

CHRISTIE'S

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MAHARAJAS & MUGHAL MAGNIFICENCE

CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER AN EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTION OF MUGHAL JEWELS AND OBJECTS IN NEW YORK IN JUNE 2019

Global exhibition tour to begin in London and Shanghai | **24-25 April 2019**
Auction to take place in New York | **19 June 2019**



The Patiala Ruby Choker
Cartier, Paris, 1931
*From the collection of
Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of
Patiala*



Diamond Turban Ornament
India, 1907; remodeled circa 1935
*Total weight of diamonds
approximately 152.60 carats*



**Pen Case and Inkwell
(devat-e dowlat)**
Deccan or North India,
Late 16th Century

London/New York – Christie's announces ***Maharajas & Mughal Magnificence***, a landmark auction which will take place in New York on 19 June 2019, presenting an outstanding selection of exceptional Mughal jewellery, objects, and important gemstones. Consisting of almost four hundred lots spanning over five hundred years, the auction showcases the illustrious culture of Indian jeweled arts from the Mughal period and the age of the Maharajas through to the present day. Highlights of the auction will be exhibited in London beginning April 24 and in Shanghai from April 25, marking the start of a global tour which will travel to Geneva, Hong Kong and New York.

Maharajas & Mughal Magnificence presents an unprecedented group of jewels, gemstones, and decorative objects exploring the creative dialogue between India and the West.

The selection encompasses significant Mughal jewels, including sensational *sarpechs* (turban ornaments), significant necklaces such as the **Imperial Spinel Necklace**, and a **diamond rivière necklace** originally from the collection of the **Nizam of Hyderabad** comprising almost 200 carats of Golconda diamonds. Also featured are **carved Mughal emeralds**, ranging in weight from approximately 10 carats to over 200 carats, one of the famed **Arcot** diamonds and the magnificent **'Mirror of Paradise'** D colour Internally Flawless Golconda diamond of 52.58 carats.

These significant historical jewels are complemented by a strong selection of important creations from the 20th century from the major houses of Bulgari, Cartier, Janesich, Lacroix, Linzeler, Mauboussin, and Mellerio, along with contemporary creations by Bhagat and JAR.

The Patiala Ruby Choker is a superb example of the fusion between India and the West. Commissioned by **Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala** and created by **Cartier** in 1931, the exquisite ruby, diamond and pearl necklace represents one of the greatest relationships that developed during this period. The Maharaja of Patiala was one of Cartier's most important Indian clients of the 1920s and 1930s, often traveling to Paris with trunks of diamonds and gemstones from his treasury for Cartier's workshops to produce incredible jewels that captured the romance between the two cultures.

The Enamel and Diamond Peacock Aigrette, by Mellerio dits Meller, was purchased by the **Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala** in 1905 during one of his trips to Paris. A great connoisseur of French culture, the Maharaja was captivated by the peacock motif of the aigrette, a bird that is still greatly revered in India today. In later years, the aigrette would be seen worn by **Anita Delgado**, his fifth wife, whom he met one evening while wearing the Mellerio jewel on his own turban.

This collection exemplifies the true extent of the sophistication of artistic production from the Royal courts of India from the 17th century onwards. These treasures comprise the most delicate jades, vivid enamels, opulent jewels and magnificent Royal portraits. Among the many highlights illustrating the scope of this collection are a jade-hilted dagger once owned by **Shah Jahan**, the intriguing magic box of **Tipu Sultan**, the heavily diamond-encrusted state sword of the **Nizam of Hyderabad**, and a diamond and enamel covered gold huqqa, revealing Indian opulence at its best. A jade cup, the naturalistic form terminating in an ibex head, was so astounding that the Chinese Emperor Qianlong (r.1735-1796) composed a poem in its honor which he had inscribed on the interior. Alongside these highlights are numerous fabulous works of art showcasing the development of the intricate enameling techniques that started at the Mughal court, and then spread to all the leading local kingdoms throughout the subcontinent, each with its own workshop, making sumptuous works of art and jewels that embodied the power and wealth of these competing Rulers.

François Curiel, Chairman, Christie's Europe, remarks *"This landmark collection traces the history of Mughal jewels and objects to present day and represents the most significant collection of its type ever to come to auction. This project is a true partnership between our market-leading Jewellery department, led by Rahul Kadakia, and World Art department, led by William Robinson, along with independent art advisory firm The Fine Art Group. The collection begins in Mughal India, the most important dynasty that ruled the country, famous for its emeralds, diamonds, sapphires, rubies, jeweled weapons and objects that are bejeweled beyond belief. From exceptional daggers worn by the elite Nobles and Royal families of India to important jewels inspired by Indian tradition and architecture, the auction of this notable collection presents a truly significant cultural moment and offers a milestone opportunity for collectors."*

These objects are offered from **The Al Thani Collection**. From next year, works of art from this encyclopaedic collection will be shown at a new museum space in Paris. In addition to new acquisitions, sale proceeds will support ongoing initiatives of The Al Thani Collection Foundation which extend from exhibitions, publications and lectures to sponsorships of projects at museums around the world.

Global Tour and Exhibitions:

24-30 April	London Preview Exhibition Christie's, 8 King Street, St. James's London SW1Y 6QT
25-28 April	Shanghai Preview Exhibition Ampire Building No. 97 Yuanmingyuan Road, Shanghai 200002
10-14 May	Geneva Preview Exhibition Four Seasons Hotel, Quai des Bergues 33, 1201 Genève
10-14 May	New York Preview Exhibition Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020
24-27 May	Hong Kong Preview Exhibition Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Dr, Wan Chai
14-18 June	New York Full Exhibition Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

Auction Information:

19 June **Auction in New York** | Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

Specialists Leading the Sale:

- Rahul Kadakia, International Head of Jewellery, Christie's
- William Robinson, International Head of World Art, Christie's

Press Contacts:

- US | Jennifer Cuminale | + 1 212 636 2680 | jcuminale@christies.com
- EMERI | Alexandra Kindermann | +41 44 268 1019 | akindermann@christies.com

Further information about the collection including the full sale catalogue, object estimates, and additional details on exhibitions and events will be shared closer to the sale date.

Select auction highlights are included in the following pages.

CHRISTIE'S

Maharajas & Mughal Magnificence: Magnificent Mughal Jewels & Objects **Auction Highlights**

Many with Royal Provenance including:

Shah Jahan
Tipu Sultan
Maharaja of Kapurthala
Maharaja of Patiala
Maharana of Udaipur
Nizam of Hyderabad
Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur
Maharani Sita Devi of Baroda



Belle Époque Devant-de-corsage
Cartier, Paris, 1912
The largest diamonds of
34.08, 23.55, 6.51 and 3.54 carats



The Mirror of Paradise
D Colour, Internally Flawless,
52.58 carats



**Diamond and Spinel
Turban Ornament**
Hyderabad, circa 1800-1850
*Two spinels dated 1607-8 and 1633-34,
inscribed in Persian with the names of
Mughal Rulers Jahangir and Shah Jahan*



The Shah Jahan Dagger
North India, Hilt 1620-1625,
Blade 1629-1636



**A Jade, Ruby, Emerald and
Diamond Huqqa Base**
North India, 1740-1780
*From the collection of
Maharana Fateh Singh of Udaipur*



**A Ceremonial Sword of the
Nizam Of Hyderabad**
Hyderabad, Central India, 1880-1900



Carved Emerald of 87.80 carats
North India, circa 1650



The Arcot II
D Colour, Internally Flawless, 17.21 carats
One of two diamonds presented to Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III by Muhammad Ali Wallajah, Nawab of Arcot



Golconda Diamond Rivière Necklace
Hyderabad, circa 1890, the seven largest diamonds ranging from 9.90 to 24.38 carats
From the collection of the Nizam of Hyderabad



Imperial Spinel Necklace
North India, Spinel dated 1607-8, 1754-5
Persian inscriptions of Mughal Rulers' names and dates of reign



Diamond and Enamel Aigrette
Mellerio dits Meller, Paris, circa 1905
From the collection of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala



The Nizam of Hyderabad Necklace
From the collection of the Nizams of India, circa 1850



Jade and Ruby Cup
Northern India, circa 1660-1680
Inscribed in Chinese with a poem written by Emperor Qianlong between 1756-1794



The Baroda Pearl Canopy
Baroda, circa 1865-70
Commissioned by Maharaja Khanderao Gaekwad of Baroda, by descent to Maharani Sita Devi of Baroda



Diamond, Ruby, Emerald, Gold and Steel Dagger
Tanjore or Mysore, circa 1790-1810



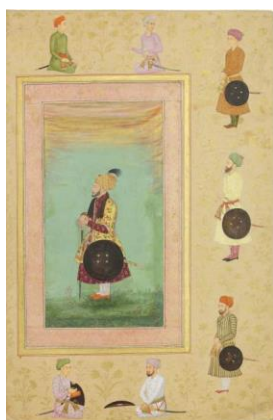
Finial from Tipu Sultan's Throne
Mysore, circa 1785-1800
*Commissioned by Tipu Sultan,
Ruler of Mysore*



**Diamond, Ruby, Emerald and Enamel
Flywhisk**
North India or Deccan, circa 1675-1725



Diamond, Ruby and Emerald Parrot
Hyderabad, circa 1775-1825



**Calligraphic page
from the Late Shah Jahan Album**
India, circa 1650



**Diamond, Enamel, Silver and Gold
Container for pann**
Hyderabad, circa 1760-1780



Ruby, Emerald and Gold Dagger Hilt
North India, circa 1850-75

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2018 that totalled £5.3 billion / \$7 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.*

Images available on request

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