

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | GENEVA
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 13 March 2013

ABSOLUTE PERFECTION

The LARGEST D colour FLAWLESS
Diamond ever to be offered for sale at Auction

101.73 carats

AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA ON 15 MAY 2013



Estimate on request

Geneva / London - On 15 May 2013 Christie's will have the privilege of presenting at auction in Geneva an extraordinary pear-shaped perfect diamond weighing 101.73 carats. Offered for sale for the very first time, this sensational gemstone is not only one of the largest pear-shaped diamonds known to date, it is also one of the world's most perfect diamonds: a D colour, Type IIA Flawless gem. (estimate on request; *illustrated above*).

Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewellery, Christie's Switzerland and Americas: *'Just as a great artist is able to 'see' a masterpiece in a block of marble, a perfect diamond is the result of the skill and vision of a master cutter who is able to uncover beauty from a rough gem. On 15 May, Christie's Geneva will offer for sale this wonderful pear-shaped diamond of 101.73 carats, which has literally been sculpted like a work of art. This diamond is in its scale, quality, and rarity one of the most beautiful 'white' diamonds Christie's has ever had the honour of offering for sale.'*

ABSOLUTE PERFECTION

Meeting every criteria of perfection, the diamond on offer at Christie's Geneva May auction of Magnificent Jewels has been graded by the Gemological Institute of America with the best colour, D, and the best clarity, Flawless. Its absolute symmetry is a *tour-de-force*, demonstrating the exceptional skills needed to achieve such a perfect gem. It also benefits from rare brilliance and inner limpidity that is only to be found in the chemically pure Type IIA diamonds, which account for less than 2% of the world's diamond production.

FROM ROUGH STONE TO PERFECT GEMSTONE



THE ROUGH DIAMOND OF 236 CARATS WAS FOUND AT THE JWANENG MINE IN BOTSWANA AND TOOK 21 MONTHS TO POLISH

Out of a total annual worldwide diamond production in excess of 100 million carats, the Gemological Institute of America estimates there are no more than 600 diamond crystals that finish as polished stones between one and two carats and that are D color, flawless clarity. Above ten carats this figure decreases dramatically, at 101.73 carats it is not only an exceptional rarity but a grand event in the world of gems and jewellery.

ESTABLISHING A NEW LEGACY AT CHRISTIE'S

The successful buyer of this 101.73 carat superb gemstone will have the privilege of establishing his or her own legacy by endowing this extraordinary diamond with a name, after which the stone will join the ranks of the world's most illustrious and famous diamonds opening a new chapter in jewellery history.

Notes to Editors:

THE WORLD'S FINEST DIAMONDS

The world's most famous pear-shaped diamond is the Cullinan I, a colourless, Type IIA stone of 530.20 carats, which forms part of the British Crown Jewels. This is also the largest colourless diamond known.

During the past years, some of the world's finest gemstones have experienced a surge in demand at auction. Christie's holds multiple world auction records for the most valuable colourless diamonds.

- The current auction record for a colourless diamond was set by the historical 76.02 carats cushion-shaped *Archduke Joseph Diamond* when it sold for US\$21.5 million at Christie's Geneva in November 2012.
- In May 2011, a perfectly symmetrical 56 carat *heart-shaped diamond*, sold for more than \$10.9 million becoming the most valuable heart-shaped diamond ever sold at auction.
- 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.

TOP 5 COLOURLESS DIAMONDS SOLD AT CHRISTIE'S AUCTIONS

	Description	Saleroom / Date	Price Realised
1	The Archduke Joseph Diamond A cushion-shaped D colour, internally flawless Golconda diamond of 76.02 carats WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A COLOURLESS DIAMOND	Christie's Geneva 13 November 2012	SFr.20,355,000 US\$21,474,525 (\$280,000 per ct)
2	A heart-shaped D colour, internally flawless diamond of 56.15 carats WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A HEART-SHAPED DIAMOND	Christie's Geneva 18 May 2011	SFr.9,619,000 US\$10,946,422 (\$195,000 per ct)
3	A pear-shaped D colour, internally flawless diamond pendant of 50.52 carats	Christie's New York 16 October 2012	US\$9,490,500 (\$188,000 per ct)
4	The Elizabeth Taylor Diamond A rectangular-cut D, VS1, potentially flawless, diamond ring of 33.19 carats	Christie's New York 13 December 2011	US\$8,818,500 (\$265,697 per ct)
5	A rectangular-cut D, VVS2, potentially flawless, diamond ring of 50.01 carats, by Graff	Christie's New York 10 December 2012	US\$8,370,500 (\$167,400 per ct)

CHRISTIE'S GENEVA MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

Auction:

Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, 33 quai des Bergues - Geneva
Wednesday 15 May 2013

Viewing:

Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, 33 quai des Bergues - Geneva
Friday 10 May 10am – 6pm
Saturday 11 May 10am – 6pm
Sunday 12 May 10am – 7pm
Monday 13 May 10am – 6pm
Tuesday 14 May 10am – 6pm
Wednesday 15 May 10am – 1pm

International Tour:

New York

Christie's New York, 20 Rockefeller Plaza - New York, NY 10020
Saturday 13 April 10am – 6pm
Sunday 14 April 10am – 6pm
Monday 16 April 10am – 5pm

Hong Kong

Christie's Hong Kong, 22nd Floor, Alexandra House, 18 Chater Road - Hong Kong
Friday 26 April 10am – 6pm
Saturday 27 April 10am – 5.30pm

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To view a video of the diamond in more detail click [here](#).

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2012 that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 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 £631.3 million/\$1 billion in 2012, an increase of 26% on the same period last 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 in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales, exhibitions and initiatives in Moscow, Baku, Beijing, Mumbai, Delhi, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Doha 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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