

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

**For Immediate Release**

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**CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS BLOCKBUSTER *JEWELS: THE NEW YORK SALE WITH THE CATHERINE THE GREAT EMERALD BROOCH AND THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN DIAMOND* ON APRIL 22**

**300 EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS TO BE OFFERED, INCLUDING AN ARRAY OF TOP-QUALITY DIAMONDS, HISTORIC JEWELS, RARE GEMSTONES, AND SIGNED CREATIONS BY LEADING DESIGNERS**



*A pair of briolette-cut Colombian emerald ear pendants*  
Estimate: \$200,000-400,000



*A D color, internally flawless heart-shaped diamond pendant of 28.28 cts*  
Estimate upon request



*A rectangular-cut fancy vivid blue diamond of 3.43 cts, mounted as a ring*  
Estimate: \$1.5-2.5 million

**New York** – Christie's is pleased to announce further details of its upcoming *Jewels: The New York Sale with The Catherine the Great Emerald Brooch and The Emperor Maximilian Diamond* on April 22, the first major auction of the Spring 2010 season. The sale follows a strong 2009 season that witnessed record-breaking per-carat prices for exceptional diamonds like The Annenberg Diamond and The Vivid Pink, and growing demand from collectors around the world for investment-quality jewels of all kinds. The upcoming sale of 300 jewels features a strong line-up of top-quality diamonds and exceedingly rare historic jewels well-suited for investment or for enjoyment, with no less than ten important jewels valued at \$1 million or higher. The total sale is expected to realize in excess of \$25 million.

The sale's top lot is an Important Diamond Pendant Necklace with a D color, internally flawless heart-shaped diamond of 28.28 carats (pictured page one, center). The diamond is set within a micro pavé diamond surround, and suspends from a kite-shaped diamond link and three rondelle spacers on a fine platinum chain that is finished with a heart-shaped pavé-set diamond clasp. This exceptional jewel, which displays both excellent symmetry and polish, is expected to achieve in excess of \$3,000,000 (estimate upon request).



Also leading the sale are two rare historic jewels with fascinating histories: the Emperor Maximilian Diamond and the Catherine the Great Emerald and Diamond Brooch. **The Emperor Maximilian Diamond**, a 39.55 carat cushion-cut diamond, was purchased by Maximilian in Brazil in the years prior to his installation to the throne of Mexico. It has since been owned by the famed London jeweler Laurence Graff and the former First Lady of the Philippines, Imelda Marcos, among others (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000).

**The Catherine the Great Emerald and Diamond Brooch** centers on a hexagonal-cut Colombian emerald of 60-70 carats. It was acquired for Catherine II of Russia after she ascended to the throne in 1762 and it became known as one of the most outstanding jewels in her vast collection (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000). The upcoming sale marks the first time in decades that either of these stunning jewels has been exhibited in public. For further details, please see the [complete press release posted here](#).



## TOP-QUALITY DIAMONDS







Following the record-breaking success of Christie's sale of the 5 carat Vivid Pink diamond last fall in Hong Kong for \$10.8 million/ HK\$83.5 million, Christie's New York is delighted to once again present a stunning selection of top-quality colored and colorless diamonds. Among the colored diamonds, a lead highlight is an exceptional rectangular-cut **Fancy Vivid Blue** diamond of 3.43 carats (pictured page one, right; estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000). This natural colored diamond is mounted as a ring and flanked on either side by trapeze-cut diamonds set in platinum. Also featured is a rectangular-cut **Fancy Vivid Yellow** diamond of 9.83 carats (pictured at left; estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000). Mounted as a ring, the diamond is offset by two graduated baguette-cut diamonds.

The sale also features an excellent selection of top-quality D-color diamonds in a variety of sizes and cuts, including:



A magnificent **D color, internally flawless**, cushion-cut diamond of 20.06 carats mounted as a ring, and accented with circular-cut diamonds mounted in platinum (estimate: \$1,600,000-2,000,000).

	<p>A pair of superb diamond ear pendants, by Harry Winston, each suspending a pear-shaped <b>D color, internally flawless</b> diamond of 7.13 and 7.05 carats respectively. Each pendant bears a circular-cut E color, VS2 clarity diamond surmount of approximately 1.50 carats each (estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000).</p>
	<p>An important diamond ring by Tiffany &amp; Co., set with a rectangular-cut <b>D color, internally flawless</b> diamond of 10.97 carats, signed and mounted in platinum (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000).</p>
	<p>A pair of diamond ear clips by Harry Winston, with pear and marquise-cut <b>D color, internally flawless</b> diamonds ranging in size from 2.67 to 1.28 carats, with a total weight of approximately 50.48 carats (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000).</p>
	<p>A pear-shaped <b>D color, VVS1 clarity</b> diamond pendant of approximately 11.12 carats, mounted in platinum (estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000).</p>

Additional highlights of the group include a D color, VS1 clarity pear-shaped diamond of 13.01 carats mounted as a ring, with tapered baguette-cut diamond shoulders (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) and an F color, VS1 clarity circular-cut diamond of 10.87 carats, mounted as a ring by Cartier and flanked on either side by rectangular-cut diamonds (estimate: \$600,000-800,000).

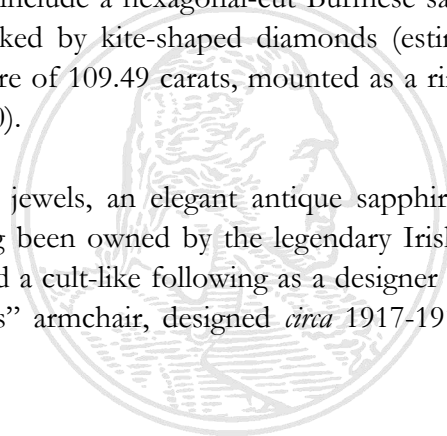
## RARE GEMSTONES



Following the record-breaking sale of a 16.65 ct Kashmir sapphire at Christie's Hong Kong last December for \$2.4 million or \$144,000 per carat, Christie's is pleased to offer another exquisite stone from this coveted source high in the Himalyas. The upcoming sale features a superb cushion-cut Kashmir sapphire of 13.86 carats that is mounted as a ring with French-cut diamond accents (pictured at left; estimate: \$1,000,000-\$1,500,000). Prized for its signature "cornflower" blue hue, the Kashmir sapphire ranks among the most beautiful of all gemstones.

Additional offerings among the large sapphires include a hexagonal-cut Burmese sapphire of 24.70 carats, mounted as a ring by Cartier, and flanked by kite-shaped diamonds (estimate: \$100,000-150,000), as well as a cushion-cut yellow sapphire of 109.49 carats, mounted as a ring in 18K gold, with diamond accents (estimate: \$70,000-100,000).

For devotees of both 20<sup>th</sup> century design and jewels, an elegant antique sapphire and diamond pendant bears a remarkable provenance, having been owned by the legendary Irish-born designer Eileen Gray. During her life, Ms. Gray acquired a cult-like following as a designer and artist active in Paris and London. Her signature "Dragons" armchair, designed *circa* 1917-1919, achieved an



astonishing \$28.3 million at the landmark sale of the *Collection of Yves Saint Laurent et Pierre Berge* at Christie's Paris in 2009, establishing a record for the most expensive item of 20<sup>th</sup> century design ever sold at auction. A stand-out of her personal collection is this stylish pendant dating from *circa* 1890, set with a cushion-cut sapphire of 27.07 carats and mounted within an old European-cut diamond surround (pictured at right; estimate: \$50,000-70,000). When Ms. Gray passed away in 1976, the pendant was bequeathed to her great niece Fiona Campbell-Gray, and then passed on to her daughter, Victoria, the present owner.



## SIGNED JEWELS AND UNIQUE CREATIONS

In keeping with the growing demand among collectors for signed pieces from top jewelry houses, Christie's is pleased to offer an array of items from the likes of Bhagat, Buccellati, BULGARI, Cartier, and Van Cleef & Arpels, among others. Each of these esteemed houses has their own individual style, making their creations highly sought-after among buyers seeking investments that increase in value with time.



Among the highlights of the section is a trio of Art Deco era bracelets by Cartier, including a custom-designed diamond bracelet *circa* 1940 that features a large cushion-cut diamond and side segments set with an elegant "lily of the valley" motif (estimate: \$200,000-300,000), as well as a sapphire and diamond bracelet *circa* 1930, featuring a large, cushion-cut sapphire of 10.54 carats (estimate: \$220,000-280,000). A diamond and multi-gem "Tutti Frutti" bracelet *circa* 1930 features old European-cut diamonds arranged in an undulating vine set with carved ruby, sapphire, and emerald leaves and accented with emerald bead berries and diamonds (pictured at left: estimate: \$600,000-800,000). The "Tutti Frutti" creations remain among the most celebrated and innovative of Jacques Cartier's early 20<sup>th</sup> century designs, and are prized the world over for their vibrant colors and flowing naturalistic designs. Christie's holds the record for a Cartier bracelet of this type, having sold a gem-set "Tutti Frutti" bracelet for over US\$1 million at Christie's Geneva in November 2005.

The venerable house of Van Cleef & Arpels is represented in the sale by a "Ballerina" brooch, a series first created in the 1940s in collaboration with the great choreographer George Balanchine to immortalize the great dancers and their steps. The upcoming sale features a gold, turquoise, diamond and ruby ballerina from 1956, with a rose-cut diamond face and horizontal rows of cabochon turquoise decorating the dancer's polished gold tutu (pictured at right; estimate: \$10,000-15,000). Also from Van Cleef & Arpels, is a selection of "mystery-set" jewels, so named for the absence of any visible post or setting for the individual calibr e-cut stones. The sale includes a stunning pair of ruby and diamond "flower" ear clips (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) and a coordinating ruby and diamond ring, from 1965 (estimate: \$20,000-30,000).





Rounding out the selection of highlights is a group of necklaces, bracelets and decorative items well-suited for collectors with an eye for the unique, including a Belle Epoque diamond lavalier necklace featuring two staggered old mine-cut yellow diamonds of 16.42 and 15.51 carats suspended from a graduated collet-set diamond chain (estimate: \$250,000-350,000), and a dazzling pair of briolette-cut Colombian emerald ear pendants with old European-cut diamond surmounts (pictured page one, left; estimate: \$200,000-400,000). Also featured are an array of bracelets by Buccellati, including a striking example of bombé design featuring three bezel-set oval citrines set within a sculpted gold and ebony surround (estimate: \$15,000-20,000). As a fitting symbol of Spring in New York, the sale also features a trio of sculpted 22k gold rabbit figurines, each with different colored gemstone eyes of either sapphires, emeralds, or rubies (pictured at left; estimates: \$15,000-20,000 each).

*The complete e-catalogue for this sale is available at  
<http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?saleid=22627>*

**Auction:**

Thursday, April 22 at 10:30am and 2:30 pm

**Viewing:** Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

April 17 – 21, 2010

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

- Christie's has been the world market leader in jewellery for the past sixteen years in a row, with jewellery sales totalling over \$272.9 million in 2009.
- Christie's holds the current world record price at auction for:
  - Any jewel
  - A Golconda diamond
  - A blue diamond
- These records were set when the historic Wittelsbach blue diamond (now known as the Wittelsbach-Graff) sold for US\$24.3 million, at Christie's London in December 2008.
  - A sapphire, which was set by Christie's in December 2009 when a cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire of 16.65 carats sold in Hong Kong for US\$2,396,820 (\$144,000 per carat).
  - A Cartier "Tutti Frutti" bracelet, set by Christie's Geneva in November 2005 when a gem-set example sold for US\$1,093,400.
  - A Van Cleef & Arpels "Ballerina" brooch, set by Christie's New York in October 2009 when a diamond, ruby and emerald example sold for US\$422,500.

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2009 that totaled £2.1 billion/\$3.3 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 450 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 32 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. \*All auction sales figures include premium.

\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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*Images available for download at <ftp://ftpus.christies.com>  
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