

CHRISTIE'S

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MAGNIFICENT JEWELS AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA ON MAY 13



Featuring

THE MARIA CHRISTINA ROYAL
DEVANT-DE-CORSAGE BROOCH
CIRCA 1879

Estimate: US\$1.5 - 2 million

GENEVA – Christie's announces highlights of its May 13 auction of *Magnificent Jewels* in Geneva. The sale is led by the historically important *Maria Christina Royal Devant-de-Corsage* brooch, which was presented as a wedding gift from King Alfonso XII of Spain to his wife, the Archduchess Maria Christina of Austria in November 1879 (*illustrated above*). The auction will showcase over 351 spectacular jewels and among the highlights of the important colourless and coloured diamonds is a pear-shaped D-color *Flawless* diamond of 55.52 carats (estimate: US\$8,500,000 – 10,500,000), a rectangular-cut Fancy Vivid Pink diamond of 5.18 carats (estimate: US\$9,500,000 – 12,500,000) and an Ashoka-cut D-color *Flawless* diamond ring of 21.75 carats (estimate: US\$2,800,000 – 3,500,000).

Furthermore, the rich array of exceptional gemstones is highlighted by *The Pride of Burma*, a cushion-shaped Burmese ruby and diamond ring of 6.25 carats (estimate: US\$1,800,000 – 2,500,000), *Royal Emeralds of India*: a pair of antique emerald Indian bangles (estimate: US\$1,500,000 – 2,000,000), and a cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire of 35.09 carats (estimate: US\$ 3,000,000 – 4,200,000).

The sale is expected to achieve in excess of US\$80 million.

HISTORIC AND ANTIQUE JEWELS



Christie's is proud to offer a particularly refined section of historically significant and antique jewels spanning from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Among the numerous properties featured in the sale is the highly important diamond *devant-de-corsage* brooch, given as a wedding present in November 1879 by King Alfonso XII of Spain to his wife the Archduchess Maria Christina of Austria (*illustrated left*), soon to be Queen Consort and then Queen Regent of Spain. Presently in collection of Baroness Thyssen-Bornemizsa, Christie's looks forward to offering collectors this exciting opportunity to own an incomparable jewel. Additionally, a pair of antique emerald Indian bangles (*illustrated right*) are believed to have descended from one of the more prominent Indian Royal families that were known to have some of the most superb collections of emeralds in their treasury. Set with large emeralds of exceptional richness of color, they would have been worn spaced with other

gem-set bracelets in the style that would have been particularly in accordance with the fashion of the Art Deco period in the 1920s and 1930s and are accompanied with fitted red leather cases embossed with a gold *B* on each of them. They are one of the few old Indian jewels that have not been taken apart for their gem content and offer the rare opportunity to own a piece of history in its original condition.



IMPORTANT DIAMONDS & RARE GEMSTONES



The selection of important coloured and colourless diamonds and rare gemstones for sale at Christie's Geneva in May will present numerous gems of true magnificence and rarity. The offering is led by a pear-shaped D-color *Flawless* diamond of 55.52 carats (*illustrated left*) along with an exceptional cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire of 35.09 carats. In November 2014, Christie's Geneva established a new world auction record for any sapphire with the sale of *The Blue Belle of Asia*, which realized SFr.19,965,000 / US\$17,305,997. *Additional highlights include:*



RECTANGULAR-CUT FANCY VIVID PINK
DIAMOND OF 5.18 CARATS
ESTIMATE: US\$ 9,500,000 – 12,500,000



A CUSHION-SHAPED KASHMIR SAPPHIRE
OF 35.09 CARATS
ESTIMATE: US\$ 3,000,000 – 4,200,000



A SUGARLOAF CABOCHON EMERALD RING OF
17.02 CARATS, BY *BLACK STARR AND FROST*
ESTIMATE: US\$ 500,000 – 700,000



THE PRIDE OF BURMA
A CUSHION-SHAPED BURMESE RUBY AND
DIAMOND RING OF 6.25 CARATS
ESTIMATE: US\$ 1,800,000 – 2,500,000

ICONIC JEWELS



Formerly from the property of **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis** comes a pair of ruby and diamond ear pendants and matching ring, by *Van Cleef & Arpels* (estimate: US\$250,000 – 350,000). Presented as a wedding gift by Aristotle Onassis in 1968, Mrs. Kennedy can be seen wearing the ear pendants in the image above (© Corbis Images).

JEWELS BY JAR, NATURAL PEARLS, AND MORE



In November 2014, Christie's Geneva achieved the second highest price ever at auction for a jewel by *JAR* for a gold, diamond, and green garnet "*Parrot Tulip*" bangle, which sold for a SFr. 3,525,000/ US\$3,595,853 against a pre-sale estimate of SFr. 190,000 – 290,000. On May 13, Christie's is delighted to offer an early example of the artists work – a pair of tourmaline and agate camellia brooches, circa 1985 (*illustrated left*; estimate: US\$140,000 – 170,000). Moreover, offerings of important jewels from the most coveted jewelry houses such as Cartier, Graff, Tiffany & Co., Van Cleef & Arpels, and Harry Winston along with a large single-strand natural saltwater pearl necklace (estimate: US\$2,500,000 – 3,500,000) highlight the remainder of the sale.



A DIAMOND "HOLLY WREATH" NECKLACE,
BY HARRY WINSTON. CIRCA 1962
ESTIMATE: US\$1,500,000 – 2,500,000



A LARGE SINGLE-STRAND NATURAL
SALTWATER PEARL NECKLACE
ESTIMATE: US\$2,500,000 – 3,500,000



A PAIR OF PEAR-SHAPED DIAMOND EAR
PENDANTS, BY VAN CLEEF & ARPELS
ESTIMATE: US\$1,000,000 – 1,500,000

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2014 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$8.4 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totalled £916.1 million (\$1.5 billion).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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, New Delhi, 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

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