

For Immediate Release

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**EXCEPTIONAL BLUE DIAMONDS LEAD
CHRISTIE'S JEWELS SALE IN JUNE**



New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the **New York Jewels Sale** on June 11 will be led by four blue diamonds. Following the record sale of the 17th century historic Wittelsbach diamond - the 35.56 carat blue diamond that set the record for the most expensive jewel ever sold at auction at \$24.3 million at Christie's London in December 2008 - the market for blue diamonds is vibrant. The sale will also include colored diamonds, gemstones and signed jewels from private collections.



Natural blue diamonds are among the rarest of colored diamonds and their color comes from the presence of minute amounts of the element boron incorporated within the crystal lattice of the stone during the crystallization process, occurring over 100 million years ago. Blue diamonds belong to the extremely rare Type IIb category of diamonds and are semi-conductors of electricity; an attribute which makes them unique among other diamonds. The sale features a superb fancy intense blue pear-shaped internally flawless diamond of 6.29 carats (estimate: \$3.3 – 5.5 million) and a fancy dark gray-blue rectangular-cut diamond ring, SI2 clarity, of 3.28 carats (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). A spectacular colored diamond pendant necklace suspends two fancy intense blue pear-shaped rose-cut diamonds of 5.01 and 2.03 carats, spaced by a fancy intense pink hexagonal-cut diamond of 3.01 carats (estimate on request).



The selection of colored diamonds continues with a pear-shaped fancy light pinkish purple diamond ring of 8.10 carats, with a pavé-set pink diamond surround and hoop, sold without reserve (estimate: \$200,000-300,000), a rectangular-cut fancy yellow diamond of 46.72 carats (estimate: \$500,000-700,000), and a pair of ear pendants with alternating rectangular-cut fancy brownish orangey pink diamonds and yellow diamonds (estimate: \$200,000-300,000), also to be sold without reserve.



Colored stones are abundant in the sale and feature a pair of emerald and diamond ear pendants by Cartier (estimate: \$250,000-350,000) and cushion-cut color-change sapphire of 25.70 carats by Harry Winston (estimate: \$25,000-35,000).

The sale will feature an elegant emerald and diamond ring designed by Joel Arthur Rosenthal (JAR), who is regarded as one of the world's most influential contemporary jewelry designers. The ring is set with a sugarloaf cabochon emerald of 16.27 carats and possesses a sculptural quality with its sense of movement and light (estimate: \$200,000-300,000).



Numerous collections on behalf of estates and private collections will be offered in the sale. Examples include a beautiful Art Deco pearl and diamond sautoir from the Collection of Hugh Grant and Lucie Mackey Grant, New York (estimate: \$300,000-500,000) and a diamond necklace by Graff suspending a pear-shaped diamond of 3.42 carats, from a series of 40 multi-shaped diamonds from the Property of a Lady (estimate: \$300,000-500,000). The Property from an American Collector features 18 jewels including a cultured pearl and diamond necklace by David Webb (estimate: \$30,000-50,000) and rose quartz bead and gold necklace by Verdura (estimate: \$5,000-7,000).

Auction: *New York Jewels*

Viewing: Christie's 20 Rockefeller Galleries

June 11 at 10am

June 6-10

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totaled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 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 600 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 70 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in 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 United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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