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SOTHEBY'S MAGNIFICENT JEWELS SALE

PRESENTS

AN EXCEPTIONAL BLUE DIAMOND FROM THE HISTORIC CULLINAN MINE AS THE CENTREPIECE

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
A CELEBRATION OF TASTE AND STYLE
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTIONS
TO COME TO AUCTION IN RECENT YEARS

AND
NOBLE JEWELS

MAY 12, 2009, BEAU-RIVAGE HOTEL, GENEVA



A CELEBRATION OF TASTE AND STYLE
A very important sapphire and diamond bracelet, Harry Winston, 1968
Est. 540,000 - 760,000 CHF / 450,000 - 650,000 USD

GENEVA, APRIL 2009 – SOTHEBY'S spring sale of Magnificent Jewels will take place in Geneva on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at the Beau-Rivage Hotel. The auction's centrepiece is an important and rare fancy vivid blue, internally flawless, cushion-shaped diamond weighing 7.03 carats. Cut from a 26.58 carat rough discovered in 2008 at Petra Diamonds' historic Cullinan diamond mine in South Africa, the stone is estimated at \$5.8-8.5 million / CHF 6.8-10 million*.

The auction series comprises *A Celebration of Taste and Style* - one of the most important private collections to come to auction in recent years - which includes pieces signed by Harry Winston, Cartier and Van Cleef & Arpels to name but a few, in addition to Sotheby's third annual Noble Jewels sale, which features a fine and important aquamarine and diamond parure formerly in the Collection of Olga, Princess Paley.

MAGNIFICENT JEWELS



The centrepiece of the forthcoming Magnificent Jewels sale in Geneva is **an important and rare fancy vivid blue, internally flawless, cushion-shaped diamond weighing 7.03 carats** (pictured left), cut from a 26.58 carat rough discovered in 2008 at Petra Diamonds' historic Cullinan diamond mine in South Africa. The buyer will have the honour of naming the diamond (est. CHF 6.8-10 million / \$5.8-8.5 million). At a weight of 7.03 carats, the stone ranks among the most important blue diamonds ever to be offered for sale by Sotheby's. The Gemological Institute of

America (GIA) has graded it as fancy vivid blue in colour and internally flawless in clarity, the highest possible grading for a blue diamond. Blue diamonds, which are among the rarest of all gems, owe their colour to the presence of the chemical element boron during the stone's formation. The Cullinan mine is the world's most consistently reliable source of blue diamonds and this stone is a perfect example of Cullinan diamonds at their best.

(PLEASE SEE SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE FOR FURTHER DETAILS)

In addition to this spectacular stone, the sale includes **an exceptional type IIa fancy intense pink pear-shaped diamond of 5.29 carats** which is estimated at CHF 2,100,000-3,100,000 / \$1,800,000-2,500,000, and a **magnificent unmounted fancy vivid yellow diamond** (pictured right) from the property of an International Collector, which is estimated at CHF 620,000-920,000 / \$525,000-825,000. This marquise modified brilliant-cut stone weighing 18.13 carats is potentially flawless after repolishing.



Among the signed pieces in the sale is a **yellow gold and diamond suite, Paillette, by Van Cleef & Arpels, 1948**. Comprising an articulated necklace, a bracelet and a ring, this *parure* is estimated at CHF 145,000- 215,000 / \$125,000-185,000. Also by Van Cleef & Arpels is **an Art Deco emerald and diamond bracelet, circa 1922** (pictured left). Composed of eight graduated step-cut emeralds set within diamond borders, this piece is estimated at CHF 80,000-140,000 / \$70,000-120,000.



The Magnificent Jewels sale also includes several pieces from the House of Marchak, a talented young jeweller from Kiev who was considered to be one of Fabergé's main competitors at the turn of the last century. A **fine sapphire and diamond ring** almost certainly made by him circa 1960 is set with a sugarloaf cabochon Kashmir sapphire weighing approximately 11.00 carats and embellished with heart-shaped and baguette diamonds (estimate: CHF 175,000-275,000 / \$150,000-250,000).

MAGNIFICENT JEWELS FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION: A CELEBRATION OF TASTE AND STYLE

A Celebration of Taste and Style is one of the most important private collections of jewellery to appear at auction in recent years.

David Bennett, Chairman of Jewellery, Sotheby's Europe and the Middle East, comments "*It is indeed a rare event to be able to present such a beautiful and highly important collection of jewels. This collection's combination of very rare gems and superb designs places it in the elite and distinguished company of the most important jewellery collections to have been assembled in the 20th century. It is a tribute to taste, style and refinement.*"



Signed by some of the most famous and celebrated jewellers of the 20th century - such as Harry Winston, Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Bulgari, Mauboussin, David Webb, Louis Gérard and Pierre Sterlé - this collection of supremely chic and glamorous jewels spans over forty years of European and American jewellery fashion - from the 1940s to the 1980s. Apart from the splendid Winston jewels dating from the 1970s, it includes a very original multi-coloured watch-bracelet by Sterlé and a bold Maltese-cross brooch by Webb.

Among the highlights in the collection is a **magnificent diamond necklace/bracelet set with marquise- and pear-shaped diamonds, Harry Winston, 1975**. This jewel, pictured left, whose front is set with eleven marquise-shaped diamonds, alternating with stones of other shapes, is estimated at CHF 840,000-1,400,000 / \$700,000-1,200,000.

Also by Harry Winston is a **very important sapphire and diamond bracelet** made in 1968. Designed as a flexible curved band of circular- and brilliant-cut diamonds, it is embellished with five step-cut sapphires of Burmese and Ceylon origins weighing respectively 12.74, 12.97, 22.55, 16.11 and 13.56 carats (est. CHF 540,000- 760,000 / \$450,000-650,000). This bracelet is illustrated on page 198 in *Harry Winston - The Ultimate Jeweler*, edited by Ronald Winston, 1993.

Further Harry Winston pieces from the collection include a **highly important pair of sapphire and diamond pendent earrings, circa 1975** (pictured right), a **fine diamond necklace** and an **important sapphire and diamond pendant** and an **important ruby and diamond necklace**. The sapphire and diamond earrings are set with four octagonal Burmese step-cut sapphires weighing respectively 16.43, 17.21, 17.72 and 22.52 carats, enhanced by white diamonds and are estimated at CHF 600,000 - 950,000 / \$500,000 - 800,000.





The fine diamond necklace and an important sapphire and diamond pendant (pictured left) was designed as a line of marquise-shaped diamonds, suspending a pendant set with a step-cut sapphire of Burmese origin weighing 37.49 carats (est. CHF 385,000-615,000 / \$320,000-520,000).

The important ruby and diamond necklace, 1960, is decorated at the centre with a floral and foliate motif set with rubies of Burmese origin and diamonds, continuing to an articulated collar set with similar stones (est. CHF 360,000-590,000 / \$300,000-500,000).

A selection of stunning pieces by David Webb among the collection includes a brooch designed as a stylised Maltese cross, from the 1970s (pictured right), set with a cabochon pear-shaped emerald within a border of diamonds (est. CHF 60,000-95,000 / \$50,000-80,000). The Maltese cross or cross of St John motif is named after the white cross worn as an emblem on the black robes of the Knights Hospitallers, a military and religious order that grew from the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem and was established in the 11th century to care for pilgrims to the Holy Land. Its headquarters later moved to the island of Malta. This very special cross with indented terminals was a successful design used by some New York-based jewellers like Fulco di Verdura and David Webb during the 1940-1970 period.



NOBLE JEWELS

The Noble Jewels section includes notable pieces of jewellery formerly from the collection of **Olga, Princess Paley and Countess of Hohenfelsen, Queen Theresa of Bavaria, and Diane Benvenuti, née Rothschild** to name but a few.

(PLEASE SEE SEPARATE PRESS RELEASE FOR FURTHER DETAILS)

Auction in Geneva:

Magnificent Jewels / Noble Jewels / Private Collection: A Celebration of Taste and Style
Tuesday, 12 May 2009

Session 1 at 11.00 a.m. - Magnificent Jewels

Session 2 at 2.30 p.m. - Magnificent Jewels

Session 3 at 7.00 p.m. - Noble Jewels, Magnificent Jewels, Private Collection, Blue Diamond

Public Exhibition in Geneva:

from Saturday 9 to Monday 11 May 2009 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
and Tuesday 12 May 2009 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Sessions 2 & 3) and from 12 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Session 3)

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*Pre-sale estimates do not include buyer's premium.