

*For Immediate Release
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**AFTER RECORD FIRST HALF CHRISTIE'S CONTINUES TO SHINE WITH
MAGNIFICENT JEWELS SALE IN NEW YORK**

Christie's Dominates Jewelry Auction Market and Opens Fall Season with Exquisite Sale of Rare Diamonds, Gemstones, and Signed Pieces

*Magnificent Jewels
October 19*

New York – Christie's Magnificent Jewels sale on October 19 in New York will lead the fall jewelry season with exceptional and exceedingly rare diamonds, gemstones, and signed jewelry. The sale continues on the heels of a tremendous first half for Christie's jewelry department worldwide.

Christie's experienced an extraordinary first half, with sales figures totaling \$137.5 million, an increase of 13% over the same period last year. During this time Christie's confirmed its position as the market leader in the field of jewelry for the 12th year in a row.

François Curiel, Chairman of Christie's Europe and International Head of Jewelry, says, "The jewelry market continues to strengthen, with international collectors showing a clear preference for diamonds and exceptional jewels with a distinguished provenance. We respond by continually organizing jewelry sales tailored to the market – whether it's New York, Geneva, Hong Kong, or beyond."

The October 19 sale of Magnificent Jewels at Christie's Rockefeller Center galleries features 400 jewels with estimates ranging from \$25,000 to \$2,500,000. The sale presents rare and important diamonds, gemstones, and exquisite signed jewelry representing each major period of jewelry design. Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewelry for Christie's Americas, says, "The jewelry market is on a great high and is enjoying a tremendous buzz with record prices being achieved for beautiful jewels and exceptional gems. Christie's October 19th Magnificent Jewels auction in New York presents itself in a wonderful catalogue showcasing rare colored diamonds, signed jewels and also an exquisite

selection of old mine emeralds, all of which promise to realize strong prices and satisfy the current intensity in market demand.”

DIAMONDS

Diamonds featured prominently in the year’s Magnificent Jewels sales, with a number of extremely rare diamonds sold in the spring. Leading the selection for the October 19 New York auction is a pear-shaped fancy pink, internally flawless diamond of 25.02cts (estimate: \$2.5–3million). Equally stunning is a 33.11ct pear-shaped diamond pendant graded D color, Flawless by the Gemological Institute of America (estimate: upon request).

Christie’s will also showcase a remarkable suite of diamond jewelry from Harry Winston, “The King of Diamonds.” These fabulous jewels, from a private collection, are mounted in platinum in the quintessential Winston style and represent the legacy of Harry Winston and his dedication to luxury and elegance. One highlight of the group is the fancy vivid blue, internally flawless diamond ring of 4.24cts (estimate: \$1.5–2million). Also included in this impressive collection is an elegant oval-cut diamond line necklace of seventy-three graduated stones totaling approximately 53.00cts (estimate: \$300,000–500,000) and a matching bracelet with seventeen oval-cut diamonds weighing approximately 35.00cts (estimate: \$280,000–350,000). A pair of diamond ear studs round out the group and feature two circular-cut diamonds, each just over 4cts (estimate: \$150,000–200,000).

EMERALDS & IMPORTANT GEMSTONES

Rare emeralds accent the important gemstones included the sale. A remarkable pair of royal Indian emerald bangles in their original Mughal settings is one of the most exquisite and historically important pieces in this category (estimate: \$800,000 – 1.2 million). These decadent bangles are each set with twenty-three square-cut Indian emeralds mounted in simple gold settings. Believed to have descended from an Important Royal Family, they are among the few old Indian jewels that have not been taken apart for their gems. Another important emerald highlight is a superb fluted emerald bead necklace of exceptional color weighing approximately 430cts (estimate: \$600,000–800,000). Rounding out the important gemstone selection is an extremely rare cushion-shaped sapphire weighing over 100cts (estimate: \$350,000–500,000).

SIGNED PIECES

After the tremendous success this category experienced in the April 2005 Magnificent Jewels sale, this year’s highlights of signed pieces are highly anticipated. All eyes are on the Raymond Yard diamond and gem-set rabbit brooch (estimate \$25,000–30,000). Designed as a pavé-set diamond

