

For Immediate Release
3 May 2011

Contact:

Gillian Leung (Hong Kong)
Belinda Chen (Beijing)

+852 2978 6736
+8610 65006517

gleung@christies.com
bchen@christies.com

Rare Diamonds, Coloured Gems & Jadeite Spectacular jewels glitter Christie's Spring Sale of *Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels*

Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels

Tuesday, 31 May 2011, 1.30pm

Saleroom 2, Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Hong Kong – Christie's, the world's leading auction house for the sale of extraordinary jewels will present its spring sale of magnificent jewels on 31 May at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. With a pre-sale estimate exceeding HK\$550 million/US\$70 million, this auction will offer collectors close to 300 pieces of rare diamonds, fine coloured gemstones and exceptional jadeite. Leading the sale is ***The Imperial Cushions***, a pair of spectacular ear-pendants featuring the world's rarest diamonds from the legendary Golconda mines.

Rare & Exquisite Diamonds



This season's spotlight falls on a pair of D Potentially Flawless Golconda Type IIa diamonds ear-pendants – ***The Imperial Cushions*** [*Separate press release available [here](#)*], with an estimate of HK\$55 million – 75 million/US\$7 million – 9 million (Lot 3296, *image left*). The occurrence of such a pair of Golconda gemstones, with a limpidity that is particular to the world's finest Type IIa diamonds, is a natural marvel. At 23.49 and 23.11 carats each, this pair of cushion-cuts is of exceptional calibre – matching in size, cut and shape, and represents a true jewel of majestic proportions. With Type IIa diamonds representing less than 2% of the world's production, this superbly matched pair of ***The Imperial Cushions*** is a unique

example of magnificence and rarity. While the present diamonds do not actually come with an imperial provenance, the quality, workmanship, size, and rarity are certainly of a caliber worthy of a royal collection.

The heart-shaped diamond is a modification of the round brilliant cut and represents the highest level of difficulty in its make. This sale will **offer a pair of 13.09 and 12.86 carat heart-shaped diamonds ear pendants**, which flaunts very good polish and symmetry resulting in the most proportionate balance of sparkle and brilliance within the stones. (Lot 3294, *image right*, estimate: HK\$23,500,000 – 35,000,000/US\$3,000,000 – 4,500,000). Again, this pair of diamonds is Type IIa, D colour with internally flawless clarity which delivers a manifestation of perfection.



This pair of ear pendants also represents the largest pair of this quality ever to appear at auction.



Type IIa diamonds are the most chemically pure form of diamond lacking in nitrogen which therefore yield exceptional optical transparency. Therefore, this kind of diamonds has been being sought-after by many collectors for years. Another highlight is **an un-mounted 18.88 carat D colour, flawless clarity brilliant-cut diamond** (Lot 3289, *image left*, estimate: HK\$25,000,000 – 40,000,000/US\$3,200,000 – 5,000,000). With the certification from the Gemological Institute of America, this diamond is also determined to be a Type IIa.

Top Quality Coloured Gemstones & Pearls

In this Spring sale, Christie's will offer a range of important sapphires from top sapphire producing regions including Kashmir and Burma. Of note is **a pair of 14.84ct and 13.37ct cushions-shaped Kashmir sapphires and diamond ear pendants** (Lot 3275, *image right*, estimate: HK\$20,500,000 – 30,000,000/ US\$2,600,000 – 3,800,000). This pair of sapphires is superb example of the fabled Kashmir material with the ultimate desirable 'cornflower blue' colour, the hallmark of the auspicious Kashmir mine. This rich blue is homogenously distributed throughout the stones and the expert cutting allows for many internal reflections to be observed. They possess a high clarity, which provide a superior degree of transparency. The combination of all



these characteristics in these gems is indeed rare in natural Kashmir sapphires of this size. Another sapphire highlight is **a pair of 10.16 and 10.09 carats oval-shaped Burmese Sapphires and diamond ear pendants** (Lot 3212, *image left*, estimate: HK\$3,600,000 – 5,500,000/US\$450,000 – 650,000). Exhibiting the classic Burmese 'royal blue' hue, these gems are extremely well-matched and strikingly rare given their size and quality.

Among the ruby highlights is **a pair of 5.23 and 5.13 carats oval-shaped Burmese ruby and diamond ear pendants** (Lot 3278, *image right*, estimate: HK\$13,500,000 – 20,000,000/US\$1,700,000 – 2,500,000). Without any heat treatment, these two rubies possess the most desirable 'pigeon's blood red' colour. They exhibit a well-saturated colour combined with a pleasant cutting style. Natural Burmese rubies of this quality represent a great rarity and its combination of outstanding characteristics is a very exceptional treasure.



To source one natural saltwater pearl is a feat in itself nowadays. A **three-stranded necklace composed of 143 white natural pearls** with lustrous quality will be offered in this sale (Lot 3258, *image left*, estimate: HK\$9,600,000 – 15,000,000/US\$1,200,000 – 1,800,000). The size of these 143 white pearls on this necklace measures from 2.5 to 12.8 mm, spaced by diamonds and suspending a drop-shaped natural pearl.

Emerald Green Jadeite



Cabochon is the most simple and common cut of jadeite, yet it is difficult to find a superbly oval jadeite cabochon with superior colour, translucency, and texture. **A double cabochon is particularly rare.** The ring of Lot 3282 (*image left*, estimate: HK\$6,000,000 – 8,000,000/US\$770,000 – 1,000,000) is set with a **13.5mm thick double cabochon perfectly rounded on both sides.** In spite of its thickness, this precious cabochon is of exceptional translucency and purity, with even green tone and without any trace of impurities.



Other jadeite highlights include a **milefo and diamond pendant** (Lot 3263, *image right*, estimate: HK\$4,500,000 – 6,500,000/US\$575,000 – 800,000), set with a well carved jadeite laughing buddha of brilliant emerald green colour and high translucency. This Buddha is a natural jadeite and no polymer is detected.



Another of note is a **suspending carved jadeite disc necklace.** This carved jadeite disc is of brilliant emerald green colour and high translucency, depicting two dragons flying amidst clouds, representing the rebus 'may your son have a brilliant future and be blessed with success'. (Lot 3283, *image left*, estimate: HK\$4,800,000 – 6,500,000/US\$600,000 – 800,000)

###

IMAGES can be downloaded here:

<http://cshk.myftp.org/Spring%202011%20Christie's%20Hong%20Kong%20Auctions/Jewels/Images/>

Selected jewel highlights will be on view in the following cities by appointment, prior to the sale.

Date	Location	Venue
5-6 May	Singapore	Christie's Singapore
10-11 May	Bangkok	Christie's Bangkok
14-17 May	Geneva	Four Seasons Hotel de Bergues
21-22 May	Taipei	Fubon Life Assurance Building
26-31 May	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Updated Christie's Hong Kong Spring 2011 Auctions Schedule

CHRISTIE'S HONG KONG SPRING 2011 AUCTIONS Auctions: 27 May – 1 June Public viewing: Begins 26 May <i>Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre</i>			
Friday, 27 May	5.30pm	Saleroom 2	Finest and Rarest Wines - Rarities from the Cellars of Château Latour
Saturday, 28 May	7pm	Saleroom 1	Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art (Evening Sale)
Sunday, 29 May	10.30am	Saleroom 1	Chinese 20 th Century Art (Day Sale)
	2.30pm	Saleroom 1	Asian Contemporary Art (Day Sale)
Monday, 30 May	10.30am	Saleroom 1	Southeast Asian Modern and Contemporary Art
	11.30am & 2.30pm	Saleroom 2	Important Watches
Tuesday, 31 May	10am	Saleroom 1	Fine Chinese Classical Paintings and Calligraphy
	2.30pm	Saleroom 1	Fine Chinese Modern Paintings
	1.30pm	Saleroom 2	Hong Kong Magnificent Jewels
Wednesday, 1 June	10am	Saleroom 1	Inspired Connoisseurship: Property from a European Collection
	11.15am	Saleroom 1	The Imperial Sale
	1.15pm	Saleroom 1	Continuous Joy and Boundless Longevity: A Magnificent Qianlong Revolving Vase
	2.30pm	Saleroom 1	Important Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/US\$5.0 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 US\$200 to over US\$100 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, Zürich, 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*