

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | GENEVA  
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## GENEVA MAGNIFICENT JEWELS LED BY LA LÉGENDE BY BOEHMER ET BASSENGE

### ALONG WITH TWO SPECTACULAR RUBY AND DIAMOND JEWELS FORMERLY FROM THE COLLECTION OF ELIZABETH TAYLOR

**Geneva** – Christie's upcoming auction of Magnificent Jewels will take place on 17 May at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, where over 250 exceptional jewels await collectors from around the globe. Exceptional diamonds and gemstones will lead this spring season, along with important private properties such as the Cartier and Art Déco collection assembled by Éric Nussbaum, one of Cartier's most eminent experts. A particular focus has been set on Italian jewellery design from the 1900s to the present day in the dedicated Dolce Vita section.



The sale will be led by *La Légende* a fabulous 92 carat D color Flawless heart-shaped diamond pendant, signed by Boehmer et Bassenge. The Maison de Haute Joaillerie was launched last year and named in honour of Charles Boehmer and Paul Bassenge, Parisian jewellers of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Working exclusively with a handful of large, D colour, Flawless clarity diamonds of perfect polish and symmetry, combined with years of experience and preparation, the Maison Boehmer et Bassenge creates exceptional jewels in honour of the craftsmanship of their eponym. With an uncompromising attitude to quality, just a few creations are produced each year. Having sold the first unique jewels over the course of 2016, Christie's is pleased to present two further examples this spring in Geneva.

*La Légende* – A diamond and cultured pearl necklace,  
by Boehmer et Bassenge, 92.15 carats, D, Flawless  
Estimate: US\$ 14'000'000 – 20'000'000

*La Légende* is a mesmerizing diamond and cultured pearl necklace set with a 92.15 carat heart shaped, D colour, Flawless diamond pendant. Suspended from a cultured pearl sautoir, it is a necklace of pure quality and magnitude, estimated at US\$14-20 million. It is the largest D Flawless heart shaped diamond ever to be offered at auction.

*La Vie Bohème* is a pair of chandelier ear pendants, each with an asymmetrical pink diamond bow, a pear-shaped diamond connecting link, suspending a marquise-cut diamond weighing approximately 10.07 and 10.05 carats. Each stone is a D colour, Flawless clarity diamond, with perfectly symmetrical cuts. Such perfection is rarely seen and the estimate for this pair of ear pendants is US\$ 2-3 million.



*La Vie Bohème* – A pair of diamond and coloured  
diamond chandelier earrings, by Boehmer et Bassenge,  
10.07 and 10.05 carats, D, Flawless  
Estimate: US\$ 2'000'000 – 3'000'000

## COLOURED GEMSTONES



Until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, only the Sovereign of Burma, or an individual deemed worthy by him, would have been allowed the privilege of possessing such a magnificent gemstone as the 15.03 carat oval-cut ruby on offer this May. Although rubies can be found in various countries, it is the legendary mines of Burma which have yielded the most beautiful gems over the centuries. Brought to the attention of the Europeans at the beginning of the fifteenth century, Burmese rubies have not been surpassed in quality by any other origin.

To find a 15.03 carat unheated stone of pigeon blood colour and exceptional clarity is the dream of every gemstone collector.

*An Exceptional Burmese Ruby and Diamond Ring, 15.03 carats  
Estimate: US\$ 10'000'000-15'000'000*



*A Kashmir Sapphire and Diamond Ring, 14.88 carats  
Estimate: US\$ 1'000'000-1'500'000*



*A Colombian Emerald and Diamond Ring, 13.16 carats  
Estimate: US\$ 600'000-800'000*



*A Burmese Ruby and Diamond Brooch, by Boucheron, 3.75, 3.49, 3.20 and 3.04 carats,  
Estimate: US\$ 550'000-750'000*



*A Burmese Sapphire Ring, 47.63 carats  
Estimate: US\$ 600'000-800'000*

Sapphires have always held great significance to connoisseurs of fine gems. Sapphires originating from Kashmir symbolize rarity and the most magnificent velvet blue colour. The Kashmir sapphire weighing 14.88 carats is characterised by an attractive rich cornflower blue colour and excellent purity, a combination rarely encountered in Kashmir sapphires of this size.

The sale also features a wide variety of coloured gemstones of the finest quality and origin, such as the 47.63 carats Burmese sapphire, formerly from the collection of Countess Paolozzi.

## COLOURED DIAMONDS

Diamonds in rare colours, such as a Fancy Deep Blue square-cut diamond weighing 4.05 carats and the 7.97 carat Fancy Intense Blue cushion-shaped diamond will be offered alongside a 6.07 carat Fancy Purple pink diamond ring by David Morris.



*A Coloured Diamond Ring, 7.97 carats, Fancy Intense Blue, VS1  
Estimate: US\$ 2'500'000-3'000'000*



*A Diamond and Coloured Diamond Ring, by David Morris, 6.07 carats, Fancy Purple-Pink, SI1  
Estimate: US\$ 800'000-1'200'000*



*A Coloured Diamond Ring, 4.05 carats, Fancy Deep Blue, VS1  
Estimate: US\$ 4'200'000-5'200'000*

## JEWELS WITH PROVENANCE

In June 2004 Christie's offered "The Doris Duke Collection" which totalled just under US\$12 million, at the time the highest sale total for any private jewellery collection sold at auction in America.



The illustrated diamond and platinum necklace was purchased at Cartier New York on April 30, 1937 for \$65,000. Only the mounting was auctioned in 2004 as Doris Duke had all of the larger diamonds in this important necklace unmounted. Interestingly, just the mounting achieved almost as much at auction as the original purchase price of the necklace in 1937. The buyer subsequently spent years painstakingly replacing all of the missing stones with age appropriate diamonds, restoring the necklace to its former glory, which will be offered with an estimate of US\$ 3-5 million.

In December 2011 Christie's offered the collection of Elizabeth Taylor and the ruby and diamond earrings as well as the matching bracelet, both by Cartier, were part of the famous ruby parure gifted to Elizabeth Taylor in August 1957 by her then husband Mike Todd. These rare jewels will once again make an appearance on the auction block on 17 May.

*Provenance: The Doris Duke Collection:  
A Superb Diamond Fringe Necklace  
Estimate: US\$ 3'000'000-5'000'000*



*Provenance: The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor:  
A Pair of Burmese Ruby and Diamond Earrings,  
by Cartier  
Estimate: US\$ 300'000-500'000*



*Provenance: The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor:  
A Burmese Ruby and Diamond Bracelet,  
by Cartier  
Estimate: US\$ 400'000-600'000*

## THE PROPERTY OF AN ELEGANT LADY

This beautiful collection includes an impressive diamond necklace by Chopard, suspending a D colour pear-shaped diamond weighing approximately 56.03 carats, as well as exceptional jewels created by Graff, De Grisogono and David Morris.



*A Diamond Necklace, by Chopard, 56.03  
carats, D, Potentially IF  
Estimate: US\$ 5'000'000-7'000'000*



*A Diamond and Coloured Diamond Fringe  
Necklace and Earrings  
Estimate: US\$ 1'200'000-1'800'000*



*A Diamond Choker and a Pair of Diamond  
Earrings, by Graff  
Estimate US\$: 1'000'000-1'500'000*

## CONTEMPORARY MASTERS OF JEWELLERY



*A Pair of Diamond and Mirror Earrings, by JAR*  
*Estimate: US\$ 80'000-120'000*

The famously reclusive Paris-based, New York-born jewellery designer JAR (Joel Arthur Rosenthal), has been called “*the single greatest jeweler of our time*”. JAR opened his studio in Paris in 1978 along with his partner Pierre Jeannet. Since then JAR has built up a cult-like following and in 2013 the Metropolitan Museum of Art staged a four month major exhibition. With a very limited yearly production it is almost impossible to acquire a JAR jewel at the store in Place Vendôme and when one does come up for sale at auction, international interest is guaranteed.

Viren Bhagat, India’s talented designer, is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of a Mumbai based jewellery family and produces approximately 60 pieces annually. His signature style is the marriage of traditional Indian motifs with contemporary designs often featuring table-cut diamonds, historic stones and delicate tassels.



*A Pair of Ruby and Diamond Earrings, by Bhagat*  
*Estimate: US\$ 150'000-250'000*

## THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF THE LATE ERIC NUSSBAUM (1940-2003)

Éric Nussbaum was acknowledged as one of the most eminent Cartier experts and has been hailed by his peers as the “Eye”, a tribute to the virtuoso level of his taste and refinement. He was the genius behind the establishment of the “Cartier Collection”, an archive for the legendary house. From 1983 onwards, Éric Nussbaum put together the artistic, historic and cultural heritage of Cartier from its roots in 1847. Today, the collection has assembled over 1,600 jewels and objects of heritage.

Concurrently, Éric Nussbaum was building another important collection, one that was even closer to his heart. His private jewellery collection illuminates the man and his inner world. In a lifetime, Éric Nussbaum had acquired a sizable and rather eclectic assortment: pearls, gemstones, delicate jewels, timepieces, bejewelled boxes, objects of vertu and a remarkable variety of cufflinks. All elegant works of art, meticulously crafted and uniquely beautiful.

The 17 May sale in Geneva will begin with 32 lots of the Éric Nussbaum collection. Over 100 further lots from this collection will be offered in the next jewellery online-only auction taking place from 14-21 June.

[www.christies.com/nussbaumonline](http://www.christies.com/nussbaumonline)



*A Pair of Art Déco Onyx and Diamond Cufflinks, by Cartier*  
*Estimate: US\$ 4'000-6'000*



*An Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Gold and Multi-Gem Cigarette Case, by Lavabre for Cartier*  
*Estimate: 20'000-30'000*



*A Limited Edition 'Crash' Wristwatch, by Cartier*  
*Estimate: US\$ 10'000-15'000*

## DOLCE VITA

For the first time Christie's Geneva dedicates an entire section of the Magnificent Jewels auction to Italian jewellers from the 1900s onwards. The Dolce Vita Section showcases some of the best of Italian designs from Buccellati to Villa, a total of 40 jewels will be on offer.

The revival of interest in Italian jewellery of the 1960's is very much due to the fashion trends of dripping embroidery, lace trim and printed extravagances of Italy's prime fashion. This revival is led in the world of jewellery by Bulgari, Elizabeth Taylor's favourite jewellery designer, whose gob-stopper cabochon rubies, emeralds and sapphires were surrounded by pave'-cut diamonds and set into elaborate bright yellow gold mounts. Perfect examples of this Bulgari style and love for fine stones are the two Burma gems: the rare cabochon ruby of 14.38 carats, set in a diamond 'Trombino' ring, and the impressive 55.97 carats sugarloaf cabochon sapphire elaborately mounted in the custom made ruby and emerald mount.



*A Sapphire, Emerald and Ruby Ring and Earring Set, by Bulgari, 55.97 carats Burma, no heat  
Estimate: US\$ 1'300'000-1'900'000*



*An Ancient Coin, Diamond and Gold Necklace, by Massoni  
Estimate: US\$ 100'000-150'000*



*A Burmese Ruby and Diamond 'Trombino' Ring, by Bulgari, 14.38 carats  
Estimate: US\$ 700'000-1'000'000*

For more info: [http://www.christies.com/features/Jewels-of-the-Dolce-Vita-8190-1.aspx?sc\\_lang](http://www.christies.com/features/Jewels-of-the-Dolce-Vita-8190-1.aspx?sc_lang)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Sale:** Wednesday 17 May 2017, 2:30pm & 6:30pm

**Saleroom:** Christie's Geneva – At the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, 33 Quai des Bergues, 1201 Geneva

### Exhibitions:

#### LONDON

8 King Street, London SW1Y 6QT

10 April, 12pm – 4:30pm, 11 -12 April, 10am – 4:30pm

#### NEW YORK

Rockefeller Plaza, New York, 10020

21-25 April 2017, 5-8 May, 10am-6pm

#### GENEVA

Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, 33 Quai des Bergues, 1201 Geneva

12-16 May 2017, 10am-6pm

17 May 2017, 10am-noon

**Tour website:** <http://www.christies.com/exhibitions/2017/geneva-magnificent-jewels-highlights-tour>

**Jewellery Department:** [www.christies.com/jewellery](http://www.christies.com/jewellery)

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*Images available on request*

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