

## **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Catherine Manson or Alexandra Kindermann 44 207 389 2289  
[cmanson@christies.com](mailto:cmanson@christies.com) or [akindermann@christies.com](mailto:akindermann@christies.com)

# **JEWELLERY SALE CROWNS STRONG YEAR FOR SWITZERLAND**

- **Magnificent Jewels Totals SFr. 51 Million/ US\$39.3 Million**
- **The Most Expensive Crown in the World Sells For \$6 Million**
  - **La Regente Pearl Sells for \$2.5 Million**
  - **3 World Record Prices**
  - **10 Jewels Selling for Over \$1 Million**

**Geneva** – Christie’s sale of *Magnificent Jewels* totalled SFr.51,066,280 (US\$39,321,035) in Geneva today, the highest total for Christie’s in Geneva since 1999. The most opulent and dazzling diamond crown, set with 1,000 carats of white and yellow diamonds and pearls, sold for SFr.7,972,000 (US\$6,138,440), becoming the highest price for a piece of jewellery sold this year as well as the most expensive Crown ever sold in the world. The exceptionally large historic pearl from the French Crown Jewels, La Régente, the fifth largest pearl known to exist, realised SFr.3,628,000 (\$2,516,360).

“The sale today concludes the Geneva sales on a dazzling note and brings the total for Christie’s in Switzerland this to SFr.136,524,192 / \$111,317,827,” said François Curiel, President of Christie’s Switzerland. “We have seen new price levels set in both the jewellery and the watches market, as Christie’s continues to lead these categories providing the best marketplace for our clients to both acquire and sell their rarities.”

The appearance of such a superb and opulent Crown at auction is extremely rare at auction. This example contains nine diamonds alone that weigh over 20 carats and the central stone is 45.27 carats. There are another 100 carats of rubies and over 40 drop-shaped pearls, reflecting an exuberance and opulence worthy of Aladdin’s cave.

La Régente, the highly important pearl of incredible size and weight, 302.68 grains, was given by Emperor Napoleon I (1769-1821) to his second wife Marie-Louise in 1811, and originally set in a tiara. In 1853, Napoleon III (1808-1873) put the pearl into a corsage as

a wedding present for his future Empress and wife, Eugénie de Montijo. In 1887, when the French Crown Jewels were sold at auction in Paris, the pearl was given the name, La Régente and was purchased by Fabergé of St. Petersburg for Princess Zenaïde Youssoupov (1861-1939), heir to a Russian fortune.

A unique jewel with more than 1,500 carats of pearls as well as almost 1,000 carats of diamonds and sapphires was sold as part of the same collection as the pearl for SFr.2,148,000 (\$1,653,960). This magnificent modern natural pearl necklace of two parts was created to set off La Régente at its centre. The collection totalled SFr.19 million (\$14.7 million) for eighteen pieces, well ahead of pre-sale expectations of \$8 million.

The market for diamonds remains strong as demonstrated by consistent prices through the sale. An exceptional circular-cut D colour diamond weighing 50.00 carats (estimate: SFr.2,350,000-3,250,000) sold for SFr.2,965,600 (\$2,283,512) and was a very rare example of a diamond this size and colour. The two blue diamonds also attracted competitive bidding today with the rectangular-shaped blue diamond of 5.46 carats tripling its estimate and selling for SFr.2,640,800 (\$2,033,416).

The Art Deco Tutti Frutti bracelet by Cartier, circa 1930 realised SFr.1,420,000 (\$1,093,400) (estimate: SFr.300,000-500,000), a record price for a Tutti Frutti bracelet, reflecting the great rarity of such a piece.

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*Images available on request*

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