

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | LONDON
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Christie's Important Jewels Auction To Star Historic Jewels From Eugénie, The Last Empress Of France

London – Christie's *Important Jewels* auction on 27 November in London will present historic jewels formerly in the collection of Eugénie, The Last Empress Of France. Offered at auction will be an important pair of 19th century natural pearl earrings (estimate: £60,000-80,000), alongside a mid-19th century ruby and diamond heart locket pendant, *circa* 1850-60, (estimate: £10,000-15,000). The locket was included in the 2008 exhibition, *Le Musée Chaumet, Le Grand Frisson - Bijoux de Sentiment, de la Renaissance à nos jours*, in Paris. Adorned with circular-cut rubies and old and rose-cut diamonds, a glazed compartment on the reverse of the pendant contains a lock of hair reputedly belonging to Napoleon III.

Married to Napoleon III, Eugénie de Montijo (1826-1920) was a woman of great elegance, beauty and charm. Born in Granada, Spain, she was educated at the fashionable convent of the Sacré-Coeur in Paris, and contributed immensely to the grandeur of the French court. From the beginning of her reign in 1853, Empress Eugénie did much to enhance the reputation of French haute joaillerie, which at that time inspired the whole of Europe. Her love of jewellery being legendary, she had many Crown jewels remounted to suit her personal taste and also commissioned new pieces from the most famous jewellers in Paris including Bapst and Chaumet.



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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

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