

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG MAGNIFICENT JEWELLERY AND JADEITE JEWELLERY AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS A SUPERB PAIR OF NATURAL PEARL EAR PENDANTS, STUNNING DIAMONDS, EMERALDS AND RUBIES AND A RARE JADEITE CABOCHON

Magnificent Jewellery and Jadeite Jewellery 2 November 2004

Hong Kong – A highlight of Christie's international jewellery sales calendar, the *Magnificent Jewellery and Jadeite Jewellery* sale will be held on 2 November, 2004 at the J W Marriott Hotel. The auction features a superb pair of natural pearl ear pendants, signed pieces from Harry Winston, Van Cleef & Arpels and Graff and a fine selection of D colour Flawless diamonds, coloured diamonds and gemstones. A beautiful selection of jadeite jewellery will be on offer featuring a fabulous jadeite cabochon pendant of impressive size, translucency and colour.

A pair of natural pearl ear pendants amongst the finest to be offered at auction in Asia

Today, natural pearls are becoming increasingly scarce and are more than ever synonymous with refinement, richness and beauty. Given the depletion of the natural pearl sources due to pollution, large natural pearls are particularly rare and are highly prized by connoisseurs. Designed by Etcetera, the pair of superb natural pearl ear pendants is undoubtedly the most precious highlight of the Hong Kong jewelry auction. Of exceptional lustre and dimensions, these drop-shaped white or purplish grey pearls measuring approximately 15.23 x 24.88 or 16.57 x 24.79mm are amongst the most beautiful pearls to be offered in recent auctions (Estimate: HK\$4,000,000 – 6,000,000/ US\$500,000 – 750,000).

Signed jewellery from world renowned jewellers

A selection of timeless signed jewellery pieces from various world renowned jewellers is being showcased in the sale. Epitomising **Harry Winston's** simply elegant designs is a superb diamond bracelet dated circa 1953 consisting of over 80 carats of circular and baguette-cut diamonds. Highly

flexible with scintillating diamonds floating within a diamond-set latticework pattern, this bracelet is a true testimony to Winston's ingenuity (Estimate: HK\$2,500,000 – 3,500,000/ US\$ 320,000 – 450,000). Equally striking is a diamond “Valenciennes” necklace by **Van Cleef & Arpels**. Inspired by an exhibition devoted to the history of lace in 1985, the jewellery house created this design of a collar covered with a multitude of diamond florets, set in a delicate net of virtually invisible gold threads (Estimate: HK\$700,000 – 1,000,000/ US\$90,000 – 125,000). On offer from **Graff** is a striking South Sea cultured pearl and diamond necklace with the front section designed as a fringe of alternating pear-shaped diamonds and drop-shaped pearls. Totalling 75.16 carats of diamonds and fourteen cultured pearls (Estimate: HK\$1,800,000 – 2,500,000/ US\$230,000 – 320,000).

A pair of fancy intense blue and coloured diamond ear pendants

As a product of nature, each coloured diamond varies in tone and hue. To match a pair of coloured diamonds takes both time and effort. This pair of pear-shaped fancy intense blue diamond weighing 2.36 or 3.02 carats is not only perfectly matched in colour, they are of an intense blue which is one of the rarer colour among coloured diamonds. Set in a beautiful pink diamond mount, the ear pendants are estimated at HK\$8,000,000 – 10,000,000 (US\$1,000,000 – 1,250,000).

D colour Flawless diamonds

Following the emergence of Christie's Hong Kong as a main selling center for D, flawless diamonds, the *Magnificent Jewellery* auction once again offers an outstanding selection of such stones.

Highlighting this selection is an exceptional pair of 10.07 or 11.41 carat D colour, internally flawless or flawless, type IIa heart-shaped diamond ear studs with excellent polish and symmetry. Certificates from both GIA and Gubelin testify to the perfection and splendour of the stones. (Estimate: HK\$7,650,000 – 9,000,000/ US\$970,000 – 1,140,000). An ideal match to the similarly-cut diamond ear studs is an 8.88 carat D colour, flawless, type IIa heart-shaped diamond ring. Valued at HK\$2,850,000 – 4,000,000/ US\$360,000 – 500,000, this beautiful stone is just as dazzling with its perfect polish and symmetry.

Colombian emeralds and a Burmese ruby

Just as collectors deem Burmese rubies the best, the most valuable emeralds are deemed to originate from Colombia. Christie's Hong Kong is delighted to offer three beautiful emeralds of Colombian origin as well as an exceptional ruby of Burmese origin, all with no indication of any clarity enhancement.

The first is a cushion-shaped emerald weighing 16.21 carats possessing a saturated and homogeneous colour and an exceptional degree of transparency (Estimate: HK\$3,000,000 – 4,000,000/ US\$380,000 – 500,000). Colombian emeralds of this size and possessing such a high quality with a

complete absence of any clarity enhancement are very rare. The other is a stylish pair of ear pendants, each set with a circular-cut emerald of 9.35 and 9.67 carats of equal vividness in colour and transparency and enhanced by an elegant diamond setting (Estimate: HK\$2,400,000 – 3,200,000/ US\$300,000 – 400,000).

Burmese rubies of a substantial size with no indications of thermal enhancement are extremely rare. The last time Christie's Hong Kong offered a ruby of similar quality was in their *Magnificent Jewellery* sale in October 2001. Spared of thermal enhancement and of an extraordinary vivid and saturated red colour and a high degree of transparency, this 8.03 carat oval-cut ruby is exceedingly rare and is one of the most desirable rubies that Christie's has to offer in recent years. This ruby has inspired Etcetera to specially design a diamond mounting which further enhances the beauty of the stone (Estimate: HK\$8,700,000 – 12,000,000/ US\$1,100,000 – 1,500,000).

Many pieces of signed jewellery from private collections and jewellery without reserve will also be included in the *Magnificent Jewellery* sale.

Jadeite Jewellery

Christie's Hong Kong continues to uphold its reputation as the most important auction centre for superb quality jadeite jewellery in Asia. In the *Magnificent Jewellery* auction, jadeite jewellery of the highest quality is on offer and can be seen in an exceptional jadeite cabochon pendant of impressive size, translucency and colour. Carved from the finest quality jadeite from Burma, the cabochon is of very fine-textured vivid emerald green material, excellent translucency and even colour distribution. Valued at HK\$3,000,000 – 5,000,000/ US\$375,000 – 625,000, a cabochon of such perfection is a rarity in today's jadeite market.

Another prized offering is a necklace consisting of 26 graduated jadeite cabochons of fine-textured and glass like translucency and vivid to bright emerald green material. The necklace with its diamond spacers and tassel is specially designed to give the jadeite cabochons a contemporary look. This extremely desirable piece of jadeite jewellery is estimated at HK\$3,800,000 – 5,000,000/ US\$475,000 – 625,000.

The emphasis of this *Magnificent Jadeite Jewellery* sale is to offer the highest quality jadeite jewellery in auction at the most attractive estimate. The catalogue also features an interesting selection of fine jadeite jewellery to be offered with no reserve.

Pre-sale Exhibitions:

Before the sale, exhibition highlights will be on view in New York and Asia:

Tokyo	30 September – 1 October	HSBC Building
New York	4 – 5 October	Christie's Galleries
Kuala Lumpur	5 – 6 October	Shangri-La Hotel
Singapore	8 – 9 October	Sir Stamford Room
Bangkok	11 – 12 October	The Four Seasons Bangkok
Taipei	16 – 17 October	Fubon Life Assurance Building
Shanghai	20 – 21 October	Portman Ritz-Carlton Hotel
Beijing	23 – 24 October	The St. Regis Beijing
Hong Kong	29 October – 1 November	JW Marriott Hotel

Auction:

Magnificent Jewellery and Jadeite Jewellery, 2 November 2004 at 11.00am and 2.00pm at JW Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong

More information about Christie's sale of Magnificent Jewellery and Jadeite Jewellery can be found on christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

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