

For Immediate Release
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A BRILLIANT CUT DIAMOND SET TO SPARKLE AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA

The largest of its kind ever to be offered at auction, a magnificent brilliant-cut, D colour, internally flawless diamond weighing 55.92 carats will be sold in November

The Jewels of Aviva - Geneva 16 November
Magnificent Jewels - Geneva 18 November

Geneva – Christie's is set for a sparkling Autumn season with precious gems and jewellery being offered in two sales at Christie's Geneva, The Jewels of Aviva on 16 November and Magnificent Jewels on 18 November. These auctions are led by a magnificent brilliant-cut, D colour, internally flawless diamond weighing 55.92 carats. To add to this diamonds credentials, the proportions and symmetry are described as excellent on the diamond grading report from the Gemological Institute of America and it is of the chemically pure type IIa, the type synonymous with the lucid and prized diamonds from the Golconda region in India. It is the largest of its kind ever to appear at auction and is expected to realise over \$4 million when it is sold as part of the Magnificent Jewels sale. Previously, the largest brilliant-cut diamond of this kind to be offered at auction was 44.18 carats sold by Christies New York in April 1996 for \$5,667,500 or \$128,000 per carat.



Coloured diamonds

Highlighting the coloured diamonds in the Magnificent Jewels sale will be a stunning pair of square and pear-shaped fancy vivid blue and D colour, internally flawless diamond earrings (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). A superb rectangular-cut fancy vivid yellow diamond ring weighing 10.39 carats will also be offered (estimate \$650,000-

850,000). A green rough diamond (estimate \$90,000–120,000) will excite coloured diamond buyers around the world.

Beautifully displayed in a Belle Epoque brooch, are three delicate pink diamonds in the garland style, circa 1900, by Theodore B. Starr (estimate \$220,000–280,000). This will be offered as part of the sale of *The Jewels of Aviva* on 16 November.

Coloured gemstones

Highlighting the coloured gemstones will be a rare and fine oval-shaped alexandrite weighing 24.82 carats (estimate \$200,000–400,000). Displaying a strong colour change from purple in incandescent light to green in daylight, these unusual gems were named after Czar Alexander II after being discovered in Russia's Ural mountains circa 1830. Current sources of the rare gem are Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Brazil.

A fine and important Kashmir sapphire ring of 22.16cts by Boucheron (estimate \$350,000 – 500,000) will also be offered on the 18 November. Because of their rich velvety, highly saturation blue colour, the finest Kashmir sapphires rank amongst most highly valued gems in the world.

A magnificent natural pearl necklace



Perfectly complimenting the fabulous diamonds and coloured gemstones, is a magnificent and exceptionally rare natural pearl two-strand necklace (estimate \$1,800,000–2,500,000). Measuring from 8.5 to 16.3 mm the necklace is as significant in size as the single strand Marie Antoinette / Barbara Hutton pearl necklace sold by Christie's Geneva in November 1999 for Sfr2.2 million. However, the matched, silvery white colour with overtones of pink and the quality of lustre of these eighty-eight pearls is, most probably, unsurpassed.

Private Collections

Christie's Geneva is pleased to offer for sale several important private collections. The distinguished jewels include a magnificent rectangular-cut diamond weighing 20.06 carat. The beautiful diamond ring is being sold on behalf of the late Mrs Gitta Sherover in aid of the Gabriel Sherover Foundation, to raise money for important projects throughout Israel. Also being sold for charity, in particular the International Red Cross and Medicins Sans Frontères, is an exquisite Asscher-cut diamond ring weighing 11.66 carats, by Lacloche Frères, circa 1936 (estimate \$80,000–100,000) and an elegant diamond brooch, by Cartier London circa 1935 (estimate \$40,000–60,000).

Private collections, which highlight the Magnificent Jewels sale all have a different style representing the fine taste and fashion of the ladies who originally purchased the jewels. These will include five exquisite invisibly-set jewels by Van Cleef & Arpels including a magnificent sapphire and diamond wing brooch (estimate \$80,000–120,000) and a pair of sapphire and diamond wing earrings (estimate \$40,000–60,000). A fabulous collection of jewels, purchased in the 50s and 60s, exemplifies the quality and style of the famous Italian jewellery houses of Bulgari, Faraone and Cusi, including a diamond floral brooch set en tremblant, by Bulgari (estimate \$50,000–80,000) and a fine emerald and diamond brooch by Cusi (estimate \$35,000–55,000).

JAR

The Jewels of JAR always create excitement when they are offered at auction. The magnificent emerald, peridot and diamond leaf brooch (estimate \$150,000–200,000) stirs the creative imagination and will compliment an important jewellery collection anywhere in the world.

The Jewels of Aviva - 16 November



The name of Aviva Chaya is synonymous with exquisite jewels of quality, style and taste. After 30 years in the jewellery business at 42 Rue du Rhone in Geneva, Aviva is closing her doors. Christie's Geneva has the privilege of offering the collection of jewels which made up this Aladdin's cave and which has attracted discerning clients from around the world.

A specialist in Art Nouveau, Belle Epoque, Art Deco and Retro jewels, Aviva's collected works include many signed pieces by the most famous jewellery houses such as Cartier, Belperron, Boucheron, Lacloche, Lalique, Tiffany and Van Cleef & Arpels. One of the highlights of the sale from the Art Nouveau period is a plique-à-jour enamel and diamond dragonfly brooch by the French jeweller Frédéric Boucheron, created circa 1890. The individual pieces and groups of jewels will be offered in a special auction on Tuesday 16 November with prices from Sfr3,000 to Sfr300,000.

Exhibitions: *8-12 October, New York, Christie's Rockefeller Centre*
29-2 November, Hong Kong

Viewing: *13-18 November, Hotel Richemond, Geneva*

Auction: *The Jewels of Aviva 16 November 2004 19.30*

Magnificent Jewels 18 November 2004
Morning session 10.30
Afternoon session 14.30
Evening session 20.00

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Images available on request

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