

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S SPRING SALE OF MAGNIFICENT JEWELS LIGHTS UP HONG KONG AUCTION WEEK IN MAY

Hong Kong - Christie's, the world's leading auction house for magnificent jewels and the market leader in the field for fifteen years, will present its Spring auction in Hong Kong on May 26 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The sale brings together an exciting and stunning selection of the highest quality diamonds, both white and coloured, as well as beautiful coloured stones and jadeite jewellery. Other offerings include rare period pieces, signed jewels from some of the world's great jewellery houses, as well as a wide range of jewels offered at no reserve, ensuring something for every collector this season.

COLOURLESS DIAMONDS: PRICES SHOW STRENGTH AS COLLECTORS FOCUS ON QUALITY

The recent success of the April 22 sale of jewellery at Christie's in New York with its 84% sell-through rate and its strong per carat results demonstrated that this is one category capable of adapting impressively to the challenging economic environment. The sale showed the market for colourless diamonds remains firm, with prices often very much in line with those realised for similar stones this time last year.



Leading the May sale in Hong Kong is a **magnificent diamond pendant** (*detail image left, estimate on request*). The **enticing 20.70 carats, D colour and Flawless clarity diamond is exceedingly rare for its superb quality and tremendous size**. Cut to exacting standards, the diamond flaunts Excellent polish and Excellent symmetry resulting in the most proportionate balance of sparkle and brilliance within the stone. Mounted with a 10.07 carats pear-shaped diamond of D colour and Internally Flawless clarity, this diamond pendant is a magnificent jewel whose allure is heightened in that **both stones have been determined to be Type IIa, the most chemically pure form of diamond that shows exceptional optical transparency**.

Other leading highlights include **an impressive diamond ring by Cartier**, set with an old-cut pear-shaped D colour, Internally Flawless, Type IIa diamond of 14.43 carats (*image right, estimate on request*). Also on offer is **an unmounted D colour, Flawless, Type IIa diamond of 15.02 carats** with excellent cut and symmetry



(estimate: HK\$10.2-15 million / US\$1.3-1.9 million), and **an exceptional pendant set with a D colour, Internally Flawless diamond briolette of 14.99 carats** (estimate: HK\$9.35-15 million / US\$1.2-1.9 million).



Rounding out the selection of fine colourless diamonds is **an elegant pair of diamond ear pendants** (*image left*, estimate: HK\$7-10 million / US\$900,000-1.3 million), each suspending a D colour, VS2 pear-shaped diamond of 10.03 and 10.02 carats. Also of note is **a charming pair of diamond ear pendants, each suspending a cushion-shaped diamond of 7.02 and 6.94 carats** (estimate: HK\$3.55-5.5 million / US\$450,000-710,000).

A RAINBOW OF COLOURED DIAMONDS: EXCEEDINGLY RARE AND CHERISHED BY COLLECTORS



As the world's rarest and most valuable stones, coloured diamonds have continued to command strong prices. Leading the May sale in Hong Kong is **an exquisite suite boasting 56 coloured diamonds with a thrilling range of hues** (*necklace detail image right*, estimate: HK\$10.8-15 million / US\$1.35-1.9 million). Dazzling with brilliant colour, this exceedingly rare jewel is set with a selection of certified Fancy Deep, Vivid and Intense pink, blue, yellow and green diamonds weighing 14.67 carats total.

The Star of Kimberley is an immense and exquisitely chiselled light yellow diamond weighing 40.86 carats, whose 82.55-carat crystal rough was found in 1999 (*image right*, estimate: HK\$4-6 million / US\$500,000-800,000). The present specimen is a fine example of the type of large yellow gems uncovered at the diamond mines near the town of Kimberley in South Africa. The gem is classified as Type Ia where the presence of nitrogen atoms in its carbon structure produces its pleasing yellow hue. Fashioned into a cushion-shaped brilliant style, an 'old mine-cut' that dates back to the seventeenth-century, the diamond speaks of that rare charm and romanticism of the old world.



IMPORTANT COLOURED GEMSTONES: PRIZED AND PRECIOUS

Rubies, sapphires, and emeralds have long been prized for their natural beauty, durability and rarity. Mined throughout the world, these gemstones are found in a fascinating array of shapes and sizes, brilliancy and textures. The most valuable, however, are those that exhibit the truest and purest colour. This season's sale in Hong Kong will present an important selection of these most precious gems.

Leading the selection of coloured stones is **an exquisite and lively 7.40 carats Kashmir sapphire** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$2.35-3.5 million / US\$300,000-450,000). Kashmir sapphires are the world's most desirable and valuable sapphires for their velvety blue. Exhibiting a vivid saturation and boasting a most luxurious and natural 'cornflower' blue, this gem will undoubtedly spark a frenzy among gem connoisseurs.



Also on offer is a **superb ruby flower ring by Wallace Chan** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$1.5-2 million/ US\$200,000-300,000). This stunning jewel is set with nine oval-shaped, Burmese unheated rubies weighing a total of 12.24 carats. Combining that coveted ‘Pigeon’s Blood’ red hue along with a high degree of transparency, these stunning rubies – all matching in colour and clarity – will prove irresistible to the passionate collector.



A variety of important emeralds will be presented, including a remarkable emerald and diamond ring set with a **6.41 carat Colombian, no oil emerald** (estimate: HK\$950,000-1.5 million/ US\$120,000-190,000). Also of note is **an impressive pair of emerald and diamond ear pendants**, each designed as a flowerhead and suspending a circular-cut Colombian emerald weighing 7.57 and 6.41 carats (*image left*, estimate: HK\$1.6-2.5 million / US\$200,000-300,000).

SIGNED AND PERIOD JEWELS CONTINUE TO CAPTIVATE COLLECTORS



Leading the selection of fine period jewels is **an important Art Deco sapphire and diamond dress clip by Cartier** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$1.2-1.8 million / US\$150,000-230,000). Timeless and elegant, and exuding the refinement of top jewellery design of the 1930’s, this jewel is a true collector’s piece.

Fine jewellery of the early 1930s was often ‘all-white’, comprising solely of diamonds that were either set in platinum or white gold. A typical Art Deco design of this decade consisted of white stones that covered the entire surface. An infinite variety of patterns, shapes and sizes was created using predominantly round brilliant-cut and baguette-cut diamonds, such as in this **diamond clip by Cartier** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$120,000-180,000 / US\$15,000-23,000). With time, these designs decreased in angularity softening into curves, loops and spirals. The three-dimensional forms of the later 1930’s produced rounded pleats and ruff motifs. The most distinctive and versatile piece of jewellery during this period was the double clip brooch, which could be worn as a single large piece or as a smaller matching pair of brooches. Also on offer is a **diamond double clip brooch** (estimate: HK\$200,000-300,000 / US\$25,000-39,000) that, like the Cartier jewel, is timeless and elegant.



Other signed pieces include **an impressive diamond ‘Astrale’ pendent necklace by Bulgari** (estimate: HK\$1.5-2.5 million / US\$200,000-300,000) whose pendant is set with four concentric circles and embellished with meticulously hand-selected round brilliant-cut diamonds.

JADEITE: ENCHANTING GEMS WITH IMPORTANT CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Perhaps no other gemstone possesses an aura of mystery as does the gemstone jadeite. In over 2000 years of mining, the finest jadeite has only ever been found in what is today Northern Burma. Known as the ‘Stone of Heaven’, jadeite has great cultural significance in China. For the Chinese, jadeite is attributed with human qualities such as hardness, constancy, purity, energy, beauty and even

immortality. Once a favourite of the Empress Dowager Cixi, jadeite embodied certain especial characteristics that assured its elevated status. In colour, jadeite displays an emerald green with a saturation and tone that is neither too dark, nor too light. Combined with a fine texture and a vitreous translucency, these are the qualities that form the coveted values of this cherished green stone.



Among the top jadeite highlights this season is **an elegant pair of jadeite 'peapod' ear pendants** (*image left*, estimate: HK\$3.8-5.5 million / US\$ 500,000-710,000). Good fortune and auspicious thought are central to all aspects of Chinese life and culture and peapods are a popular and symbolic motif, bursting with auspicious references to wealth and abundance.

Also of note is **a pair of oval jadeite cabochon earrings** (estimate: HK\$1.5-2 million / US\$200,000-300,000) and **an exceptional oval jadeite double cabochon ring** (*image right*, estimate: HK\$5.5-8 million / US\$710,000-1 million). Radiating a beautiful depth of vivid and brilliant emerald green so typical of top quality Burmese jadeite, these cabochons are also impressive for their graceful proportions and size, as well as matching translucency and evenness of colour.



High resolution IMAGES can be downloaded here:

<http://shkmyfipog/2009/20Christie's/20Hong/20Kong/20Spring/20Auctions/Jewels/The/20Hong/20Kong/20Sale/>

The CATALOG for this sale is available online:

http://www.christies.com/Catalogus/index.asp?Site_ID=22528&CatParamter=Cat/2528/13/01

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Auctions:

Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Tuesday, May 26, at 2:30pm

Previews:

Taiwan

Fubon Life Assurance Building

Saturday to Sunday, May 16-17

Hong Kong

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Friday to Tuesday, May 22-26

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totaled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 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 600 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 70 offices in 30 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. For more information, please visit www.christies.com.