

For Immediate Release

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VINTAGE JEWELS & DIAMONDS SPARKLE AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE

- **Exceptional Diamonds**
- **Jewellery from the Collection of Christina Onassis (1950-1987)**



Jewels: The London Sale
Christie's London
11 June 2008 at 11am

London – A spectacular selection of diamonds and Jewellery from the Collection of Christina Onassis (1950-1987) highlight **Christie's Jewels: The London Sale** on 11 June 2008. Featuring 230 beautiful rings, bracelets, necklaces, pearls, single stones together with pieces from some of the most sought-after jewellers including Cartier, Chaumet, Harry Winston and Van Cleef & Arpels, estimates range from £2,000 to £2,200,000. The sale is expected to realise in excess of £8 million.

DIAMONDS



Amongst the spectacular selection of diamonds is a beautiful crossover ring by Graff with a fancy vivid yellow pear-shaped diamond of 4.15 carats, internally flawless clarity contrasting with the pear-shaped diamond of 4.79 carats, E colour and VVS1 clarity (estimate: £100,000-120,000), *illustrated left*. More colour is provided by a 7.12 carats cushion-shaped fancy light greenish-blue diamond ring (estimate: £180,000-220,000) and a 30.81 fancy yellow diamond (estimate: £250,000-350,000).

Colourless diamonds are well represented by one of the largest, most exceptional 19th century diamond rivières to be offered at auction in many years, with 55 collets ranging from 1 carat to 10 carats (estimate: £400,000-500,000), an impressive 15.02 carats heart-shaped diamond pendant (estimate: £600,000-800,000) and a pair of ear pendants, the pear-shaped drops weighing 5.89 and 5.84 carats (estimate: £100,000-150,000), *illustrated right*.



Jewellery from the Collection of Christina Onassis (1950-1987)

Evoking a world of prestige and glamour associated with one of the most iconic names of the twentieth century are over 40 pieces of **Jewellery from the Collection of Christina Onassis (1950-1987)**. The daughter of Greek ship owner Aristotle Onassis and Tina Livanos, Christina Onassis, *illustrated right*, was born in 1950. Her childhood was spent between Paris, New York and Cap d'Antibes with holidays on her father's yacht, *Christina*. Held in her father's arms in Hamburg when she was two, she released the champagne bottle that launched the largest oil tanker and cargo ship ever built, *Tina Onassis*. Aged five, she watched Grace Kelly sail into Monte Carlo to marry Prince Rainier.



Living as she did in an era of great style, with elegant dinners and balls attended by society ladies dressed in haute couture, Christina too owned jewels of great beauty. Leading the collection is a pear-shaped 38-carat D colour potentially flawless diamond, which she wore on a diamond pendant necklace (estimate: £1,800,000-2,200,000), *detail illustrated top left page 1*. Other important jewels include a ruby and diamond necklace by Van Cleef and

Arpels (estimate: £30,000-40,000), *illustrated left* and a sapphire and diamond necklace by Harry Winston (estimate: £120,000-150,000), *illustrated right*. The collection also features an exceptionally rare bowenite Buddha by Carl Fabergé which took pride of place on Onassis's yacht (estimate: £250,000-350,000).



VINTAGE JEWELLERY



Founded in the late 18th century, the jeweller Chaumet is renowned for fine design and quality, having provided jewels for the fashionable aristocracy and historic figures such as Napoleon and the Duchesse de Berry. The sale includes an impressive diamond corsage ornament by Chaumet which dates to the early 20th century (estimate: £40,000-60,000), *illustrated left*. The garland-style jewel with twin 'L' monogram was commissioned by Juan Antonio de Beistegui for his wife Dolores (Lolita) de Yturbe (1871-1939), also known as *La Belle Mexicaine*. Many of Lolita's jewels were made by Chaumet and Cartier in the early 20th century and include this distinctive monogram. Juan Antonio and his wife divided their time between Paris, their elegant *Villa Fal* in Biarritz as well as Madrid, where he was the Mexican Ambassador.



Further vintage jewellery highlights include two attractive Art Deco diamond bracelets by Cartier: one designed as diamond-set band with buckle clasp (estimate: £20,000-30,000); the other as a series of graduated oval links, with marquise-shaped diamond detail (estimate: £20,000-30,000). A beautiful example of 1950s jewellery is an important three-row brilliant and baguette-cut diamond necklace, by Van Cleef & Arpels which can also be worn as a series of bracelets (estimate: £75,000-100,000), *illustrated left*.

PEARLS

Pearls continue to be particularly sought-after and the sale includes some beautiful examples of natural pearls, including a single graduated strand of 99 pearls to an Art Deco clasp (estimate: £20,000-25,000); a beautiful antique diamond and coloured pearl floral brooch mounted *en tremblant* (estimate: £15,000-20,000), *illustrated right* and a Belle époque diamond and pearl choker (estimate: £9,000-12,000).



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Visit Christie's on the web at www.christies.com
A selection of images is available on request

Notes to Editors:

Auction: Jewels: The London Sale, Christie's King Street on Wednesday 11 June 2008: 10.30am

Public Viewing: Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's SW1Y 6QT

- Friday, 6 June – Tuesday, 10 June 2008

CHRISTIE'S - JEWELLERY MARKET LEADERS SINCE 1994

Christie's has been the world market leader in jewellery for 14 years, with sales totalling a record US\$395 million in 2007, an increase of 11% over 2006 (US\$355 million), which was already up by 27% over a then record 2005 (US\$279 million). These results, the highest ever achieved by any auction house, confirm Christie's position of world market leader for jewellery auctions. 2007 market share compared to its principal competitor: 57%, or 54% taking into consideration all major international auctioneers. For the 14th year in a row, Christie's maintains pole position in the category. Christie's jewellery auctions take place in Amsterdam, Dubai, Geneva, Hong Kong, London King Street, London South Kensington, New York, Paris, and Milan.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium