

For Immediate Release

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**THE EVENING STAR:
STUNNING 39 CARAT, D-COLOR GOLCONDA DIAMOND TO
LEAD CHRISTIE'S DECEMBER JEWELS SALE IN NEW YORK**

**FROM INDIA'S ANCIENT GOLCONDA MINES,
"THE EVENING STAR" DIAMOND LEADS A DISTINGUISHED
PRIVATE COLLECTION OF JEWELS VALUED AT \$10 MILLION**



New York – Just weeks after its record-breaking sale of The Annenberg Diamond for \$240,000 per carat, or \$7.7 million, Christie's New York is poised to present another rare find for collectors: the Evening Star Diamond, a pear-shaped 39 carat, D color diamond from a private collection. This exceptional gem comes from India's ancient Golconda mines, the source of many of the world's finest diamonds, including the celebrated Hope Diamond, and the historic Wittelsbach Diamond, which sold for \$24.3 million at Christie's London in 2008 – the highest price achieved for any jewel sold at auction. Estimated at \$3,600,000-5,500,000, the Evening Star Diamond is the highlight of *Magnificent Jewels from a Distinguished Private Collector*, a single-owner sale of ten exceptional jewels. This special auction will immediately follow the larger *New York Jewels Sale* on December 10, and is expected to realize in excess of \$10 million.

The name of the Evening Star Diamond derives from the owner's custom of wearing this sparkling gem to her most important evening events and galas. The diamond was often worn as a pendant suspended from a diamond necklace of 68 graduated pear-shaped diamonds (pictured below right). Offered as a separate item in the sale, this elegant diamond necklace mounted in platinum is estimated at \$400,000-600,000. A matching pair of diamond ear pendants completes the set, with two pear-shaped D color diamonds of 10.21 and 10.51 carats, respectively (estimate: \$1,700,000-2,500,000).

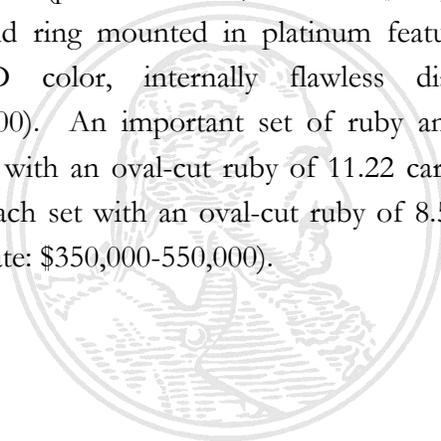
Both the Evening Star Diamond and the matching ear pendants are Type IIa diamonds - the most chemically pure type of diamond - and possess the exceptional optical clarity associated with Golconda diamonds. Located in eastern India, the Golconda diamond fields were an ancient source that traces its roots back to 400 B.C. Up until about 1725, when diamonds were discovered in Brazil, Golconda and a small mine in Borneo were the world's only sources of these precious gems. Universally esteemed as the world's finest diamonds, Golconda diamonds have a special whiteness often described as soft, watery, and pure, so that light appears to pass through the stone completely unimpeded.



Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewelry for Christie's New York, comments, *"Amongst jewelers, Golconda gems are said to be 'diamonds of the first water', a reference to the water-clear transparency and soft luminescent quality that is their trademark. The Evening Star Diamond bears all of the traits that collectors value so highly in these superb diamonds. With its charming old-mine pear shape and exceptional color, clarity, and size, we have no doubt that collectors will revel in the opportunity to acquire this prized gem."*



In addition to the Evening Star Diamond, this exceptional private collection includes a treasure trove of diamonds and color gemstones presented in a variety of unique designs. A classic Art Deco bracelet by Van Cleef & Arpels is set with five old-European-cut diamonds on a diamond foliate band (pictured at left; estimate: \$100,000-150,000). An impressive diamond ring mounted in platinum features a 36.78 carat, rectangular-cut, D color, internally flawless diamond (estimate: \$2,750,000-3,500,000). An important set of ruby and diamond jewels includes a ring set with an oval-cut ruby of 11.22 carats and a matched pair of ear clips, each set with an oval-cut ruby of 8.59 and 8.23 carats, respectively (estimate: \$350,000-550,000).



Rounding out the collection is an array of uniquely-designed rings, including an unusual sculpted rose-gold and pavé-set diamond ring set with a heart-shaped fancy orange-brown diamond weighing 11.41 carats (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). A second sculpted gold ring is designed with twin rectangular-cut yellow diamonds flanked by four trillion-cut diamonds (estimate: \$150,000-250,000). A fine Burmese ruby diamond and gold ring of bombé design features a 3.39 carat ruby (estimate: \$80,000-120,000), and a rare alexandrite and diamond ring features an oval-cut stone of approximately 3.6 carats that adopts a rich burgundy hue under incandescent light (estimate: \$20,000-40,000).

Diamond Market Update

Despite the volatile economic environment of the past year, prices achieved for diamonds in Christie's international salerooms indicate a buoyant market backed by solid confidence among collectors. At the October 21 Jewels sale at Christie's New York, The Annenberg Diamond, a stunning 32.01 carat D Flawless diamond owned by the late Leonore "Lee" Annenberg, sold for \$7.7 million or \$240,000, soaring well past its estimate of \$3-5 million and achieving a record per-carat price for a colorless diamond. This fall season, Christie's continues to present collectors with unique opportunities to purchase the world's rarest and most beautiful diamonds, including a 65.20 carat fancy intense yellow diamond on November 18 in Geneva, the 5-carat Fancy Vivid Pink diamond on December 1 in Hong Kong, and finally, the Evening Star Diamond on December 10 in New York.

Auction:

Magnificent Jewels from a Distinguished Private Collector

December 10, 2009 at 4:30pm

Viewing:

Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

December 5-9, 2009

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 53 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.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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