Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release
Monday, 28 May 2012

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IMPORTANT JEWELS
AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE

London - Christie's London sale of *Important Jewels* on Wednesday 13 June 2012 comprises 368 lots, including stunning royal and aristocratic jewels formerly from both *The Collection of Her Imperial Highness Princess Soraya Esfandiary Bakhtiary* and *The Property of Beatrice Countess of Granard OBE,* as well as from *The Collection of The Late Countess of Dudley* which is led by a superb Art Deco diamond tiara by Cartier (estimate: £100,000-150,000, *illustrated above*). Spanning four centuries, the sale presents a strong array of rare historic rings, diamonds and pearls showcasing *The Cowdray Pearls* (estimate: £280,000-350,000, *illustrated below*), with estimates ranging from £2,000 to £350,000. The roll call of signed jewels by the leading houses and designers includes: Boucheron, Cartier and Chaumet to Chopard, Graff and Van Cleef & Arpels.

ROYAL, ARISTOCRATIC AND HISTORIC JEWELS

The Cowdray Pearls, a rare natural pearl necklace, composed of a single row of thirty-eight graduated natural grey pearls, lead the sale (estimate: £280,000-350,000, *illustrated right*). From the collection of the late Viscountess Cowdray, Lady Pearson (1860-1932), these rare and beautiful coloured pearls are a testament to their owner's discerning taste as a distinguished connoisseur and collector.

One of 17 jewels offered from the *Collection of The Late Countess of Dudley*, also known as the beautiful, vivacious and talented actress and dancer Maureen Swanson, is the superb Art Deco Cartier tiara; a star lot in the sale (estimate: £100,000-150,000, *illustrated page 1and details below*). It is composed of five graduated shield shaped clip brooches, each resembling the Pylon, the tapering monumental towers of ancient Egypt whose bold form inspired so much 1930s design. Together, mounted atop the simple diamond line frame, these clips are transformed into a modern soaring geometric skyline, their design recalling both the architectural innovations of the era together with its inimitable style. In bringing together these motifs this tiara is an exceptional and truly evocative example of the Art Deco period and one of only a few examples of its kind; providing collectors and institutions with a remarkable opportunity.

Leading the small group of jewels formerly from the collection of *HIH Princess Soraya Esfandiary Bakhtiary* (lots 289-293) is a 12.15 carat diamond circular single-stone ring (estimate: £70,000-100,000). Another ring with notable provenance is an Edwardian sapphire and diamond ring, *circa* 1905, which was formerly in the collection of *Beatrice Countess of Granard OBE* (estimate: £30,000-40,000, *illustrated right*) Born Beatrice Mills, the Countess was a daughter of the great American financier and banker Ogden Mills. A famous hostess and race horse owner and breeder, in 1909 she married the 8th Earl of Granard, who was Master of the Horse to both Edward VII and George V.

Since 1766, Christie's has been synonymous with auctions of Royal and aristocratic collections. From the sale of Madame du Barry's jewels in 1795; the Russian Crown Jewels in 1927, and the Private Collection of HRH The Princess Margaret in 2006, to The Portland Pearls which were sold more recently in 2010, these events have created worldwide interest and are remembered as legendary moments in auction history.

Smaller and very accessible historic lots include a striking array of rings spanning medieval times to the 18th century, which are offered from The Property of a Lady (estimates range from £500 up to £2,500, *examples illustrated left*).

CARTIER

Always a highlight of the London sale, the regular Cartier section features over 40 lots, from jewels and cufflinks to watches, clocks and accessories. **Jewellery** highlights include an important Art Deco diamond and gem bracelet of Oriental inspiration, *circa* 1925 (estimate: £100,000-150,000, *illustrated above*), as well as a pair of exquisite platinum and diamond ear pendants, composed of a graduated line of three brilliant-cut diamonds, suspending a pear-shaped diamond drop (estimate: £100,000-150,000, *illustrated left*).

The desirable selection of **watches** feature a lady's diamond and gem-set wristwatch (estimate: £12,000-15,000) and a rare and unusual helm wristwatch (estimate: £10,000-15,000). **Clocks** capturing the essence of Cartier's inimitable style include an Art Deco silver-gilt desk clock (estimate: £5,000-7,000 *illustrated right*). There is also a delightful array of highly coveted **accessories**, ranging from cigarette cases and evening bags to vanity cases (*example illustrated left*).

For full information on all the lots offered in the sale please click on the link below to look at the online catalogue:
[**http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?id=49B1ACDBE315C2658525778200312469**](http://www.christies.com/eCatalogues/index.aspx?id=49B1ACDBE315C2658525778200312469)

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Image available on request
Visit Christie's on the web at www.christies.com

Auction: *London Important Jewels,* Wednesday 13 June 2012
Viewing: Christie's London 8-12 June, 2012

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2011 that totalled £2.0 billion/$3.2 billion. In 2010 it achieved global auction and private sales of £3.3 billion/$5.0 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 conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales 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 has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new 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.*