

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | GENEVA
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 17 OCTOBER 2019

CHRISTIE'S GENEVA MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

12 NOVEMBER 2019



Geneva – On 12 November 2019, Christie's Geneva *Magnificent Jewels* auction will present the finest and most sought-after gemstones, including D flawless diamonds, coloured diamonds, pearls, Kashmir sapphires, Burmese rubies and Colombian emeralds, alongside important signed jewels and historic pieces. The jewels will be on view at Christie's London from 22 to 23 October and at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues, Geneva from 7 to 12 November during Christie's Luxury Sales.

Transformable jewels will star in the sale with innovative Art Deco designs from Cartier, including three exceptional brooches, formerly in the collection of Beatrice, Countess of Granard OBE (1883-1972) (estimate: CHF 180,000-220,000, *illustrated right*). Born Beatrice Mills, daughter of the great American financier and banker Ogden Mills, Beatrice became known as a famous hostess and racehorse owner and breeder. She married in 1909 the 8th Earl of Granard, living between Paris and Castle Forbes in Ireland.



Further outstanding pieces in the sale include a superb Art Deco diamond Bandeau by Cartier, which can also be worn as a choker, two bracelets and as a brooch (estimate: CHF 300,000-500,000, *illustrated right*). The bandeau is the most timeless head ornament, having been in fashion during the early 20th century and enjoying a resurgence today. It transcended the Art Nouveau, Belle Époque and into the Art Déco period where the bandeau was the most fashionable accessory. Further examples of transformable jewels from the leading jewellery houses include an iconic diamond 'zip' necklace by Van Cleef & Arpels (estimate: CHF170,000-270,000).



The auction will also present an unusual turquoise and diamond Belle Époque brooch, *circa* 1910, acquired by Dame Nellie Melba at the peak of her career (estimate: CHF 250,000-350,000, *illustrated left*). In a long list of famous jewellery collectors, Dame Nellie Melba was one of the era's most prominent icons and a well-established client of Cartier. Helen Porter Mitchell, born in 1861 in Melbourne, decided from an early age that she would become a singer. After immigrating to Europe and studying in Paris under Mathilde Marchesi, who suggested that Nellie take the surname 'Melba' after her hometown, Dame Nellie Melba became one of the most famous singers of the late Victorian era and the early 20th century. She achieved international recognition as a classical musician and was honoured in the late 19th century by the Savoy Hotel's French chef Auguste Escoffier with the creation of the Peach Melba .

Leading the auction is a sensational Fancy Deep Blue Diamond ring of 7.03 carats mounted by Moussaieff (estimate: CHF10,000,000-14,000,000, *illustrated left*) and a superb diamond ring of 46.93 carats of the highest quality, D colour, Internally Flawless clarity (estimate: CHF3,800,000-4,500,000, *illustrated page one left*). The very best gemstones will be offered including a sensational Burmese sapphire pendant of 42.97 carats (estimate: CHF 2,000,000-3,000,000, *illustrated page one centre left*), an important pair of untreated Colombian emerald earrings of over 7.5 carats each (estimate: CHF 1,000,000-1,500,000, *illustrated page one centre right*) and a Burmese pigeon blood red ruby ring of 3.88 carats (estimate: CHF 400,000-600,000, *illustrated page one right*). An important pearl and diamond necklace of one hundred nineteen saltwater natural pearls will also be offered (estimate: CHF500,000-700,000).



Highlighting the auction are jewels by renowned jewellery designer Pierre Sterlé, considered to be emblematic of 1950s and 1960s jewellery. In 1934 Sterlé set up his own atelier, in the Place Vendôme, and was considered somewhat of a revolutionary: atypical, audacious and talented, receiving the prestigious De Beers' International Diamond Award three years in a row. Sterlé reinvented the art of manipulating precious metal, setting the gemstones in an elevated fashion reminiscent of the Baroque period; creating a sense of movement in supple and articulated mounts. He created mobile settings which enhanced the scintillation of the stones, varying their colour according to the light. His overruling ambition was to challenge the technical constraints of jewellery design, permitting him to translate the visions from his vivid imagination into jewels. He adored the effect of different colours of gold combined in one object and of varying textured surfaces. Leading pieces from the collection include a beautiful citrine and diamond necklace and ring set, (estimate: CHF40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*).

PRESS CONTACTS:

Alexandra Kindermann | +41 79 101 4196 | akindermann@christies.com
Lauren Bush | 020 7389 2391 | laurenbush@christies.com

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in the first half of 2019 that totalled £2.2 billion / \$2.8 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.*

About Christie's Education Luxury Courses

Christie's Education offers a wide range of postgraduate and continuing education opportunities in London, New York, Hong Kong and online. The global portfolio is designed to introduce the fundamentals of art, collecting and art business, as well as the luxury categories such as jewellery, watches and handbags.

Coinciding with Christie's exceptional jewellery sales, a new range of jewellery courses offer students the exclusive opportunity to explore highlights from Christie's auction programme with world-renowned jewellery historian Vanessa Cron. Please click [here](#) for more information on Christie's Education luxury courses, including locations, dates and registration details.

Christie's Education offers two luxury online programmes with video-based content, rich illustrations and exclusive interviews with specialists working at the forefront of the industry. [History of Jewellery Design: 1880 to Now](#) is a six-week course exploring the exquisite craftsmanship of Haute Joaillerie from the Belle Époque to the present day. [History of Watches: 1700 to Now](#) introduces the development of watches from the creation of the pocket watches to today's wristwatches, bringing together science, engineering and incredible artistry.

###

Images available on request