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JEWELS FROM AN AMERICAN HEIRESS

CHRISTIE'S ANNOUNCES THE SALE OF A SPECTACULAR COLLECTION OF ART DECO JEWELRY FROM THE ESTATE OF HUGUETTE M. CLARK, THE LAST GREAT HEIRESS OF AMERICA'S GILDED AGE

RARE DIAMONDS AND SIGNED JEWELS BY CARTIER, DREICER & CO. AND TIFFANY

**COLLECTION ESTIMATED TO ACHIEVE US\$9 – 12 MILLION
AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK ON APRIL 17, 2012**



Copper heiress Huguette M. Clark, circa 1920s

New York - Christie's is honored to announce it has been entrusted with the sale of an exceptional collection of jewelry from the **Estate of Huguette M. Clark**, one of the last great heiresses of America's Gilded Age. Ms. Clark's jewelry collection, which is believed to have been stored in a bank vault since the 1940s, includes signed Art Deco jewels by Cartier, Dreicer & Co., and Tiffany & Co., including an extremely rare 9-carat pink diamond ring and a superb 20-carat D-color diamond ring. The complete collection of 17 jewels is expected to fetch \$9 - 12 million at auction on April 17 at Christie's New York.

“In the world of fine jewelry, this is truly a fairytale collection,” said **Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewelry for Christie’s Americas**. *“Opening the vault to find this treasure trove of period jewels from the best French houses of the early 1900s has certainly been one of the most extraordinary moments of my 15-year career here at Christie’s. The iconic Art Deco design and exceptional craftsmanship of these meticulously preserved jewels are emblematic of the great Gilded Age in American history. We are proud to present this collection from one of the nation’s most storied families as the major highlight of our flagship jewelry auction this spring.”*



The collection’s remarkable provenance coupled with the exceptional craftsmanship and rarity of the jewels is sure to inspire intense interest from collectors and dealers around the globe. The star of the collection is a cushion-cut fancy vivid purplish pink diamond of 9.00 carats, mounted in a Belle Époque setting by the French jeweler **Dreicer & Co.** (pictured at left; estimate: \$6 – 8 million). Based on the date of the stone’s setting – circa 1910 - the ring is believed to have originally belonged to Ms. Clark’s mother, the former Anna Eugenia La Chapelle, and was handed down to Huguette.

Prices for top-quality pink diamonds of this size and quality have increased exponentially in recent years, driven by both collector demand and increasingly limited supply. Pink diamonds gain their highly desirable color as a result of a rare, naturally-occurring slippage of the crystal lattice in the stone while it is forming deep within the earth’s crust. Only a few mines in the world produce pink diamonds, and of the stones that are cut and polished, only one in about 10 million diamonds will possess a color pure enough to be graded as “fancy vivid”. In December 2009, Christie’s Hong Kong offered for sale the 5-carat Vivid Pink diamond, which achieved a world auction record price of US\$2.1 million per carat, amounting to US\$10.8 million for the diamond.



Huguette Clark’s collection also features an exceptional colorless diamond ring of 19.86 carats, by **Cartier** (pictured at right; estimate: \$2 –3 million). Certified by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) as D color – the best color grade possible in a white diamond – and with potentially internally flawless clarity, this superb stone was discovered in its original Cartier box from the 1920s.



As was fitting for a society debutante of the day, Huguette Clark’s collection also included a stunning array of signed jewels by the finest makers of the Art Deco era, including an intricately-detailed diamond bracelet by **Cartier** *circa* 1925 (pictured in appendix; estimate: \$300,000-500,000), a diamond and multi-gem charm bracelet by Cartier, also *circa* 1925 (estimate: \$20,000-30,000), and a ruby, sapphire, emerald and gold bracelet possibly designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, of **Tiffany & Co.** *circa* 1915 (estimate: \$30,000-50,000). Among the more touching personal items in the collection is an onyx, turquoise and diamond photograph frame by Cartier which is personalized with a stylized “A”. The frame bears a hand-drawn portrait of a teen-aged girl believed to be Andrée Clark, Huguette’s older sister, who died of meningitis in 1919 (pictured at left; estimate: \$5,000-7,000; image not to be sold with frame).

Additional Collection Highlights



An Art Deco Diamond Bracelet, By Cartier
Circa 1925
Estimate: \$300,000-500,000



An Art Deco Emerald and Diamond Bracelet, By Cartier
Circa 1925
Estimate: \$50,000-70,000



A Diamond, Ruby and Sapphire American Flag Brooch,
By Cartier
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



A Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald and Gold Bracelet, By Tiffany
& Co.
Circa 1915
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



A Pair of Emerald, Natural Pearl and Diamond Ear
Pendants,
By Cartier
Early 20th Century
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



An Art Deco Diamond and Multi-Gem Charm Bracelet
With Charms By Cartier
Circa 1925
Estimate: \$20,000-30,000



A Single-Strand Natural Pearl and Diamond Necklace
By Tiffany & Co.
Estimate: \$20,000-30,000



An Art Deco Rock Crystal, Mother-Of-Pearl, Coral, and
Diamond Desk Clock, By Cartier
Circa 1925
Estimate: \$15,000-20,000

About Huguette M. Clark (1906-2011)

Born in Paris in 1906, Huguette Clark was the seventh and youngest child of Gilded Age industrialist William A. Clark, who at the time was one of the richest men in America, with a fortune said to have rivaled that of the Rockefellers. His wealth came first from copper mining in Montana, where he became a Senator, and later grew into a diversified business empire that included railroad, banking, publishing, sugar and timber companies. Her mother, Anna Eugenia La Chapelle, an accomplished musician, was Clark's second wife.



Self-portrait by Huguette Clark

Huguette and her sister Andrée were raised in New York's high society circles and attended Miss Spence's School for Girls. Huguette inherited her parents' love for fine art and music, and as an adult, she became an accomplished artist and musician in her own right. Photos from the 1920s depict the young debutante attired in the latest fashions and Art Deco-era jewels, often wearing the Tiffany & Co. strand of pearls around her neck. In 1929, the Corcoran Gallery hosted an exhibition of seven of her paintings, which were well-received by critics.

After her father's death in 1925, Ms. Clark and her mother moved from the family's Beaux-Arts mansion in Manhattan to a limestone-clad, Italian palazzo-style residence at 907 Fifth Ave, where they maintained three apartments on the building's 8th and 12th floors overlooking Central Park. **Christie's International Real Estate**, in partnership with their exclusive affiliate Brown Harris Stevens, recently announced that these three historic properties are officially on the market ([see related press release](#)).

After her mother's death in 1963, Huguette Clark lived on quietly in New York, shunning the spotlight and focusing on her art. She died in May 2011 at the age of 104, with a fortune estimated in the hundreds of millions and with no direct descendants. As part of the ongoing settlement of the Clark estate, her jewelry collection and real estate are being offered at auction by the Honorable Ethel J. Griffin, New York County

Public Administrator, by the authority given her under Temporary Letters of Administration issued by the Surrogate's Court of the State of New York, County of New York.

Prior to the auction on April 17, Christie's International has arranged public exhibitions of the collection at its sales sites in Hong Kong, Geneva and London during the month of March. A three-day public exhibition will open Saturday, April 14 at Christie's New York. A complete catalogue of the jewelry collection will be available in the coming weeks in print and online at www.christies.com

International Tour Dates:

Christie's Hong Kong	March 22 & 23, 2012
Christie's Geneva	March 26 & 27, 2012
Christie's London	March 28 & 29, 2012
Christie's New York, Rockefeller Center	April 14-16, 2012
Auction: <i>New York Magnificent Jewels</i>	Tuesday, April 17, 2012

*A press preview of this sale is scheduled for Friday, April 13.
For details, please contact Christie's Public Relations office in New York.*

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% 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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Images available on request

