

## Press Release

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### MAGNIFICENT NATURAL PEARLS FROM THE COLLECTION OF KELLY AND CALVIN KLEIN TO BE SOLD BY SOTHEBY'S

FEATURING NECKLACE, PENDANT AND EARCLIPS PURCHASED  
AT SOTHEBY'S 1987 LANDMARK AUCTION OF  
THE JEWELS OF THE DUCHESS OF WINDSOR

PEARL JEWELS ESTIMATED TO SELL FOR \$2.2/3.1 MILLION  
IN NEW YORK ON DECEMBER 4, 2007



**Pictured:** a Single-Strand Natural Pearl and Diamond Necklace (est. \$1.5/2 million) and a Natural Pearl and Diamond Pendant (est. \$400/600,000), both by Cartier, Paris

**New York, New York** – On December 4, 2007, Sotheby's will offer for sale three lots of magnificent natural pearl and diamond jewels from the collection of Kelly and Calvin Klein. Of historic importance, the **Single-Strand Natural Pearl and Diamond Necklace**, a **Natural Pearl and Diamond Pendant**, and the **Pair of Black and White Natural Pearl and Diamond**

**Earclips**, were purchased by the Kleins in 1987 at Sotheby's legendary auction of *The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor* in Geneva. In the 20 years since the Windsor sale, few pieces from that incomparable collection have been re-offered at auction, and none as significant as the iconic natural pearls acquired by Kelly and Calvin Klein. Prior to the December exhibition and auction in New York, the pearls will be featured in an extensive presale exhibition around the world with stops in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and in the US (a complete schedule can be found on page 5). In addition, the collection will be exhibited at Sotheby's New York premises in months leading up to the auction. The necklace, pendant and earclips will be offered as three lots in Sotheby's December sale of *Magnificent Jewels* and carry a combined estimate of \$2.2/3.1 million\*.



World-renowned for his leading influence on fashion and lifestyles, Calvin Klein bought the natural pearl jewels from the Duchess of Windsor's collection for Kelly because of their extraordinary quality and provenance, and classic style. In the four decades she had the natural pearls, the Duchess of Windsor was often photographed wearing the necklace and pendant as complements to her fashionable wardrobe and all three pieces subsequently became treasured accessories for Kelly Klein. In addition to this exceptional provenance for all of the items, the *Single-Strand Natural Pearl and Diamond Necklace* by Cartier, Paris, once belonged to Queen Mary, wife of King George V, who gifted it to her son, the Duke of Windsor.

“These pearls hold a very special place in my heart,” commented Kelly Klein. “They were a present from Calvin early on in our relationship. They represent passion, tenderness and a promise about the future. Pearls, in my mind, are different from diamonds or gold. They are warm, mysterious, a small miracle created by nature. They should be worn close to the skin, imbued with the essence of the wearer. It is my hope they will be given again, as they have been in the past, as a gesture of love and worn often and proudly.”

According to Lisa Hubbard, Chairman, North and South America, International Jewelry Department, who was at the 1987 auction in Geneva, “The sale of *The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor*

was the definitive iconic auction. Her jewels, in some cases literally with small inscriptions, spoke of the romance they celebrated and the glamorous lifestyle she shared with the Duke of Windsor. We are honored to be able to offer to a new generation of collectors these magnificent pearls on behalf of Kelly and Calvin Klein, with whom they have resided for the past 20 years. The classic style for which the Kleins are known has immeasurably added to the tale these jewels have to tell. Their beauty and rarity, and historic provenance, are a unique combination that will appeal to a worldwide audience of connoisseurs who seek to own the best of the best.”

***Natural Pearls from the Collection of Kelly and Calvin Klein***

The **Single-Strand Natural Pearl and Diamond Necklace, Cartier, Paris** (est. \$1.5/2 million) is composed of 28 natural pearls graduating from approximately 16.8 to 9.2 mm., completed by an oval clasp set with 2 emerald-cut diamonds weighing approximately 2.00 carats and 2 fancy-shaped diamonds weighing approximately 1.00 carat, bordered by 20 small round diamonds weighing approximately .70 carat. The length of the necklace is 14 inches, with a clasp signed Cartier, Paris. The necklace was lot 65 in the 1987 sale of *The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor*.



Also featured, a **Natural Pearl and Diamond Pendant, Cartier, Paris, circa 1950** (est.



\$400/600,000), which may be worn as a drop on the aforementioned necklace. The large natural pearl drop of slightly baroque form measures approximately 18.4 mm. in diameter, drilled and capped by single-cut and round diamonds, on a detachable stirrup-shaped diamond-set pendant fitting. The pearl is stated to weigh 190.60 grains. This natural pearl pendant was sold to the current owners as lot 67 in the sale of *The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor* in 1987.

The collection also includes a **Pair of Black and White Natural Pearl and Diamond Earclips, Van Cleef & Arpels, New York, 1957** (est. \$300/500,000). According to the archives of Van Cleef & Arpels in New York, these earclips were made in 1957 and purchased the following year. Offered in the sale of *The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor* as lot 66, the earclips, mounted in white gold, are set with a black pearl measuring approximately 18.2 mm. and a white pearl measuring approximately 18.1 mm., within borders of 32 pear-shaped and 64 round diamonds, weighing a total of approximately 9.25 carats.



### ***The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor, Geneva, 1987***

On April 2, 1987, the personal jewelry collection of the late Duchess of Windsor, comprising



magnificent examples of Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, and Harry Winston jewels, was sold for \$50.3 million, seven times the presale estimate and a standing world record for any single-owner jewelry sale. The unique collection brought to life the relationship of the Duke and Duchess, which was hailed the romance of the century. Many of the pieces were collaborative efforts between the jewelers and the Duke, who had an

exemplary eye and a taste for creating innovative style. The elegant Duchess was for many years one of the world's best dressed women, and she selected fashions as backdrops for the jewels loved by both her and the Duke. It was these elements of history, quality, design and romance that drew international buyers such as the Kleins to participate in the auction twenty years ago. Intense bidding was relayed simultaneously in a tent overlooking Lake Geneva in Switzerland and in Sotheby's New York salesroom, and many items sold for up to ten times their expected price.

*Photo Credit: Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London*

### ***The Duke and Duchess of Windsor***

The Duke of Windsor, formerly King Edward VIII, famously abdicated the British throne to marry the twice-divorced American, Wallis Simpson, in 1936. The Duke died in 1972 and the Duchess in 1986. The two had no children, and in her will, the Duchess of Windsor left the proceeds of her jewelry collection to the Pasteur Institute in Paris, known for its AIDS and cancer research.

### **Traveling Exhibition Schedule**

- Hong Kong, alongside *Magnificent Jewels & Jadeite*, October 3-7
- New York, alongside *Grace, Princess of Monaco: A Tribute to the Life and Legacy of Grace Kelly*, October 15-25
- Dubai, at The One and Only Royal Mirage Hotel, October 29-30
- New York, alongside *Impressionist & Modern Art*, November 2-6
- Geneva, alongside *Magnificent Jewels*, November 10-14
- Los Angeles, November 19
- London, alongside *Russian Art and Fine Jewels*, November 23-25
- Palm Beach, November 27

The *Magnificent Jewels* New York public exhibition will be on view from November 29-December 4.

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\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium