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CHRISTIE'S SEES ROBUST DEMAND AT GENEVA AUCTION

Rapaport News, November 11, 2020

The Christie's Magnificent Jewels sale in Geneva garnered \$36.8 million, with a fancy-purplish-red diamond selling for a record price, the auction house reported Wednesday. The sale, which took place the previous day at the Four Seasons Hotel, saw 89% of the 156 lots sold, representing 95% of the auction's total value.

"Despite the challenging environment Christie's saw strong bidding from all over the world both online and on the telephone," said Max Fawcett, head of Christie's jewelry department. "With a (sell-through) rate of 89%, it shows the market is robust and there is very competitive demand for exceptional jewels and coloured stones."

Dubai-based Tiara Gems and Jewellery bought the rectangular-cut, 1.05-carat, fancy-purplish-red diamond ring by Graff for \$2.8 million, well above its presale estimate. The lot set a world-record price per carat of \$2.6 million for a diamond of its color, Christie's said.

The diamond will go on display in the family jewelry store in the Dubai International Financial Centre, said Tiara Gems owner Ashish Vijay Jain. Such diamonds present an investment opportunity for buyers amid the Covid-19 pandemic, as "there will always be interest for rare stones," he noted.

However, the top lot of the auction was a rectangular-cut, 28.88-carat, fancy-vivid-yellow diamond, which sold to an unnamed private buyer for \$3.1 million, which was within its expected range. A cushion-shaped, 107.46-carat, fancy-yellow diamond brooch by Graff sold for \$3 million to a member of the trade.



Rectangular-cut, 1.05-carat, fancy-purplish-red diamond ring
Courtesy: Christie's



The 2.28 carat Argyle Muse

RED ALERT

The 2.28 carat fancy-purplish-red Argyle Muse became the most valuable diamond ever sold at what could be the last Rio Tinto's Argyle Pink Diamond Tender. The annual sale included 63 pink, red and violet stones, weighing a combined 51.48 carats. The miner did not disclose final selling prices.

PINK DIAMOND RING BEATS ESTIMATE AT BONHAMS

Rapaport News, November 16, 2020

A fancy-pink diamond ring by Meister was the top seller at the Bonhams London Jewels sale, garnering GBP 838,750 (\$1.1 million). The piece, with a step-cut 3.62-carat center stone and designed in 1968 by Meister, exceeded its high estimate of GBP 750,000 (\$989,417) at the November 12 auction, Bonhams said last week.

A diamond brooch from the collection of Dame Joan Collins, designed by Van Cleef & Arpels, fetched GBP 122,750 (\$161,892), more than six times its high valuation, it was part of a collection of the actress's jewels that saw 100% of items find buyers, with the final sales total three times higher than the auctioneer had estimated. A portion of the proceeds from Collin's jewelry will be donated to the Shooting Star Children's Hospice, of which she is a patron.

Other notable items at the auction included a sapphire and diamond ring, which fetched GBP 144,000 (\$189,865) against a high estimate of GBP 100,000 (\$131,851), and a three-stone diamond ring, which brought in GBP 100,250 (\$132,179) nearly doubling its estimate.

In total, the auction achieved GBP 3.8 million (\$5 million) with Bonhams selling 75% of items on offer.

"Despite (the auction) taking place behind closed doors, the bidding remained spirited and the results demonstrate that high-quality pieces with extraordinary provenance continue to captivate buyers around the world," said Jean Ghika, global head of jewelry for Bonhams.



Pink-diamond ring with a step-cut 3.62 carat center stone
Courtesy: Bonhams

\$27M PINK DIAMOND SETS RECORD AT SOTHEBY'S

Rapaport News, November 12, 2020



The Spirit of the Rose diamond
Courtesy: Sotheby's

Alrosa's Spirit of the Rose has achieved the highest price for any purple-pink diamond, selling to an anonymous bidder for nearly \$27 million at Sotheby's Geneva.

The oval modified brilliant-cut, 14.83-carat, fancy-vivid-purple-pink, internally flawless, type II stone, named for the famous Russian ballet, sold for \$26.6 million, beating its low estimate of \$23 million. The diamond, which fetched \$1.8 million per carat, led the Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels live auction Wednesday, which garnered \$52.2 million in total, Sotheby's said. The purchase comes on the heels of the recent closure of Rio Tinto's Argyle mine in Australia, which produced more than 90% of the world's pink diamonds. Prices for stones of that color are likely to soar in the coming years, experts have noted. Noble jewels were in demand as well, Sotheby's said, led by a Colombian emerald and diamond parure from the collection of the first Marquis de Gulrion, viceroy of New Granada and viceroy of Peru. That piece also surpassed its high estimate, fetching \$1.1 million.

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