

Sotheby's

Press release

Paris

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SOTHEBY'S CELEBRATES FRENCH HIGH JEWELLERY



Joillerie Paris

29 October 2019

On 29 October, Sotheby's will invite all those who love exquisite jewellery to a new Jewellery and Watches auction in Paris. The sale will give pride of place to Buccellati, the venerable jewellery house celebrating its hundredth anniversary this year. The Milan maker has given Sotheby's 26 exceptional pieces to offer at auction. There will also be an exhibition of pieces from eras past, tracing the history of the designs released by this illustrious jeweller (see separate press release).

The remainder of the auction will celebrate French high jewellery, as 30 creations by Van Cleef & Arpels are presented for sale, offering a dazzling panorama of designs from this iconic Place Vendôme house, such as the *Alhambra* necklace or the *Rose de Noël* clips.

The sale will also showcase works by Suzanne Belperron, Boivin, Cartier, Boucheron and Sterlé. Diamond lovers will be delighted with a selection of stunning stones, including a ring from jeweller Harry Winston, featuring a marquise-cut diamond weighing 7.72 carats and another large ring set with a 12.35-carat, pear-cut type-IIA diamond.

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS AND THE FAMOUS JEWELLERS OF THE PLACE VENDÔME

Agrément N° 2001 – 002 du 25 octobre 2001
Vente dirigée par Olivier Valmier



The esteemed Place Vendôme jewellers will be represented in a selection of 30 pieces, including this beautiful design from the 1960s: a pair of earrings, each in the form of flower, suspended from which is a removable, gem-laden pinecone. Pavé-set with brilliant-cut diamonds, this exacting, meticulous setting spotlights the fully articulated creation's delicacy and flexibility (**Lot 254 – estimate: €40,000-€60,000**).

The earrings coordinate perfectly with this diamond necklace, a design that exemplifies the house's style choices in the 1950s. It is covered in alternating brilliant- and baguette-cut diamonds of very fine quality (**Lot 256 – estimate: €100,000-€150,000**).



The **Bracka diamond and ruby ring**, created in a bolder, more contemporary style in the 1950s, is adorned with a brilliant-cut diamond surrounded by rubies, made with Van Cleef & Arpels' iconic "Mystery Setting" technique (**Lot 94 – estimate: €8,000-€12,000**).



This highly complex technique invented in 1933 makes it possible to set stones without any visible mounting device.

Suzanne Belperron has an avant-garde style that has unquestionably earned her a place among the great names of the Place Vendôme. She is represented in this sale by two cutting-edge pieces. The first, a **bracelet of rubies**, synthetic stones and diamonds from around 1930, has remarkably clean lines (**Lot 75 – estimate: €25,000-€35,000**), and the second, designed in the 1960s, is strikingly sculptural.



This **textured gold cuff**, embellished with citrines, is a truly iconic piece by virtue of its combination of modern styling, intensely coloured stones and the hammering technique used on the gold (**Lot 78 – estimate: €15,000-€30,000**).

From jewellery house **René Boivin**, where Suzanne Belperron made her brilliant debut, comes this **substantial necklace** created around 1955. Composed of an array of sapphires and garnets enhanced with diamonds, set against a background of crisscrossed links resembling delicate basketry, this piece illustrates the savoir-faire of the master jeweller expressed with supreme delicacy (**Lot 79 – estimate: €50,000-€70,000**).



Lastly, there is an amazing Art Deco jewellery creation by **Cartier**. This geometric **double clip brooch** from around 1930, set with antique-cut diamonds, was designed to also fit atop a bracelet, a rarely seen option (**Lot 65 – estimate: €30,000-€40,000**).

INSPIRED BY NATURE: FROM ART NOUVEAU TO STERLÉ



Along our journey through the high jewellery of this autumn selection, certain pieces take us to the very origins of 20th-century designs. A rare piece, also made by Maison **René Boivin** but crafted some 30 years earlier, reflects the house's past, when the master jeweller followed the naturalist trends at the start of the century. Being fascinated by botany, he had a special fondness for flowers. The datura flower of this **pendant** can also be worn as a brooch. It has a pearl at its centre, as seen on creations by Tiffany at the time (**Lot 15 – estimate: €7,000-€10,000**).

Another piece, this time by **Henri Dubret**, also has a floral focus. The French sculptor and jeweller forged very creative works inspired by plants, flowers and animals. This brooch is adorned with an aquamarine framed by enamelled cornflowers, very much in line with the Art Nouveau movement in jewellery, evident in the work of artists such as Henri Vever and René Lalique (**Lot 14 – estimate: €12,000-€15,000**).



A **diamond bracelet**, from around 1930, illustrates the transition between Art Nouveau and Art Deco. It still features naturalistic elements – one can discern clouds and a sunset –, but they are interpreted in a more geometric style, further enhanced by the stunning use of antique-, marquise- and pear-cut coloured diamonds in a millegrain setting (**Lot 30 – estimate: €15,000-€30,000**).

This very beautiful unsigned **brooch** is wholly on a par with the other Place Vendôme creations. It is in the shape of a leaf, decorated with oval- and cushion-cut rubies and brilliant- and baguette-cut diamonds (**Lot 251 – estimate: €20,000-€30,000**).



Lastly, this large brooch made by **Sterlé** in 1960 exemplifies the style, inspired by nature, for which this designer is renowned. Here we see mother-of-pearl, a material seldom used in jewellery creations, used to form the flower's petals, with a pistil decorated with pear-cut amethysts, turquoise cabochons, rectangular citrines and brilliant-cut diamonds (**Lot 156 – estimate: €26,000-€30,000**).

EXTRAORDINARY DIAMONDS



This **Boucheron ring** proudly features one of the most beautiful stones of the sale, a brilliant-cut, prong-set diamond weighing 6.68 carats, flanked by baguette diamonds (**Lot 264 – estimate: €65,000-€70,000**).

A sumptuous **demi-parure** by American jewellery icon **David Webb**. It is composed of a pair of ear clips, a necklace and a ring adorned with brilliant-, pear- and square-cut white and coloured diamonds (**Lot 280 – estimate: €55,000-€70,000**).



This **ring** comes from illustrious jewellery house **Harry Winston**, known worldwide for the quality of its diamonds. It is a 7.72 marquise-cut stone with beautiful properties: G colour and VVS2 purity (**Lot 255 – estimate: €140,000-€160,000**).

Lastly, this **ring** features a rare, sublime stone, closing the sale catalogue on a dazzling note. It is pear-shaped, weighs 12.35 carats, is D colour – the most sought-after of all - offers VVS1 purity and is type IIA, denoting the most precious and purest of all diamonds (**Lot 284 – estimate: €350,000-€450,000**).



Paris Jewels & Buccellati, 100 years of Italian creativity

Sale on 29 October 2019

Public exhibition from 25 to 28 October 2019

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