surmounted by a pear-shaped diamond weighing 2.01 and 2.01 carats, terminating in diamond-set triangular shape tassels set with pear-shaped diamonds weighing from 3.55 to 1.00 carats, mounted in 18k white and yellow gold, *5.5 cm long*

Estimate:

HK\$15,000,000-25,000,000

US\$1,875,000-3,200,000



Lot 2075

#### ***THE REGAL RUBY***

#### **A 13.21 CARATS BURMESE NO HEAT RUBY AND DIAMOND RING**

Set with an oval-shaped ruby weighing 13.21 carats, flanked by half-moon diamonds, mounted in 18k white and yellow gold

Estimate:

HK\$38,000,000-58,000,000

US\$4,870,000-7,250,000

## DIAMONDS AND COLOURED DIAMONDS



Lot 2103

### **A SUPERB D COLOUR FLAWLESS AND INTERNALLY FLAWLESS CLARITY (EX/EX/EX) DIAMOND RIVIÈRE**

Designed as a graduated line of fifty-two brilliant-cut diamonds, mounted in platinum

Estimate:

HK\$56,000,000-72,000,000

US\$7,000,000-9,000,000



Lot 2063

### **A RARE 12.85 CARATS OVAL-SHAPED FANCY INTENSE ORANGY PINK DIAMOND AND DIAMOND RING**

Centering upon an oval-shaped fancy intense orangy pink diamond weighing approximately 12.85 carats, within a brilliant-cut diamond border and pear-shaped diamond surround, joined to the brilliant-cut diamond bifurcated half-hoop, mounted in platinum and 18k rose gold, *ring size 5 3/4*

Estimate:

HK\$33,000,000-50,000,000

US\$4,200,000-6,250,000



Lot 1978

### **A 90.80 CARATS PEAR-SHAPED W TO X RANGE, LIGHT BROWN COLOUR VS2 CLARITY (TYPE IIA) DIAMOND AND DIAMOND 'STARLIGHT' PENDENT NECKLACE, BY WILLIAM GOLDBERG**

The pear-shaped diamond weighing approximately 90.80 carats, the openwork gallery accented by a series of pear-shaped pink diamond flowerheads, suspended from a three-strand brilliant and baguette-cut diamond neckchain, joined by pavé-set brilliant-cut diamond hoops, enhanced by a rectangular-shaped yellow diamond and square-shaped diamond spacer, mounted in platinum and 18k rose gold (neckchain detachable to form two bracelets), *necklace 84.0 cm long, bracelet 17.2 cm long, in blue leather William Goldberg case*

Estimate:

HK\$24,000,000-35,000,000

US\$3,000,000-4,500,000

## COLOURED GEMSTONES



Lot 2049

### **A RARE PAIR OF EMERALD AND DIAMOND EAR PENDANTS**

Each set with a Colombian moderate oil emerald drop weighing approximately 30.26 and 30.09 carats, joined to the brilliant-cut diamond cap, suspended from an emerald bead surmount weighing approximately 8.17 and 7.24 carats, within a brilliant-cut diamond surround and centre, mounted in platinum, *5.3 cm long*

Estimate:

HK\$9,500,000-12,000,000

US\$1,200,000-1,500,000

## PEARL AND JADEITE



Lot 2095

### ***THE EMPRESSES OF THE ORIENT***

#### **A UNIQUE PAIR OF NATURAL PEARL AND DIAMOND EAR PENDANTS**

Each white natural pearl drop measuring approximately 11.3 - 11.4 x 17.8 and 12.0 - 12.0 x 18.5 mm, joined to the brilliant-cut diamond cap, surmounted by a natural white button pearl measuring approximately 13.7 - 13.7 x 11.3 and 13.7 - 13.8 x 12.0 mm, to the brilliant-cut diamond hook, mounted in 18k white gold, *5.0 cm long*

Estimate:

HK\$18,000,000-28,000,000

US\$2,300,000-3,500,000



Lot 2092

#### **A NATURAL PEARL AND DIAMOND PENDENT NECKLACE, BY ETCETERA FOR PASPALEY**

The pendant set with an undrilled white baroque natural pearl drop measuring approximately 13.6 - 14.8 x 18.2 mm, to the pear-shaped diamond surmount weighing approximately 1.02 carats, suspended from a briolette diamond neck chain, mounted in 18k white gold, *40.3 cm long*

Estimate:

HK\$1,500,000-2,500,000

US\$190,000-300,000



Lot 2086

#### **A SUPERB JADEITE BEAD AND DIAMOND NECKLACE**

Designed as a two-strand necklace, comprising one hundred and seven slightly graduated jadeite beads of even vivid emerald green colour and high translucency, measuring from 4.6 to 10.7 mm, to the oval jadeite cabochon and diamond clasp, mounted in 18k white gold, *54.5 cm long*

Estimate:

HK\$16,000,000-25,000,000

US\$2,000,000-3,200,000



Lot 2017

#### **A JADEITE AND DIAMOND NECKLACE**

The front set with seven thick high-domed oval jadeite cabochons of bright emerald green colour and high translucency, linked by brilliant-cut diamond spacers, joined to a diamond backchain and jadeite cabochon clasp of similar material, mounted in 18k white gold, *largest cabochon approximately 19.7 x 17.3 x 8.2 mm, 32.0 cm long*

Estimate:

HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000

US\$1,000,000-1,500,000

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