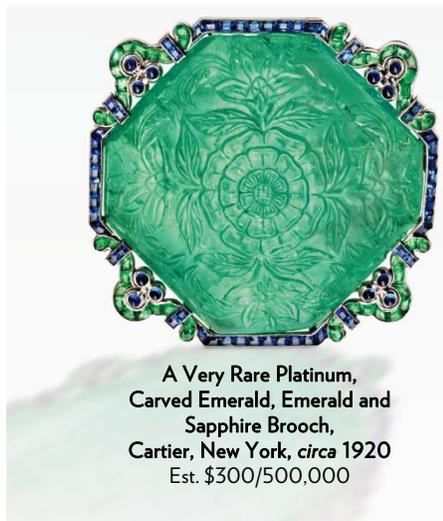


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## Magnificent Jewels at Sotheby's New York

18 APRIL 2012

Featuring Jewels from Important Estates and Makers



**2 April 2012** – Sotheby's annual spring sale of Magnificent Jewels in New York will be held on 18 April 2012. The auction is distinguished by the many beautiful, fresh-to-market signed jewels from prominent Estate collections, as well as top quality gemstones. This sale also provides an in-depth look at many of the best jewelry designers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – from Cartier to Belperron and Flato, as well as Art Moderne jewels. Select pieces from the sale traveled to Sotheby's Hong Kong location from 31 March – 2 April, and will return for the main exhibition in New York on 14 April where the more than 400 lots in the auction will be on view. From 14 – 16 April, the New York exhibition will also feature highlights from the upcoming May auction of Magnificent Jewels & Noble Jewels in Geneva.

“This April, we are privileged to present a sale in which we have been entrusted with great jewels from the estate collections of several women whose philanthropy, social stature and style will long be remembered,” said Lisa Hubbard, Sotheby's Chairman, North & South America, International Jewelry Division. “The selection of signed

and period jewels in particular offers a window into the lives of these women, each with their own taste but all having an eye for the very best. We are also delighted to present the Mughal carved emerald brooch by Cartier that is featured on the cover of our sale catalogue – a successful marriage of East and West by the leading pioneer of Art Deco design.”



Eunice Joyce Gardiner on her wedding day in 1961

### Estate Collections

The important estates in the April auction will be led by *Property from the Estate of Eunice Joyce Gardiner*, a former London model known for her grace, striking beauty and signature style. In 1961, she met her second husband Robert David Lion Gardiner in Palm Beach, Florida. Robert was a descendant of Lion Gardiner, who acquired the storied Gardiner’s Island at the eastern tip of Long Island in 1639, and their wedding was a highlight in the annals of American society. The Gardiner Estate, estimated at more than \$2 million, comprises 47 jewels ranging from exquisite antique pieces to bold David Webb designs.

A highlight from the collection is the **Platinum, Sapphire and Diamond Pendant-Necklace, Lacloche Frères, France, circa 1925** (pictured right, est. \$150/200,000\*). The pendant set with an emerald-cut Burma sapphire weighing 29.50 carats and the necklace set throughout with over 31 carats of diamonds.



Additional estates featured in the sale include *Property from the Estate of Nancy Blackburn Hamon*, a legendary philanthropic figure in Dallas who had a brief career in Hollywood in the 1940s before marrying oil wildcatter Jake L. Hamon and returning to Texas. Mrs. Hamon’s collection includes a



**Platinum and Diamond Ring**, set with a marquise-shaped diamond weighing 12.64 carats, E color, VS1 clarity (est. \$500/700,000), and a **Platinum and Diamond Necklace/Bracelet Combination, Harry Winston, circa 1956**, designed with pear and marquise-shaped diamonds in a wreath motif – one of the most classic Winston designs (est. \$150/250,000). *Property from the Estate of Valerie Pascal Delacorte* will be sold to benefit The Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, Florida, of which Mrs. Delacorte was a

major benefactor. The estate includes pieces by Bulgari, David Webb, Van Cleef & Arpels and Buccellati. And *Property from the Estate of a Distinguished New York Collector* represents an extraordinary group of jewels that span almost two centuries of jewelry history, featuring gemstones as well as unique designs that exemplify the periods in which they were made, such as the whimsical decorative garden scene brooch and a Taj Mahal brooch, both by Mauboussin.



Platinum, 18 Karat Gold,  
Colored Stone, Diamond and  
Enamel Brooch,  
Mauboussin, Paris, 1929  
Est. \$20/30,000



### Colored Diamonds & Stones

“Each auction season, Sotheby’s sales of Magnificent Jewels include white and colored diamonds and precious gemstones of the highest quality,” commented Gary Schuler, Head of Sotheby’s Jewelry department in New York. “This spring, we are excited to offer outstanding examples of yellow, blue and pink diamonds, a number of charming white diamonds from Estate collections, as well as an exceptional Kashmir sapphire and a significant selection of gem caliber emeralds.”

Colored diamonds and stones in the sale will be led by **An Impressive Fancy Vivid Yellow Diamond Ring**, the cushion-shaped step-cut diamond of fancy vivid yellow color weighing 23.02 carats and VVS1 clarity (pictured above, est. \$1.5/2 million). **An Exceptional Platinum, Sapphire and Diamond Ring, Mounted by Cartier** features a sugarloaf cabochon sapphire weighing 20.21 carats, and is accompanied by an AGL report stating that the stone is of Kashmir origin, with no gemological evidence of heat treatment (pictured right, est. \$700,000 / 1 million). The wonderful shape of the stone, with its low peak, makes it the ring very wearable and especially elegant.



The sale’s depth of emeralds extends beyond the carved emerald brooch by Cartier to include such highlights as a **Platinum, Emerald and Diamond Ring, Cartier, Paris**, the emerald-cut Colombian emerald weighing approximately 13.00 carats (est. \$350/550,000), and two **Gold and Cabochon Emerald Rings, circa 1900**, set with oval Colombian emeralds weighing 16.58 and 17.50 carats respectively (est.

\$175/225,000 each).



### Jewels with History

In 1981, Sotheby's New York sold the jewelry collection of Mrs. Georges Lurcy – wife of the Paris-born Wall Street financier and renowned art collector Georges Lurcy – in a single-owner sale. At the time, the family retained a **Platinum, Natural Pearl and Diamond Necklace, Cartier, Paris, circa 1935**, which Sotheby's is honored to now offer in our upcoming sale. The graduated single-strand is composed of 51 natural pearls measuring approximately 11.5 to 5.8 mm. (est. \$250/350,000).

A **Platinum and Fancy Blue Diamond Ring, Tiffany & Co., circa 1900**, with a modified marquise-shaped diamond of fancy blue color weighing 3.54 carats, is another example of pieces in the April auction with charm and great provenance (est. \$300/500,000). The exquisite jewel has remained in the same family since being presented to the current owner's great-great grandmother, and turn-of-the-century rings by esteemed houses appear with increasing rarity in today's market.



### Beautiful Designs

The selection of designed jewels in the April auction will be led by **A Very Rare Platinum, Carved Emerald, Emerald and Sapphire Brooch, Cartier, New York, circa 1920** (pictured top and left, est. \$300/500,000). The carved emerald dates from the late-17<sup>th</sup> to early-18<sup>th</sup> century, and was set within the elegant and understated mounting by Cartier in the 1920s. Regarding the gem, the jewelry historian Dr. Usha R Bala Krishnan has said: "There is a softness and beauty to the design and workmanship that were hallmarks of 17<sup>th</sup> century hard stone carving. The floral motifs of course echo the pietra-dura flowers on the Taj Mahal."

With the resurgence in interest in Suzanne Belperron and her jewelry in the last two decades, and in advance of Sotheby's upcoming 14 May auction of Jewels from the Personal Collection of Suzanne Belperron in Geneva, we are pleased to present a group of five of her designs in New York. Belperron's exacting artistry and impeccable taste are evident in a **Platinum and Diamond Feather Brooch, Suzanne Belperron, circa 1930** (est. \$25/35,000) and an **18 Karat Gold and**



**Gem-Set Vanity Case, circa 1945** (est. \$55/75,000). The influence of Cubism can be seen in the abstract geometric structures of several Art Moderne pieces, including examples by “artist-jewelers” Jean Després and Jean Dunand.

**\*\*Exhibition Calendar**

Hong Kong Convention Center – 31 March – 2 April

Sotheby’s New York – 14-17 April (Session 2 on view 18 April until 2pm)

\*Estimates do not include buyer’s premium

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