

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S OCTOBER 21 JEWELS SALES TO FEATURE
MAGNIFICENT GEMSTONES, RARE OBJETS D'ART AND
SIGNATURE JEWELS FROM THE WORLD'S TOP DESIGNERS**

***JEWELS: THE NEW YORK SALE & THE ANNENBERG DIAMOND
AND
RARE JEWELS AND OBJETS D'ART: A SUPERB COLLECTION***



Art Deco "Mystery" Clock
By Cartier, circa 1927
Estimate: \$500,000-700,000



The Taj Mahal Emerald
Circa 1630-1650
Estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000



An Emerald and Diamond Necklace
By Harry Winston, 1956
Estimate: \$500,000-700,000

New York - Christie's is delighted to announce further details of its upcoming flagship auction on October 21, 2009. The day will feature two distinct sales, beginning with *Jewels: The New York Sale & The Annenberg Diamond*. Led by the perfect D color Flawless Annenberg Diamond of 32.01 carats, the auction will also include rare gemstones and signed pieces by designers such as Boucheron, BVLGARI, Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, David Webb, and Harry Winston, among others. For collectors of period jewels, the day's second auction, *Rare Jewels and Objets d'Art: A Superb Collection*, will feature an array of over 200 vintage jewels and special creations from Black, Starr & Frost, Boucheron, Cartier, Fabergé, Rubel Frères, René Lalique, Van Cleef & Arpels, Verger Frères, and Harry Winston, to name but a few. Over 380 items will be offered during the course of the two sales, which are expected to realize a combined total in excess of \$25 million.

Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewelry for Christie's New York, comments, "We are honored to present such a remarkable breadth of fine gems and superb jewels at Christie's first major sale of the Fall Season. From period jewels to contemporary designs of the highest caliber, these sales are truly unique in the sheer number of exceedingly rare items offered. When jewels of this quality and exceptional provenance come to auction alongside masterpieces of Art Nouveau and Art Deco design, it is a major event in the global collecting community that is not to be missed."

Jewels: The New York Sale & The Annenberg Diamond



The lead highlight of *Jewels: The New York Sale & The Annenberg Diamond* is the spectacular Annenberg Diamond (pictured at left; estimate: \$3-5 million), the finest and most anticipated diamond to be offered this season in New York. This 32.01 carat, D color, Flawless diamond comes from the collection of the late Leonore "Lee" Annenberg, one of America's most prominent philanthropists (*see related press release*).

François Curiel, Chairman of Christie's Europe and International Head of Jewels commented, "*The Annenberg Diamond combines the best of the 4 C's: top colour, perfect clarity, ideal cut, and excellent weight. And if you add to this the impeccable provenance of the Annenberg name, you have one of the finest gems to appear on the market for many years.*"

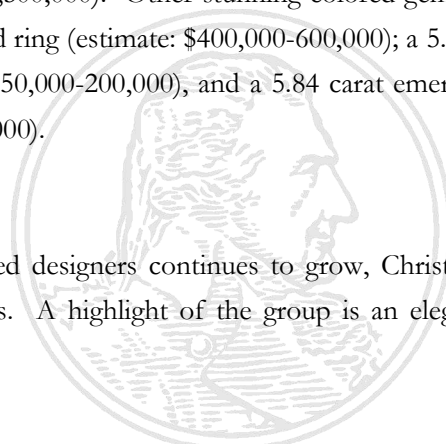
Leading up to the auction of The Annenberg Diamond, Christie's will present an assortment of colored and colorless diamonds and gemstones in a variety of sizes and settings, including a 16.33 carat circular-cut, E color, Internally Flawless diamond (estimate: \$1,200,000-1,800,000) and a 6.96 carat fancy gray-blue, VS1 clarity diamond ring (estimate: \$600,000-800,000). An elegant 21.42 carat, G color diamond ring by Tiffany & Co. (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) comes from the collection of the late Broadway actress Lillian Booth, whose caricature still graces the Wall of Fame at Sardi's, the iconic New York restaurant.



For collectors of colored diamonds, a unique pair of ear pendants features an 8.04 carat fancy light pink diamond with pave-set diamond trim for one ear, and a 7.18 carat fancy blue diamond with pink pave-set diamond trim for the other (pictured left; estimate: \$1,000,000-1,500,000). Other stunning colored gems include a 31.63 carat sapphire and diamond ring (estimate: \$400,000-600,000); a 5.06 carat ruby and diamond ring (estimate: \$150,000-200,000), and a 5.84 carat emerald and diamond ring (estimate: \$50,000-70,000).

World-Renowned Designers

As market demand for creations by world-renowned designers continues to grow, Christie's is pleased to offer an array of signed vintage and modern jewels. A highlight of the group is an elegant emerald and



diamond necklace by Harry Winston from 1956 (pictured page one, right). Designed with a row of white diamonds and one of emeralds, this eye-catching necklace boasts a magnificent 18.95 carat emerald surrounded by diamonds (estimate: \$500,000-700,000).



The legendary house of Cartier is represented by an Art Deco emerald and diamond bracelet, circa 1925 (pictured at left; estimate: \$120,000-180,000). This elegant bracelet may well have been part of the collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the C.W. Post fortune and an ardent collector of historic jewels, some of which now reside in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

Contemporary highlights in the morning sale include a “Panther” bangle bracelet by Cartier that is expertly crafted from diamonds, sapphires, and emeralds (pictured at right; estimate: \$150,000-250,000), and a superb diamond bracelet by Van Cleef & Arpels (estimate: \$80,000-120,000).



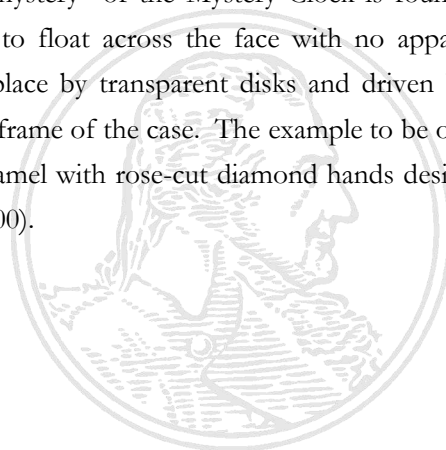
Rare Jewels & Objets d’Art: A Superb Collection

At the second auction of the day, Christie’s is honored to present a singular collection of over 200 period jewels. Among the extraordinary and exotic pieces included in *Rare Jewels & Objets d’Art: A Superb Collection* are gemstones of exceptional provenance and a number of museum-quality jewels that have been featured in major jewelry exhibitions around the world.

Rare Objets d’Art



A leading example of the many important works of art to be found in this collection is the Art Deco “Mystery” Clock by Cartier from circa 1928 (pictured page one and at left), one of only 12 such clocks created during the storied collaboration between Cartier and legendary clockmaker Maurice Couët in the years 1922-1931. The “mystery” of the Mystery Clock is found within the dial where the hands appear to float across the face with no apparent anchor. In reality, they are held in place by transparent disks and driven by gears that are ingeniously hidden in the frame of the case. The example to be offered is made of topaz, jade, coral, and enamel with rose-cut diamond hands designed as a dragon (estimate: \$500,000-700,000).



From Lacluche Frères, another prominent Parisian house, is an Art Deco rock crystal, onyx, diamond and lapis lazuli fountain desk clock (estimate: \$300,000-500,000). From Ostertag is an Art Deco multi-gem and diamond “Gazelle” desk clock, depicting a tranquil scene of a gazelle resting amidst ruby and emerald vegetation (estimate: \$300,000-500,000).



Perhaps one of the most charming objects in the collection is “La Maison d’Hortense,” an entirely unique gold and multi-gem birdcage created by Verger Frères for Van Cleef & Arpels circa 1935 (pictured left; estimate: \$100,000-150,000). The cage was originally commissioned by an Indian Maharajah as an aquarium for his pet tree frog and featured a tiny gold ladder, which the frog would ascend and descend according to the weather. Later, the aquarium was transformed into a birdcage, and the ladder was replaced with a swing to house two permanent “pets”: a pair of carved emerald lovebirds.

Historic Gems

THE TAJ MAHAL EMERALD

Leading the sale’s offering of historic gems is The Taj Mahal Emerald, one of the most treasured jewels in Indian history (pictured page one, center; estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). This intricately carved stone circa 1630-1650 is one of a small group of exquisite emeralds commissioned by the Mughal Court, possibly during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan. Emeralds were enormously popular with the Court, whose emperors referred to them as “Tears of the Moon” because of their opaque transparency. The name of the emerald is derived from its intricately carved surface of lotus, poppy flowers, and other foliage that mirrors the decoration of the Taj Mahal. At the Paris Exhibition of 1925, the stone was one of three large Mughal emeralds that featured prominently in Cartier’s Collier Bérénice, a spectacular shoulder ornament that also boasted pearls, diamonds, and black enamel.

THE BLUE VENUS

The sapphire sculpture known as the “Blue Venus” (pictured at right; estimate: \$300,000-500,000) bears a provenance as fascinating as the story of the Russian Royal family that owned it. Created in the mid-19th century, the four-inch-tall figure of the goddess Venus was part of a vast fortune in jewels amassed by the Youssoupov family. Princess Zenaide Youssoupov’s personal collection of jewels was considered second only to those in the imperial vaults, and included the Polar Star diamond, the La Regente Pearl, and the extraordinary La Pelegrina Pearl, among other treasures. No official documentation exists to confirm how the Blue Venus came into the family; however, one version of the figurine’s history suggests that Catherine the Great gave the piece to Prince Nikolai Youssoupov, her alleged lover.



Art Nouveau Designs

The Art Nouveau period from the early 1890s until about 1910 introduced a brief but remarkably fashionable style that captured the moral and artistic freedom of the time and produced some of the most evocative jeweled art in the history of jewelry design. The *Rare Jewels & Objets d'Art* collection features a number of legendary items crafted by the leading designers of the period.

LA BRETONNE, Henri Vever

The Breton woman or “Bigoudine” was a favorite subject for writers and artists alike during the second half of the 20th century. Their characteristic white bonnets or *coiffes* were especially popular with certain jewelers of the Art Nouveau movement, Henri Vever included. His “La Bretonne” pendant is perhaps the most iconic of the Art Nouveau designs created at the turn of the century; it was exhibited at the 1900 *Exposition Universelle in Paris* and earned Vever the Grand Prix award for design. Crafted in enamel and highlighted with opals, diamonds, and amethysts, the pendant bears the delicate profile of a young girl wearing the traditional Breton headdress, set against the background of a flowering bloom (pictured at right; estimate: \$400,000-600,000).



The house of Boucheron is represented in the collection by the superb “Juno” pendant, crafted in enamel, diamond and sapphire (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Drawing upon mythology as inspiration, Juno, the queen of the gods, is portrayed in white jadeite with gold hair and a purple, blue and green enamel headdress, and flanked by peacocks, another favorite Art Nouveau motif.

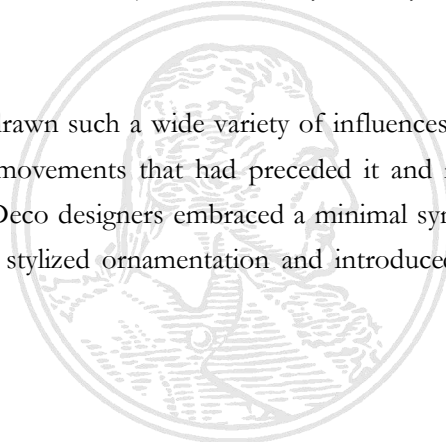


A SUITE OF “THISTLE” JEWELRY

Master jeweler René Lalique made jewelry for Boucheron, Cartier, and Vever before striking out on his own in the 1890s to embrace a more individualistic style. A highlight from this period of exuberant creativity is his suite of “Thistle Jewels”, an extraordinary bracelet and necklace crafted from diamonds and star sapphires that showcases Lalique’s masterful use of enamel in design (pictured at left; estimate: \$400,000-600,000).

Art Deco Highlights

Never before has a particular period in art history drawn such a wide variety of influences as the Art Deco period. Stylistically, it completely broke with the movements that had preceded it and is considered the decorative arts parallel to modernist thought. Art Deco designers embraced a minimal symmetrical style in which decorative motifs consisted of geometric or stylized ornamentation and introduced bold color and geometric patterns.





The *Rare Jewels & Objets d'Art* collection features some of the most exciting jewels of the Art Deco period, including the sensational diamond and multi-gem “Wave” bracelet by Rubel Frères. Created circa 1925, the undulating upper panel of the bracelet is set with five pierced flowers formed of pear-shaped diamonds and black onyx and emerald accents, while the more fanciful lower panel depicts a pleasing floral scene formed from emeralds, rubies and sapphires (pictured at left; estimate: \$500,000 - \$700,000).

Contemporary Designs

Among the contemporary designs in the collection is an array of superlative objects by the esteemed artist Daniel Brush. Often described as innovative, enigmatic and extraordinary, Brush's creations beckon admirers and yet defy easy explanation. Drawing from a breadth of worldly experience, introspective study, and unparalleled technical virtuosity, his idiosyncratic oeuvre is often called the best-kept secret in the art world and is sought after for public, private and Royal collections.



Among the Brush creations included in the sale is a charming pink bakelite and colored diamond “Bunny Bangle” (picture above, right; estimate: \$40,000 - 60,000), and the elegant gold and steel mosaic “Placidia” box (estimate: \$20,000 - 30,000).

A selection of highlights from *Jewels: The New York Sale & The Annenberg Diamond* and *Rare Jewels & Objets d'Art: A Superb Collection* will be previewed at Christie's locations in London, Hong Kong, and Los Angeles prior to the sale in New York.

Auction:

Jewels: The New York Sale & The Annenberg Diamond
Rare Jewels & Objets d'Art: A Superb Collection

October 21, 2009 at 10:00am
October 21, 2009 at 2:30pm

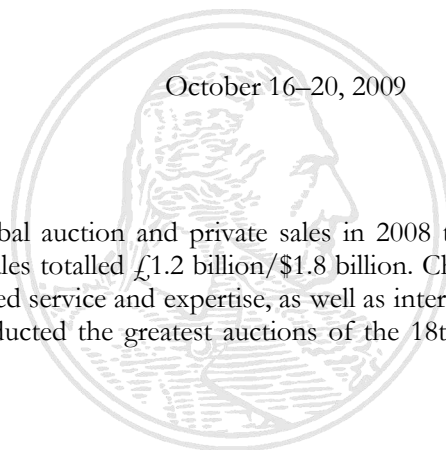
Viewing:

New York - Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries

October 16–20, 2009

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including 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 Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

*The complete e-catalogue for the sale will be available online at www.christies.com
and via the new Christie's app for the iPhone, available at www.christies.com/on-the-go*

