

CHRISTIE'S

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**The Archduke Joseph Diamond fetched US\$21.5 M / SFr.20.4 M
A WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A COLOURLESS DIAMOND**

AUTUMN SALE OF MAGNIFICENT JEWELS TOTALS

SFr.80.6 Million / US\$85 Million

A RECORD YEAR FOR JEWELLERY AUCTIONS AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA

SFr.183.9 Million / \$195.2 Million



▲ Rahul Kadakia, *Head of Jewellery, Christie's Switzerland and Americas*, selling the record-breaking 'Archduke Joseph Diamond' ▲

Geneva - On November 13, Christie's Geneva auction of Magnificent Jewels realised a **total** of **SFr.80,615,930 / US\$85,049,806 / €66,991,837**, selling 84% by lot and 86% by value. This extraordinary result, combined with the total achieved for the category in May, concludes **the most successful year for Christie's Jewellery department in Switzerland**, with annual sales exceeding SFr.183.9 million (US\$195.2 million).

The top lot of the sale was the historical 76.02 carats cushion-shaped '**Archduke Joseph Diamond**' which sold for **US\$21,474,525 / SFr.20,355,000 (US\$282,545 per carat)**, setting a new world record at auction for a colourless diamond. Over the seven hour long sale a total of 19 lots sold above \$1 million with 147 buyers coming from 28 countries, competing enthusiastically in the room, on the telephone and online.

François Curiel, *President of Christie's Switzerland and International Director of Christie's Jewellery Department*. *"In the busiest saleroom witnessed at the Four Seasons hotel des Bergues in Geneva in recent years, the Archduke Joseph Diamond of 76.02 carats sold for \$21.5, a world record price per carat for a colourless diamond. The historical gem led Christie's jewellery auction which totalled \$85 million dollars"*.

Alfredo J. Molina, *the diamond's former owner and CEO of America's Black, Starr & Frost jewelers*. *"I am thrilled but not surprised that the Archduke Joseph Diamond should have fetched such a high price. It is considered the finest and largest perfect Golconda diamond ever to appear at auction, with a noble lineage and royal provenance which literally 'Fit for a Queen.' I was blessed to be the Archduke's guardian and champion for the past 13 years, and indeed it has become part of my very identity. I am honored to have worked with Rahul Kadakia and Christie's on this historic sale. I wish the Archduke Joseph Diamond Godspeed...and I know its new owners will delight in its beauty, charisma and mystery as I have for so many happy years."*

NOTES TO EDITORS

CHRISTIE'S AND THE WORLD'S FINEST DIAMONDS

During the past years some of the world's finest diamonds have experienced a surge in demand at auction. Christie's holds the world auction records for the most valuable Golconda diamonds, including for blue, pink and colourless diamonds. Interestingly enough, the latter was set by the Archduke Joseph diamond when it sold at Christie's Geneva in 1993.

- In 2008, Christie's London sold ***The Wittelsbach Diamond***, an historic 17th Century cushion-shaped deep grayish blue, VS2 diamond for £16.4 million (US\$24.3 million).
- In May 2011, Christie's Hong Kong sold a spectacular pair of cushion-shaped Golconda diamond ear pendants for HK\$72.3 million (US\$9.3 million).
- In December 2011, Christie's New York sold the spectacular D-color, 33.19 carat ***Elizabeth Taylor Diamond*** ring that the star wore virtually every day since receiving it as a gift from Richard Burton in 1968. This extraordinary jewel fetched US\$8.8 million, setting a new record price-per-carat of \$240,000.

CHRISTIE'S AND ROYAL COLLECTIONS

Since 1766, Christie's has been synonymous with auctions of Royal and Aristocratic collections. From the sale of Madame du Barry's jewels in 1795, to that of the Russian Crown Jewels in 1927, and more recently the Private Collection of H.R.H. The Princess Margaret in 2006, these events have created worldwide interest and are remembered as legendary moments in auction history. In April 2008, the Louvre Museum was able to acquire the Empress Eugénie Diamond Brooch through Christie's, thereby allowing its return to the French Crown Jewels.

Royal Jewellery Collections auctioned at Christie's Geneva include:

- 1967 Queen Victoria Eugenia of Spain
- 1969 Queen Marie-Jose of Italy
- 1979 Queen Victoria Eugenia of Spain
- 1980 Egyptian Royal family
- 1980 Queen Maria-Cristina of Spain
- 1984 Queen Victoria Eugenia of Spain
- 1988 The Aga Khan III
- 1990 Princess Irene of Greece & Denmark
- 1995 Princess Salimah Aga Khan
- 1999 Princess Marie José of Belgium, later Queen of Italy
- 1999 Queen Marie-Antoinette of France
- 2005 Archduchess Marie-Valerie of Austria
- 2006 Princess Olga of Yugoslavia
- 2006 Property of a Royal House
- 2007 Princess Katharina Henckel von Donnersmarck
- 2007 H.S.H. Amelia von Furstenberg

THE DIAMONDS OF THE HOUSE OF HABSBURG

The House of Habsburg was, without a doubt, one of the most powerful dynasties of Europe, ruling over the monarchies of Austria, Bohemia and Hungary for more than five centuries. Among the glorious ancestors of Archduke Joseph of Austria are some of the great diamond owners of their time. The legendary *Florentine Diamond*, an Indian yellow diamond weighing 137.27 carats, now lost, was once the property of Empress Maria-Theresa (1717-1780), wife of Emperor Francis (1708-1765). Another illustrious example is the *Emperor Maximilian Diamond*, a 41.94 carat cushion-shaped diamond purchased by Emperor Maximilian I (1832-1867) in the 19th Century and sold in 1982 and again in 2010 at Christie's New York.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 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 growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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