

For Immediate Release
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CHRISTIE'S

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THE MOST SPECTACULAR DIAMOND RIVIÈRE SOPHISTICATED PRIVATE COLLECTIONS & FABULOUS STONES AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA MAY JEWELLERY AUCTIONS

JEWELS: THE GENEVA SALE

Wednesday 12 May 2010 - 4pm & 6.30pm

Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, Geneva

Sale 1374

Christie's global jewellery sales totaled over \$270 million in 2009, reaffirming the company's international leadership for the category and demonstrating how resilient the market has remained despite the economic downturn. Christie's Geneva spring auction will feature 220 magnificent stones and rare pieces of both period and signed jewellery, for an estimated total of US\$22 millions.



Jean-Marc Lunel, Head of the Jewellery Department: *"Christie's is honoured to announce the sale of an important selection of precious stones and fine jewellery to be offered in Geneva on May 12, highlighted by one of the most important diamond rivières ever to appear at auction. The diamonds section will in fact play the star role, together with some of the most sophisticated pieces signed by the best international jewellery houses. The "By Cartier" section will feature several iconic pieces made by the renowned French jeweller. A rare group of vintage jewels by Boivin and Belperron, which have remained in the same family since they were originally purchased, displays an amazing quality and timeless design which will appeal to any refined collector."*

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

"Sparkle and Style" - The Property of a Lady

Christie's is honoured to offer one of the most important diamond rivières ever to appear at auction



Assembled over the last 40 years, the "Sparkle and Style" collection presented at Christie's May sale in Geneva reflects the eye of a passionate jewellery collector. Acquired all over the world, this group of unusual, bold and fun creations embodies an unconventional spirit, yet is also an expression of a knowledgeable and discerning choice of gemstones and designs. Legendary jewellers such as Cartier and Van Cleef & Arpels are juxtaposed with contemporary designers such as De Grisogono, André Marcha and Yves Saint Laurent, adding a touch of fashion to this glamorous ensemble. The highlight of the collection is a **spectacular diamond rivière** of 20 brilliant-cut diamonds for a total weight of 155.17 carats (estimate: SFr. 1,900,000-2,500,000 /

US\$1,800,000-2,400,000, *illustrated left and top right, the diamonds unmounted.*) The careful work of matching each diamond, the subtlety of the graduation and the lightness of the setting equally contribute to the beauty and appeal of the piece. The total diamond weight naturally adds to the necklace's magnificence since any diamond rivière above 150 carats is extremely rare.

Also from the same collection is an impressive pair of **light yellow briolette-cut diamond ear pendants**, of exquisite design weighing 26.32 and 24.01 carats, estimated at SFr. 320,000-520,000 / US\$ 310,000-500,000 (*illustrated right.*)



The Property of a Lady of Title

Including famous French jewellers such as Belperron, Boivin, Chaumet and Van Cleef & Arpels

The May sale's catalogue features another incredibly refined collection from a Lady of Title, comprising 36 outstanding lots from fine Art Deco pieces to wonderful vintage jewels made by some of the most renowned French jewellery houses. Among the highlights is a striking group of nine pieces by Boivin and Suzanne Belperron. Few women have had such an influence in the jewellery world as Jeanne **Boivin**. Sister of French fashion designer Paul Poiret, wife of jewellery designer René Boivin, she took over the firm after her husband's death and brought it to a truly new *vogue*. She focused on colours and texture to create jewels of uncommon volume and visionary design, which were sought after by both French socialites and a more international clientele. Her love of nature inspired iconic pieces like the **"Coquillage ailé"** ear clips presented in this auction (estimate: SFr. 14,000-18,000 / US\$ 14,000-17,000, *illustrated left*.)



The model designed in 1933 was a great success for Boivin for more than 15 years and it is extremely rare for an example to appear at auction. It is also exceptional for collectors to have the opportunity to acquire such an iconic design as the **diamond "Camelia" brooch**, created by Boivin in 1926. It is a dazzling example of the incredible modernity of the designer (estimate: SFr. 32,000-42,000 / US\$ 30,000-40,000, *illustrated above right together with a "Feuille de Lilas" brooch*, designed in 1936 and estimated at SFr. 6,500-8,500 / US\$ 6,000-8,000.)



DIAMONDS and COLOURED GEMSTONES

The international demand for top quality gemstones remains extremely strong and several record prices have been set by magnificent stones at Christie's jewellery salerooms throughout 2009.

The rich section dedicated to diamonds is highlighted by a magnificent **40.21 carats emerald-cut diamond ring, D colour, Flawless clarity, the Type IIa diamond** showing exceptional transparency, as well as Excellent Polish and Symmetry (estimate upon request, *illustrated right*.)



An important diamond ring by Harry Winston, set with a 16.92 carats brilliant-cut diamond, D colour, internally Flawless clarity, Excellent Polish and Symmetry is estimated at SFr. 1,500,000-2,500,000 million / US\$ 1,400,000-2,400,000. Perfect round diamonds above 15 cts are very rare and a must-have for any important jewellery collection. Designed by Shaun Leane for "Forevermark Precious Collection", the impressive **"White Light" diamond brooch** is set with 5 pear-shaped D colour, Internally Flawless clarity diamonds, combining extraordinary stones with outstanding craftsmanship (estimate: SFr. 1,050,000-1,580,000 / US\$ 1,000,000-1,500,000, *illustrated left*.)



Also featured is a pair of **fancy coloured heart-shaped diamond rings** set with a 5.04 carats Fancy Grey-Blue diamond and a 4.58 carats Fancy Purple-Pink diamond (estimate: SFr. 1,050,000-1,580,000 / US\$ 1,000,000-1,500,000, *illustrated below right*.)

Among the most beautiful coloured gemstones included in this sale are an impressive **pair of pear-shaped emerald** (weighing 20.96 and 20.87 carats) **and diamond ear pendants** estimated at SFr. 530,000-630,000 / US\$ 500,000-600,000 (*illustrated on the last page*) and a cushion-shaped Burmese sapphire ring of 36.24 carats with an estimate of SFr. 380,000-480,000 / US\$ 370,000-460,000.



By CARTIER



Since it was founded in 1847 Cartier has always been a symbol of French *Haute Joaillerie*. The incomparable and timeless designs, together with the quality of the gemstones and exceptional craftsmanship are the key reasons why Cartier's jewels are among the most sought-after pieces by the international collector.

An emblematic selection of 25 lots, *By CARTIER* is a tribute to the firm's essence and history: from the classical garland style of the superb **Belle Epoque diamond tiara** *illustrated here on the right* (estimate: SFr. 100,000-150,000 / US\$ 96,000-140,000), to the iconic designs of the multi-coloured '**Tutti Frutti**' bracelet of the Art Deco period (estimate: SFr. 160,000-210,000 / US\$ 150,000-200,000, *illustrated above left*), as well as the onyx and diamond 'Panther' bangle (estimate : SFr. 60,000-80,000 / US\$ 58,000-76,000.) Every jewel in the section is a perfect example of Cartier's craftsmanship.



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THE GENEVA TEAM - WHO'S WHO

The international jewellery team is led by François Curiel, *President of Christie's Switzerland, Chairman of Christie's Asia*

Jean-Marc Lunel, *Head of the Geneva Jewellery Department*

Head of the jewellery department since December 2009, Jean Marc Lunel was born in Paris into a family of jewellers. He began his career at Christie's in 1999 as a specialist in London. He soon transferred to Paris to set up the company's jewellery department and organize Christie's first ever jewellery auction in the French capital, before moving to Geneva in 2004.

Brenda Kang, *Specialist*

A Singapore national, Brenda Kang spent the past 10 years working as a Jewellery Specialist in New York, Paris and Milan, headed Christie's Shanghai office and is now based in Geneva. Ms Kang's gemmological knowledge, combined with her great interpersonal skills, allow her to focus on servicing our top international collectors.

Felice Lieftinck, *Specialist*

With 20 years experience in the jewellery world, Dutch-born Felice Lieftinck, recently joined the Christie's Geneva team. After starting her career in the diamond trade in Antwerp, she worked in various European capitals where she developed an extraordinary knowledge of the auction market.

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JEWELS: THE GENEVA SALE **Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues**

AUCTION

Wednesday 12 May

4pm & 6.30pm

VIEWINGS

Saturday 8 May

10am-7pm

Sunday 9 May - Tuesday 11 May

10am-6pm

Wednesday 12 May

10am-3pm

PHOTO CALL & PRESS PREVIEW

Friday 7 May

10.30am

INTERNATIONAL PREVIEWS & EXHIBITIONS

New York

17 April - 20 April

Hong Kong

22 April - 24 April



Images available on request
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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.*