

For Immediate Release

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**THE PONAHALO DIAMONDS AND 20TH CENTURY JEWELS
HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK OCTOBER SALE**



Jewels: The New York Sale
Superb 20th Century Jewels from an American Collection
15 October 2008

New York – Christie's October 15 *Jewels: The New York Sale* will dazzle and delight with an array of diamonds, colored diamonds and gems, and a collection of signed jewels, *Superb 20th Century Jewels from an American Collection*. Leading the auction are two magnificent diamonds weighing approximately 102.11 and 70.87 carats, cut from a rough diamond of 316.15 carats and bestowed with the special name, The Ponahalo. The two sales comprise of 273 lots and expect to realize in excess of \$35 million.

The Ponahalo Diamonds

In 2005, a rough diamond of 316.15 carats was discovered, the largest ever to emerge from the De Beers Venetia mine. Following the tradition of naming very special diamonds, the name Ponahalo was given by Jonathan Oppenheimer, Head of the Chairman's Office De Beers Group. In Sotho, the tribal language spoken by the Venda tribe in the area of South Africa where the gem was mined, Ponahalo translates as "vision."

The Steinmetz Diamond Group, one of the leading diamond manufacturing and trading groups in the world, entrusted with the honor of cutting the 316.15 carat stone, expertly produced four polished diamonds, leaving one in its rough form. It took eighteen months to shape the two largest diamonds, weighing 102.11 and 70.87 carats, into rectangular-cut gems (estimate: on request).

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Ponahalo Diamonds will be donated to the Diamond Empowerment Fund, co-founded by Russell Simmons. The Diamond Empowerment Fund is a non-profit, international organization dedicated to empowerment in Africa through funding education programs in African countries where diamonds are a natural resource.

Important Diamonds & Colored Gemstones

Other important diamonds in the main sale include a sensational rectangular-cut diamond necklace of 40.21 carats, D color, internally flawless clarity (*illustrated left*, estimate on request); a cut-cornered rectangular-cut diamond ring of 16 carats, D color, with potential to be flawless (estimate: \$1 - 1.5 million); and a diamond bee ring designed by Jean Schlumberger, of 8.23 carats, D color (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$800,000-1.2 million).



Colored diamonds rings in the sale are highlighted by a cut-cornered modified rectangular-cut fancy intense blue diamond, weighing approximately 7.02 carats, and set with a pavé-set pink diamond two-tiered surround (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$3.5 - 5 million) and a pear-shaped fancy intense purplish-pink diamond, weighing approximately 5.60 carats, flanked on either side by a pear-shaped diamond (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$2.6 - 3 million).



Examples of jewelry containing exquisite gems are led by a sapphire, emerald and pearl necklace set with a cushion-cut sapphire of 68.16 carats, and a square-cut emerald, weighing approximately 8.37 carats (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$1-1.5 million), and an Art Deco Padapradtscha sapphire and diamond clip brooch designed as a geometric plaque, and set with a modified pear-shaped Padparadscha sapphire of 29.87 carats (estimate: \$180,000-250,000).



Jewelry from the Collection of **Giselle Bündchen** includes a diamond ring by Sabbadini set with a cut-cornered modified square-cut yellow diamond weighing approximately 3.35 carats, flanked



on either side by a trillion-cut diamond (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$15,000-20,000), and a circular-cut diamond pendant weighing approximately 6.01 carats (estimate: \$120,000-150,000).

Superb 20th Century Jewels from an American Collection



This collection consists of 110 lots and features an extensive assortment of signed jewels by all the leading makers of the 20th century. A retro diamond and gold necklace by **René Boivin** has an exquisite fringe of collet-set diamond five-strand “pampilles” tassels on a flexible woven gold band, made for the Princess Irene of Greece (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Delivered in 1951, this uniquely designed piece was perhaps specially ordered by the Princess yet still typical of Boivin’s style.

From **Jean Schlumberger**, considered one of the most creative and influential jewelry designers of the 20th century, who became noted for his naturalistic and whimsical designs for Tiffany & Co. is a



diamond, sapphire and emerald ‘dolphin’ brooch, one of a few models ever made (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$75,000-100,000). A brooch of the same model was worn by Elizabeth Taylor at the opening of the film *The Night of the Iguana*, a gift from Richard Burton, although Taylor favored the description ‘iguana’ to ‘dolphin.’ Also designed by Schlumberger for Tiffany & Co. is a highly detailed suite of gold and diamond ‘tulip’



jewelry with diamond insect and bow motifs and articulated clusters of textured gold tulips (*illustrated above right*, estimate: \$150,000-250,000).



Two wonderful examples by **Cartier** are offered; an Art Deco pearl and diamond tassel pendant (*illustrated left*, estimate: \$40,000-60,000) and an Art Deco star ruby, enamel and gold necklace, of neo-Egyptian design (estimate: \$60,000-80,000). **Paul Flato** is represented in the sale with a diamond, sapphire and emerald brooch set with a detachable sugarloaf sapphire (estimate: \$60,000-80,000).

Van Cleef & Arpels are well represented in this collection with a set of emerald, diamond and cultured pearl jewelry, comprising a necklace and a pair of ear pendants, made circa 1955, which showcases the intricate design of diamond foliate links with gold wirework trim with cultured pearls suspending a graduated fringe of detachable emerald bead drops (estimate: \$120,000-180,000). Other examples by Van Cleef & Arpels include an elegant retro diamond bow brooch designed as a sculpted openwork circular-cut diamond bow, 1942 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) and a stylish aquamarine and diamond bracelet, 1955 (*illustrated right*, estimate: \$40,000-60,000).



Auction:

Jewels: The New York Sale

Superb 20th Century Jewels from an American Collection

15 October 10:30am & 3:45pm

15 October 2pm

Viewing:

Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

10-14 October

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*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

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More information about Christie's sale of *Jewels* can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.