

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S ANNOUNCES FINAL DETAILS OF

### MAHARAJAS & MUGHAL MAGNIFICENCE

#### CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE

FIRST LOOK AT COMPLETE SELECTION OF JEWELS AND OBJECTS

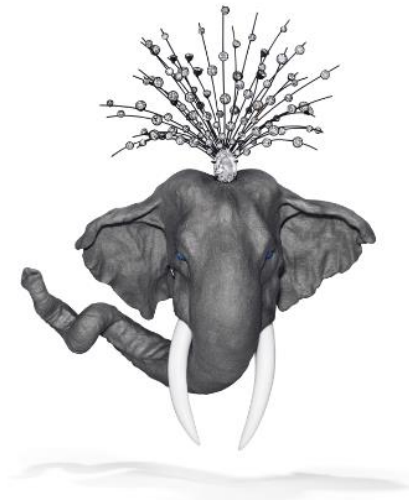
Hong Kong Highlights Tour: **24 May-27 May 2019**

Public Exhibition: **14-18 June 2019** | Auction: **19 June 2019**

Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Center, New York



**Belle Époque Devant-de-corsage**  
Cartier, Paris, 1912  
*The largest diamonds of  
34.08, 23.55, 6.51 and 3.54 carats*



**A Diamond Cacholong Sapphire  
and Titanium Brooch**  
JAR, Paris, 2013



**Portrait of Prince Khurram,  
Later Shah Jahan**  
Mughal India, circa 1620

### ***The Most Exceptional Collection of Mughal Jewels and Objects Offered at Auction***

**New York** – Following the success of the global tour of highlights, Christie's announces final details of the most anticipated jewelry and objects sale of the season, ***Maharajas & Mughal Magnificence***. This landmark auction is poised to be the most valuable and precious collection of jewelry and Mughal objects to ever come to auction. New confirmed details include availability of illustrated digital catalogues, exhibition dates, and sale details. The specially designed exhibition will be open to the public from 14-18 June and will feature the entire selection offered for auction ahead of the sale on 19 June 2019 at Christie's New York.

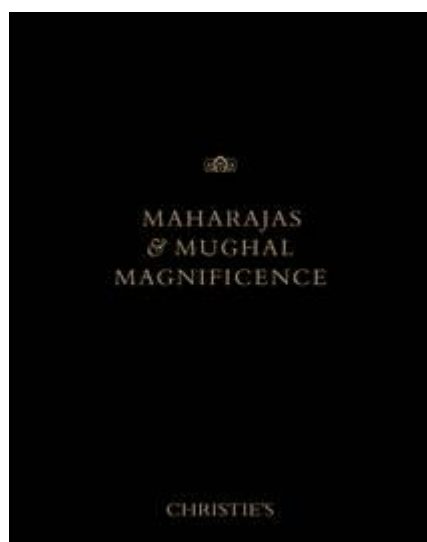
***Maharajas & Mughal Magnificence*** presents an unprecedented group of jewels, gemstones, and decorative objects. Consisting of almost four hundred lots spanning over five hundred years, this landmark auction showcases the illustrious culture of Indian jeweled arts from the Mughal period and the age of the Maharajas, exploring the creative dialogue between India and the West, through to the present day. The collection begins in Mughal India, under the most important dynasty that ruled the country, famous for its emeralds, diamonds, sapphires, rubies, weapons and objects that are bejeweled beyond belief. It traces the history of jewelry from early Mughal India through the Maharajas and their collaboration with the world's most renowned jewelry houses to create some of the most exceptional pieces of jewelry ever made. The sale is presented in partnership between Christie's

market-leading Jewellery department, led by Rahul Kadakia, and World Art department, led by William Robinson, along with the independent art advisory firm The Fine Art Group.

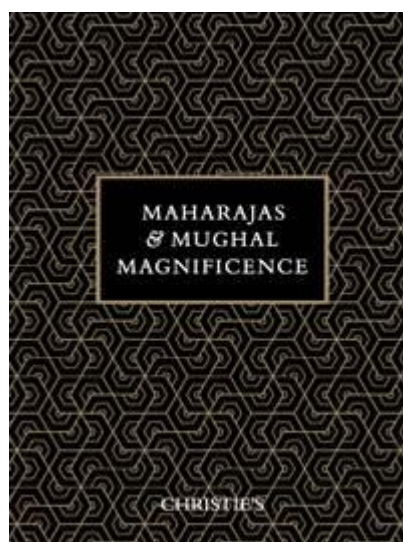
These objects are offered from The Al Thani Collection. From next year, works of art from this encyclopedic collection will be shown at a new museum space in Paris. In addition to new acquisitions, sale proceeds will support ongoing initiatives of The Al Thani Collection Foundation which extend from exhibitions, publications and lectures to sponsorships of projects at museums around the world.

**Guillaume Cerutti, Chief Executive Officer of Christie's, remarks:** *"This landmark collection traces the history of Mughal jewels and objects to the present day representing the most significant collection of its type ever to come to auction. The sale of this notable collection will therefore present a truly significant cultural moment and offers a milestone opportunity for collectors. Having shared many of these impressive pieces over recent years through a series of publications and travelling exhibitions, we are honoured that The Al Thani Collection has entrusted us to find new homes for these exquisite objects. From next year, we can look forward to exploring other areas of this diverse and encyclopaedic collection at the new museum space opening in Paris."*

The full release can be viewed in the following pages. Links to the catalogue and gallery guide, with estimates, are below. The sale can be browsed [here](#).



[Link to the full  
sale catalogue](#)



[Link to the gallery guide  
with estimates](#)

### ***The Mughals and their Empire: Bejeweled Objects, Jewels, and Gemstones***



**A Gem Set Gold Box**

North India, circa 1675-1725

The collection begins in Mughal India, showcasing the sophistication of artistic production from the Royal courts of India from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards. These treasures comprise the most delicate jades, vivid enamels, opulent jewels, gemstones, and magnificent Royal portraits.

Among the many notable Mughal royal objects represented is a **jade hilted dagger** once owned by **Shah Jahan**, creator of the Taj Mahal, a **jade cup with an ibex head** so realistically carved that the Chinese Emperor Qianlong composed a poem in its honor, and a **diamond and enamel covered gold huqqa pipe**, revealing Indian opulence at its best. Other bejeweled objects include a **gem set mace**, set on finial with large Mughal-cut diamond, and an **emerald, ruby and diamond set gold state pen case and inkwell**, a symbol of power at court.

From the regional courts within the Mughal empire, the collection encompasses sensational *sarpechs* (turban ornaments), important necklaces such as a **diamond rivière necklace** originally from the collection of the **Nizam of Hyderabad** comprising almost 200 carats of Golconda diamonds and the **Nizam of Hyderabad's diamond encrusted state sword**, which illustrate the rich history of bejewelled-ornamentation in India. Also featured are **carved Mughal emeralds**, ranging in weight from approximately 10 carats to over 200 carats, the famed '**Arcot II**' diamond, presented to Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III by Muhammad Ali Wallajah Nawab of Arcot, and the magnificent '**Mirror of Paradise**' D colour Internally Flawless Golconda diamond of 52.58 carats

## ***The Maharajas and Emergence of the British Raj: Conversations between India and the West***

These significant historical pieces are complemented by an important selection of creations from the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the major houses of Bulgari, Cartier, Janesich, Lacroche, Linzeler, Mauboussin, and Mellerio.

**The Patiala Ruby Choker** created by Cartier in 1931 is a superb example of the fusion between India and the West. Commissioned by **Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala**, one of Cartier's most important Indian clients of the 1920s and 1930s, he often traveled to Paris with trunks of diamonds and gemstones from his treasury for Cartier's workshops. Another significant example by Cartier is the **Carved Emerald Brooch and interchangeable Jigha mounting** which uses an impressive 19<sup>th</sup> century hexagonal carved emerald of 380.98 carats. The two-sided carving depicts Lord Rama, his wife Sita, Hanuman, and a poppy blossom on the reverse.



**Diamond and Enamel Aigrette**  
Mellerio dits Meller, Paris, circa 1905  
*From the collection of  
Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala*

**The Enamel and Diamond Peacock Aigrette**, by Mellerio dits Meller, was purchased by the **Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala** in 1905 during one of his trips to Paris. The Maharaja was captivated by the peacock motif of the aigrette, a bird that is still greatly revered in India today. In later years, the aigrette would be worn by **Anita Delgado**, his fifth wife, whom he met while wearing the jewel on his own turban.

### ***Contemporary Jewels: Influence through to the Present Day***

The collection continues through present day including contemporary creations inspired by Indian motifs by Bhagat and JAR. Featured contemporary pieces include a **Five-strand Diamond and Natural Pearl Necklace**, inspired by the multiple-row pearl necklaces worn throughout history by male Indian royalty, created by **Bhagat** in 2012, and a **Diamond, Cacholong, Sapphire and Titanium Brooch**, incorporating a Belle Époque style diamond aigrette, relating to the Indian tradition of dressing royal animals with jewellery, designed by **JAR** in 2013.

### ***Maharajas & Mughal Magnificence: Magnificent Mughal Jewels & Objects***

#### ***Many with Royal Provenance including:***

Shah Jahan  
Tipu Sultan  
Maharaja of Kapurthala  
Maharaja of Patiala  
Maharana of Udaipur  
Nizams of Hyderabad  
Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur  
Maharani Sita Devi of Baroda

#### ***Auction Highlights***



**A Diamond Set and Enameled Gold Covered Bowl and Stand**  
Hyderabad, India circa 1790-1810



**Diamond Turban Ornament**  
India, 1907; remodeled circa 1935  
*Total weight of diamonds  
approximately 152.60 carats*



**The Patiala Ruby Choker**  
Cartier, Paris, 1931  
*From the collection of  
Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala*



**The Shah Jahan Dagger**  
North India, circa 1630  
*Inlaid in gold with the title of Shah Jahan*



**A Five-Strand Natural Pearl and Diamond Necklace**  
Bhagat, 2012



**The Arcot II**  
D Colour, Internally Flawless,  
17.21 carats  
*One of two diamonds presented to Queen Charlotte,  
wife of King George III by Muhammad Ali  
Wallajah, Nawab of Arcot*



**A Ceremonial Sword of the Nizams of Hyderabad**  
Hyderabad, Central India, 1880-1900



**A Carved Emerald with Two Interchangeable Emerald and Diamond Mountings**  
Emerald, 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Later mounted by Cartier, Paris, 2012  
*Hexagonal Carved Emerald  
of 380.98 carats*



**Golconda Diamond Rivière Necklace**  
Hyderabad, circa 1890, the seven largest  
diamonds ranging from 9.90 to 24.38 carats  
*From the collection of the  
Nizams of Hyderabad*



**The Mirror of Paradise**  
D Colour, Internally Flawless,  
52.58 carats



**The Nizams of Hyderabad Sarpech**  
Hyderabad, circa 1800-1850  
*Two spinels dated 1607-8 and 1633-34,  
inscribed in Persian with the names of Mughal  
Emperors Jahangir and Shah Jahan*



**An Antique Emerald Bead and Pearl Necklace**  
19<sup>th</sup> Century



**An Art Deco Sapphire and Diamond Brooch**  
Cushion-cut sapphire of 109.50 carats,  
circa 1920



**A Gem Set Mace**  
India, 17<sup>th</sup> Century  
*Set on finial with large Mughal-cut diamond  
and also set with rubies and emeralds*



**'The Shah Jahan Seal Ring'**  
**An Antique Spinel and Enamel Ring**  
Late 19th or early 20th Century

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- The auction consists of almost 400 jewels and objects, representing a narrow subset of pieces from an encyclopedic collection which extends to over 6,000 works of art.
- From next year, works from The Al Thani Collection will be shown at a new museum space opening in central Paris. This will provide for the long-term display of select pieces drawn from across the entire Collection.
- The galleries in Paris intend to explore the Collection's lesser-known works of art which extend to more than 6,000 objects, honoring artistic achievement across a rich diversity of cultures.
- This collection is poised to be the most valuable auction of jewelry and jeweled objects. The current record is held by The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor (December 2011), which collectively totaled \$144 million.

#### **Global Tour and Exhibitions:**

24-27 May **Hong Kong** | Preview Exhibition | Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Dr, Wan Chai  
14-18 June **New York** | Full Exhibition | Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

#### **Auction Information:**

19 June **Auction in New York** | Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

#### **Specialists Leading the Sale:**

- Rahul Kadakia, International Head of Jewellery, Christie's
- William Robinson, International Head of World Art, Christie's

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#### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2018 that totalled £5.3 billion / \$7 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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