

ELEGANCE



25 & 26 May 2011
Christie's South Kensington

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S

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ELEGANCE ON OFFER AT CHRISTIE'S

~ 25 & 26 MAY 2011 ~

South Kensington – This May, Christie's will hold their second series of 'Elegance' auctions – presenting a range of luxury items from stunning jewels and classic watches through to exotic Hermès handbags and even dog accessories, as well as highly sought after Lalique glass mascots and vessels. The sales will take place on 25 and 26 May 2011, and provide collectors and savvy fashionistas with the perfect opportunity to indulge in the rarest and most beautiful examples by their favourite designers.

Jewels and Watches



The distinctive assortment of traditional and contemporary jewellery designs on offer will comprise over 200 lots, with everything from rings and necklaces, to bracelets and brooches, as well as over twenty of the most stylish men's watches. Prices range from £800 to £25,000, and sale highlights include a diamond-set stainless steel five time zone quartz wristwatch, by Jacob & Co. (estimate: £2,000-3,000) *illustrated left*;

a diamond, rock crystal and turquoise bangle, by Stephen Webster (estimate: £3,000-4,000) *illustrated above*; and a diamond single stone ring (estimate: £25,000-30,000). One lot with a particularly intriguing history is a 9ct. gold presentation notebook case, by Cartier (estimate: £800-1,200). Inscribed "Fruity from Edwina March 1932" the case was a gift from Edwina, Countess Mountbatten of Burma, wife of Lord Louis Mountbatten, 1st. Earl Mountbatten of Burma, to Major Edward Dudley Metcalfe, known as "Fruity". Fruity Metcalfe was equerry to Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, and was best man at the wedding of Edwina to Lord Louis Mountbatten, in 1922.

Hermès Handbags and Accessories



Following the success of the inaugural *Elegance* sale held by Christie's in December 2010, which saw nine Hermès handbags sell for over £30,000 each, this May's auction once again includes a large selection of the most desirable Hermès bags ever made. The most exotic and most sought-after are made from crocodile and Christie's sale will offer more than ten examples, in all the colours of the rainbow from pink

to grey, through amethyst and saffron shades, completing the spectrum with a superb classic graphite Birkin bag

(estimate: £32,000-35,000). The sale will also offer examples for those with smaller luxury budgets, such as a classic leather Kelly bag (estimate: £1,000-2,000). Further highlights *illustrated above* include a rare limited edition ‘Shadow’ Birkin bag (estimate: £10,000-15,000) in which the straps, padlock and key fob are seen as a ghostly relief against a creamy white matte leather ground, set against the glossiest black crocodile on the market (estimate: £32,000-35,000). And for animal lovers who really do have everything, Christie’s will be offering specially-commissioned crocodile dog collars and leads by Hermès – the ultimate in luxury pet accessories.

Lalique



Christie’s is the only auction house to offer biannual sales dedicated to the alluring designs of the master glassmaker René Lalique (1860-1945). This May the sale will feature over 150 lots, with estimates ranging from £500 to £25,000. The sale includes a single-owner collection of around forty lots, comprising a wonderful spectrum of large coloured vases, as well as sought after scent bottles and car-mascots, such as

the Victoire car mascot *illustrated above right* designed in 1928 (estimate: £8,000-12,000). Acquired during the 1970s, 80s and 90s the collection is sure to rouse great interest from International collectors. Further highlights include a Serpent vase in deep amber, an Oranges vase, 1926 *illustrated above left* (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and a ‘rainbow’ of nine differently shaded Formose vases.

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High resolution images and further information available upon request

<http://www.christies.com/departments/jewelry/>

<http://www.christies.com/departments/costume-textiles-and-fans/>

<http://www.christies.com/departments/20th-century-decorative-art-and-design/>

Notes to Editors:

Public Viewing:	Saturday 21 May:	11.00am - 5.00pm
	Sunday 22 May:	11.00am - 5.00pm
	Monday 23 May:	9.00am - 7.30pm
	Tuesday 24 May:	9.00am – 5.00pm
	Wednesday 25 May:	9.00am – 5.00pm (Lalique only)

Auctions: *Elegance: Jewels, Watches & Handbags* - Wednesday, 25 May 2011 at 10.30am
Lalique – Thursday, 26 May 2011 at 2.00pm

Ecatalogues: Available online from 25 April 2011 at www.christies.com/calendar

Christie’s South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie’s South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK, annually holding over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots. The recently refurbished saleroom facilities and exhibition spaces provide one of the

most accessible, well lit and welcoming sales arenas in the world, consistently attracting over 200,000 visitors a year. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside monthly Sunday sales of single-owner collections, and specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category. Every lot is beautifully illustrated in a large scale magazine-style catalogue and in an online e-catalogue. Christie's South Kensington appeals to a worldwide audience – in 2010 bidders originated from over 50 countries, with around 20% of bidders taking part in auctions from the comfort of their own home or office, using Christie's unique online bidding facility, Christie's LIVE™.

CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD

OPENING SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Monday: 9.00am – 7.30pm

Tuesday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Saturday & Sunday: 11.00am - 5.00pm

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Prices do not include buyers' premium