

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 2 OCTOBER 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIAMONDS AND PEARLS AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 16

FIRST JEWELRY AUCTION OF THE FALL SEASON FEATURES A TRIO
OF TOP QUALITY DIAMONDS OVER 50 CARATS IN SIZE

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE A SUPERB DOUBLE STRAND OF NATURAL PEARLS –
ONE OF THE FINEST TO REACH THE AUCTION BLOCK IN FIVE YEARS



A Pair of Diamond Ear Pendants
of 52.78 and 50.31 cts
(117.04 cts total with surmounts)
Estimate: \$4,500,000 – 6,500,000



A Pear-shaped D-Color Flawless
Diamond Pendant Necklace
of 50.52 cts
Estimate on Request



An Oval-Cut Fancy Intense Yellow
Internally Flawless Diamond
of 68.35 cts
Estimate: \$2,200,000 – 3,200,000

New York – On October 16, Christie's New York will kick off the fall jewelry auction season with a dazzling array of magnificent jewels, from flawless diamonds to rare gemstones, natural pearls and signed jewels from the finest makers. Among the scores of top-quality gems on offer is a trio of stunning diamond jewels weighing more than 50 carats each, and an exceedingly rare double strand of large natural pearls – one of the finest to come to auction at Christie's in the last five years. The two-session sale at Christie's Rockefeller Center saleroom comprises 372 lots total, and is expected to achieve in excess of \$35 million.

Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewelry for Christie's Americas and Switzerland, noted: *"Our spring auction season was our strongest yet at Christie's, with \$303.5 million in total jewelry sales and unprecedented global participation. In anticipation of a continued strong market this autumn, our team of jewelry specialists has spent the summer months gathering the finest gems to match current collecting tastes, including top-quality diamonds, natural pearls, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, rare vintage jewels, and highly-coveted contemporary creations from the best designers."*

“MEGA” DIAMONDS



Exceptional diamonds are a fixture at Christie’s major jewelry auctions, and the New York *Magnificent Jewels* sale features an array of gems in sizes ranging from one carat up to almost 70 carats. The top colorless diamond in the sale is a **pear-shaped D-color flawless diamond of 50.52 carats**. Offered with a GIA certificate noting the stone’s excellent polish and excellent symmetry, the stone is mounted in platinum and may be worn suspended from a necklace with a 2.28 carat, circular-cut D-color diamond surmount (*pictured page one and at left; estimate upon request*).

Prices for large flawless diamonds of this exceptional quality continue to reach new heights; in May of 2011, Christie’s Geneva sold a heart-shaped D-color internally flawless diamond of 56.15 carats for \$10.9 million to Laurence Graff, setting a new world auction record price for a heart-shaped diamond. And in December 2011, the legendary Elizabeth Taylor Diamond, a rectangular-cut D-color potentially flawless diamond of 33.19 carats, fetched \$8.8 million at Christie’s New York, setting a record per-carat price of \$266,000 per carat.

Among the colored diamond highlights is an **oval-cut fancy intense yellow, internally flawless diamond of 68.35 carats** (pictured page one; estimate \$2.2-3.2 million) with excellent polish and symmetry. For collectors who don’t want to have to choose between colored or colorless diamonds, a stunning pair of diamond ear pendants brings together a **pear-shaped fancy yellow diamond of 52.78 carats and a pear-shaped white diamond of 50.31 carats** surmounted by circular-cut fancy yellow and white diamonds (pictured page one; estimate: \$4.5-6.5 million). Ingeniously mounted in yellow and white gold, the pendants may be easily swapped or detached completely, giving the owner three options for how to wear them.

RARE NATURAL PEARLS

Often referred to as the “queen of gems”, the pearl has been a prized adornment in all cultures since ancient times. Today, matched strings of natural pearls have become increasingly hard to source, as the traditional pearling industry has all but vanished in the Middle East. As a result, natural pearls of important size and quality have become increasingly sought-after by collectors from all regions of the world, and their appearance at auction is always a major event for the jewelry world.

This October, Christie’s New York is delighted to offer an **exceedingly rare double strand natural pearl necklace formed of 120 large-sized individual pearls** (pictured at right; estimate: \$2.8 – 3.5 million). Ranging in size from 6.50 to 12.25 mm in diameter, the pearls range in coloration from white to light cream, with subtle rosé and green overtones and superb luster. This beautifully matched double strand is accented with a 3-carat, D color diamond clasp signed by Cartier.



In recent years, Christie’s has offered only three important natural pearl strands of this caliber, and all set new world auction records for a strand of natural pearls upon their sale. In November 1999, Christie’s Geneva fetched \$1.6 million for an historic single-strand pearl necklace that had been owned by American Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton, as well as Marie-Antoinette and several members of European royal families before her. Eight

years later in 2007, Christie’s New York sold the historic Baroda Pearls, worn for centuries by the Indian Maharajas from the Royal state of Baroda, for a staggering \$7.1 million.

TOP SIGNED JEWELS



Great design is the core of what makes classic jewelry hold its value over the long term, and Christie’s is honored to present the best and most iconic examples from the major jewelry houses in each one of its auctions this fall. In New York, Christie’s presents over 130 signed jewels by **Buccellati, Bulgari, Cartier, Graff, Marina B., Oscar Heyman & Brothers, Tiffany & Co., Van Cleef & Arpels, David Webb, Harry Winston** and **Raymond Yard**, among others.

Among the highlights of iconic design is a **“honeycomb” motif ruby and diamond bracelet by Van Cleef & Arpels** (pictured at left; estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Crafted from hexagonal-cut rubies and diamonds, the gems are set using the firm’s trademark “mystery-set” technique which eliminates any visible prongs from the surface of the bracelet. Additional mystery-set jewels featured in the sale include a **pair of ruby and diamond ear clips and a brooch**, each designed as a flower blossom accented by diamond pistils and leaves (estimates: \$50,000-70,000 and \$70,000-90,000, respectively).

Christie’s is also pleased to offer a selection of jewels by **Marina B**, granddaughter of Sottiro Bulgari. Known for her keen sense of design, proportion and scale, Marina B’s signature brand of jewelry has been worn by the world’s most glamorous celebrity collectors, including Elizabeth Taylor, Sophia Loren, and Princess Grace of Monaco. The upcoming sale features a number of her most iconic designs accompanied by their original renderings, including a ruby and gold *“Simona”* bangle set with a shield-shaped fancy yellow diamond (estimate: \$50,000-70,000), a stunning *“Georgina”* ring featuring an oval-cut ruby of 10.54 carats (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) and a red-carpet worthy pair of diamond, amethyst and pink tourmaline *“MBC”* ear pendants (pictured at right; estimate: \$25,000-35,000).



One-of-a-kind creations by the Indian designer **Viren Bhagat** are among the most coveted of contemporary jewelry designs on the auction market today. As a special fundraising item within the sale, Christie’s is honored to offer a pair of exquisite “flower blossom” pearl and diamond ear clips by Bhagat (pictured at left; estimate: \$30,000-50,000). The sale will benefit the **Salaam Bombay Children’s Fund**, a decade-old organization that works with disadvantaged children across India to empower them with opportunities and skills that enable them to make the right choices for their health, education and livelihood.

Additional sale highlights include:

Colored and Colorless Diamond Highlights	
	A Pear-Shaped Diamond Ring of 10.05 carats D color, internally flawless Estimate: \$1,000,000 – 1,500,000

	A Pear-Shaped Fancy Light Pink Diamond Ring of 10.52 carats by Galt Estimate: \$900,000 – 1,100,000
	A Pair of Pear-Shaped Diamond Ear Pendants 6.94 and 6.79 carats Estimate: \$600,000 – 800,000
	A Rectangular Cut Diamond Ring of 6.40 carats D color, Flawless Estimate: \$500,000 – 700,000
	A Pear-Shaped Diamond Ring of 6.10 carats D color, Internally Flawless Estimate: \$400,000 – 600,000
Rare Gemstone Highlights	
	A Pair of Colombian Emerald and Diamond Ear Pendants 22.12 and 21.47 carats Tops by Van Cleef & Arpels Estimate: \$600,000 – 800,000
	A Pair of Colombian Cushion-Cut Emerald and Diamond Ear Pendants 7.70 and 7.03 carats Estimate: \$400,000 – 600,000
	A Cushion-Cut Burmese Sapphire Diamond Ring of 32.31 carats Estimate: \$350,000 – 500,000
	A Cushion-Cut Burmese Sapphire and Diamond Ring of 17.81 carats Estimate: \$120,000 – 800,000



An Oval-Cut Burmese Sapphire Diamond Ring of 25.05 carats
Estimate: \$90,000 – 120,000

PRESS CONTACT: Erin McAndrew | +1 212 636 2680 | emcandrew@christies.com

Complete e-catalogue available at
<http://tinyurl.com/newyorkjewels>

*The press preview for this sale will be Friday, October 12 at 11am
Please contact the Christie's New York press office for details*

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 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 £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous 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 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, 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.*

###

Images available on request

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

