

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS JEWELS: THE HONG KONG SALE

Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale
Tuesday, December 2
Christie's Hong Kong

Hong Kong – Christie's announces the fall sale of magnificent jewellery, *Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale*, which will take place on December 2 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This sale features an exquisite selection of over 300 extraordinary jewels across a spectrum of taste and style, from masterpieces of the Belle Époque to contemporary creations, and from the rarest of white and coloured diamonds to important coloured stones.

COLOURLESS DIAMONDS

Leading the auction is a **rare pair of D colour, Flawless diamonds weighing 16.11 and 16.08 carats** (*illustrated right*, estimate: HK\$40,000,000-60,000,000 / US\$5,000,000-8,000,000). These marvellous stones are also graded 'Excellent' for polish, symmetry and cut grade, making them exceedingly rare for their superb quality. Classified as Type IIa, these diamonds are the most the chemically pure type of diamonds known, with no traces of the colorant nitrogen. The absence of this element, seen in 98% of diamonds, gives these stones a purity of colour and degree of transparency that is observed only in the finest white diamonds.



The modern round brilliant cut is the diamond's most basic and popular shape, as it allows the potential for the highest degree of light return. But more importantly, the round diamond sustains the highest value as its production requires riddance of the greatest amount of diamond rough. These three spectacular diamonds are each perfect examples of the finest white diamonds, a requisite in every serious diamond connoisseur's collection and a rarity in today's market.

Also among the colourless diamond highlights is **an impressive pair of diamond ear pendants**, set with a square-shaped G colour, VS1 diamond of 10.17 carats and a square-shaped G colour, VS2 diamond of 10.41 carats (*illustrated right*, estimate: HK\$ 7,800,000-12,000,000 / US\$1,000,000-1,500,000). This jewel is a shimmering beauty where by virtue of their cut, the stones appear luminous and distinctly brilliant. The stylish geometric composition echoes the period of the Art Deco, rendering the jewel both chic and smart.



THE RAREST OF THE RARE - A 1.70 CARAT RED DIAMOND

Forming another highlight of the sale is an exceedingly rare a **1.70 carat fancy purplish red diamond** (*illustrated left, estimate on request*).



Highly saturated diamonds in the red to purple hues are considered to be the rarest of all fancy coloured diamonds. Even with the notable discovery of the Argyle deposits in Australia only a number of red diamonds have been documented, examined or even discovered. With only a few specimens of its type in existence, very few people ever have the chance to see one up close. When Ronald Winston acquired the Raj Red diamond of 2.23 carats in 1998, he commented: *“I think it is one of the rarest objects on earth. My father never saw a red diamond and he’d seen everything.”* Adding to the allure of the red diamond

is that the cause of its colour is not yet thoroughly understood; it is generally concluded that the red colour results from structural features in the diamond's crystal lattice combined possibly with minute quantities of nitrogen. The red diamond offered in this sale boasts a luscious burgundy red colour that is evenly distributed, a trait sure to appeal to distinguished collectors the world over. **That there have been only 3 fancy red diamonds larger than the present diamond ever sold at auction underscores its rarity and allure.**

THE BELLE ÉPOQUE (1895-1914): OPULENT JEWELS FROM AN OPULENT TIME

The Belle Époque was a long period of peace and prosperity that began at the close of the 19th century until the declaration of World War I in 1914. This ‘Beautiful Era’ was dedicated to delicate femininity and celebrated the most gracious and opulent living. Today, very little jewellery from the Belle Époque has survived, making the following jewels rare examples representing the finest of this great age, where the design and the making of jewellery, together with the style of wearing them, reached a pinnacle that has never been equalled.

Among the most important gemstones offered in this sale, and leading the selection of the period’s jewels, is a **superb Belle Époque sapphire and diamond ring set with a perfect example of the**



fabled Kashmir sapphire: a 9.23 carat specimen that displays the distinctive and sumptuous Kashmir ‘cornflower’ blue hue (*illustrated left*, estimate: HK\$12,000,000-20,000,000 /US\$1,500,000-2,500,000). Discovered in 1881, the mines of Kashmir have since been depleted in the early decades of the twentieth century, making these sapphires from the mighty Himalayas extremely rare. The elegant vivid blue of the present sapphire is further heightened by an icy white D colour Internally Flawless Type IIa diamond of 5.25 carats mounted next to it. Dating from the Belle Époque period, few would have possessed a ring of such importance. Rare for their size and quality, this pair of cushion-shaped sapphire and diamond was considered so beautiful on its own that it did not require a more elaborate setting than its simple, elegant setting that epitomizes the era’s gracious lifestyle.

Life at the height of the Belle Époque consisted of rounds of glittering balls and the elegant formality of life for society ladies necessitated a collection of statement jewels. **A superb platinum diamond rivi re necklace** serves as an excellent example (*illustrated right*, estimate: HK\$9,500,000-14,500,000/ US\$1,200,000-1,800,000). Its simple yet elegant setting is designed to display all 30 diamonds, set into individual collets, to their greatest effect without any distraction. The platinum mounting of this regal necklace is so delicate and fine it is almost indiscernible, drawing attention to the diamonds even further.



IMPORTANT JADEITE



Jadeite forms an important cornerstone of Christie’s sales of magnificent jewels each season in Hong Kong. A star attraction in this sale is a **jadeite hoop pendant of exceptional quality** (*illustrated left*, estimate: HK\$6,800,000-8,000,000 / US\$880,000-1,100,000). Jadeite, the only cryptocrystalline precious stone, is composed of numerous tiny crystals which interlock to a greater or lesser degree, absorbing light so that the stone becomes increasingly opaque as it grows in thickness. The production of the present hoop, which shows a high degree of translucency while retaining a very desirable thickness of 6.30mm, requires the most perfect texture of material, along with and the highest cutting skill. Superb craftsmanship is apparent in the polish and fine lustre as well as in the evenness of colour. The pendant also displays a pure and vivid emerald green that possesses an unmatched intense saturation and vivacity. The distinctive combination of features, so typical of top-quality jadeite, is highly coveted, rendering this jadeite pendant incredibly rare and valuable. This supreme material is further enhanced by its form: a flattened disc with a hole in the centre, referred to as *bi*. In ancient Chinese cosmology, the *bi* mirrored the rounded arch of the sky across which the sun moved

and the stars revolved. This outline also recalled the ancient Chinese pictograph for the sun, a circle with a dot within. The circle thus symbolised ultimate completeness and wholeness.

An exquisite pair of jadeite double hoop ear pendants is also among the jadeite highlights (*illustrated right*, estimate: HK\$8,000,000-12,000,000/US\$1,000,000-1,500,000). The interlocking hoops of these prized ear pendants are of immense value as they required a large amount of rough jadeite relative to the yield. The sets must also have been derived from two pieces of uniform rough, each of which producing two hoops. Their great rarity is attributed to the fact that double-hoops are almost impossible to match as the rough from which they are cut is considerably thick, so that colour distribution and presence of flaws cannot be accurately gauged. The double-hoop motif also presents greater carving difficulty due to its rounded profile, making perfection a formidable task. The technical expertise, graceful form, and harmonious balance of top quality jadeite combine for a most alluring jewel sure to be among the most prized offered this season.



IMAGES OF SELECT SALE HIGHLIGHTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED HERE:

http://cshk.myftp.org/2008%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Fall%20Auctions/Jewels_The%20Hong%20Kong%20Sale/

Auction

Jewels: The Hong Kong Sale

Tuesday, December 2, 11:30 am & 2:30pm

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Viewing and Tours

ABU DHABI, *Emirates Palace*

October 25-27

SINGAPORE, *Four Seasons Hotel*

October 29-30

SHANGHAI, *Four Seasons Hotel*

November 2-3

TAIYUAN (SHANXI), *World Trade Hotel*

November 6-7

BEIJING, *Park Hyatt Beijing*

November 10-11

BANGKOK, *The Four Seasons Hotel*

November 12-13

GENEVA, *The Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues*

November 15-18

TAIPEI, *Fubon Life Assurance Building*

November 22-23

HONG KONG, *Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre*

November 27 –December 1

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About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totalled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 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 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most 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.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium.