

# Sotheby's EST. 1744 Diamonds

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## *Eliane Fattal* x *sotheby's Diamonds*

**Artist-Jeweller and World-Class Diamond Boutique  
Join in Unprecedented Collaboration  
To Create High Jewellery of Timeless Beauty,  
Marrying the Best of the Past and the Present**

***Each Jewel has been created from Antique Pieces reinvented by Fattal  
To enhance the breathtaking allure of some of today's finest diamonds***

Selling Exhibition to take place during Sotheby's Old Masters Week in London  
30 November – 13 December 2018

London, 26 November 2018 – Eliane Fattal is a bit of an alchemist. She transforms and sculpts antique jewels to breathe new life into them and reveal their timeless beauty and significance to a contemporary audience. Next month, the artist-jeweller will present eight pieces created in close collaboration with Sotheby's Diamonds, the retail boutique specialising in the world's finest diamonds. The selling-exhibition will take place during Sotheby's Old Masters Week in London from 30 November until 13 December 2018.

Each piece is based on 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century jewels re-imagined to seamlessly incorporate beautiful rare diamonds. The results are modern and playful pieces of high jewellery, marrying the flawless craftsmanship of past masters, the impeccable *savoir-faire* of today's best diamond cutters and the matchless vision of an artist. The designs are also highly wearable and versatile: as in many of Fattal's signature pieces, they can be taken apart to create different looks.



Beyond their pure aesthetic and quality, all the jewels are intellectual conversation pieces. Like the Old Master paintings which will provide the inspired background for the exhibition, they are steeped in history and imbued with symbolism.

**Patti Wong, Founder and Chairman of Sotheby's Diamonds**, said: *"Eliane and I have in common a longstanding appreciation of vintage jewels and a fervent desire to communicate our passion so when the idea of a collaboration came along, I was delighted. For us, diamonds are the masterpieces, always at the heart of the composition. Eliane managed to create the perfect setting for them and, by doing so, magically infuse masterpieces of the past with new light and life."*

**Eliane Fattal** commented: *"I am truly honoured to have this opportunity to bring together two such extraordinarily unique elements to create pieces of wearable art. I believe that combining a piece of history re-imagined, with a beautiful stone is the answer to the changes in the way the modern woman wishes to be perceived in today's world. Discreet yet noticeable, intelligent yet whimsical, and most importantly telling a wonderful story, the pieces are made to be worn in a relaxed and informal manner and not be kept in the safe only for formal occasions."*

#### HIGHLIGHTS IN THE EXHIBITION INCLUDE:

##### 'LUCKY CHARM' EARRINGS

Formerly worn as hair comb tops, **these early Art Deco diamond pavé set and onyx horseshoe earrings** are mounted in platinum and adorned with a **detachable square emerald cut diamond, respectively weighing 14.26 and 14.18 carats.**

The horse shoe, apotropaic and good luck, was one of the most sacred symbols in the ancient world. When turned upwards and crescent shaped, it represents the moon and moon goddesses and takes on the symbolism of the horns of power and protection. It is also a stylization of the "Yoni" - Sanskrit for womb.



##### 'WILD AT HEART' RING

A 19<sup>th</sup> century wild rose flower head in full bloom, symbolic of love and adoration, **with five pavé set heart-shaped petals, each with a pear-shaped diamond, centered on a 5.53 carat cushion modified brilliant cut yellow diamond is mounted as a ring on a diamond stem** twisting naturalistically forming the shank.



From the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, whose emblem it was, the eglantine or wild rose, has inspired English jewelers and poets. For Shakespeare it is *'that sweet lovely rose'* and Byron wrote of *'A lovely being... a rose with all the sweetest leaves'*.

During the first half of 19<sup>th</sup> century England, when botanical themes were revived, the eglantine was combined in groups for tiaras and necklaces or worn individually as brooches as an expression of patriotism and nostalgia for the golden age of the great Tudor queen. It therefore has a significance in English jewellery acquired by no other flower. On the continent however, according to the French language of flowers the eglantine symbolized “Poésie”.

### **‘BUTTERFLIES’ NECKLACE**

**A pavé set diamond necklace with a pair of 19<sup>th</sup> century diamond butterflies with demantoid garnet accents, mounted in platinum and gold, carry two pear-shaped white diamonds, respectively weighing 5.17 carats and 3.09 carats.**

Because of its metamorphic life cycle, the butterfly is the archetypal symbol of transformation and mystical rebirth. The creature's grace and beauty make it an emblem of the woman in Japan, where two butterflies dancing together symbolise marital happiness. In China, it is associated with the pleasure of life and high spirits.

Butterflies often appear in literature with romantic references. In John Keats poem, *Bright Star; Love letters to Fanny Brawne*, he says: 'I almost wish we were butterflies and liv' d but three summer days - three such days with you I could fill with more delight than fifty common years could ever contain.'

Whilst in the *Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupery muses: 'Well, I must endure the presence of a few caterpillars if I wish to become acquainted with the butterflies.'

In Victorian times the butterfly was fashionable with jewellers and according to the *Illustrated London News* (1887): 'Married ladies seem to be returning to the old fashion for lace lappets which are fastened with diamond butterflies'.



### **SOTHEBY'S DIAMONDS**

A pioneering venture, [Sotheby's Diamonds](#) brings together the most exceptional and desirable diamonds, cutting-edge design and superlative craftsmanship in a very modern, forward-looking House. Independent of Sotheby's auction business, Sotheby's Diamonds operates purely on a peer-to-peer basis, matching individual diamonds with individual collectors at the highest end outside of the auction arena. Sotheby's Diamonds is marked out by its ability to link the entire chain of supply and creation – sourcing the finest diamonds and working 'with the stones' to produce settings for them that are not only of the highest craftsmanship, but that also, and very importantly, allow the stones to 'speak'.

For this venture, Sotheby's formed a partnership with Diacore, world-leading specialists in sourcing, cutting and polishing extraordinary diamonds. Renowned within the industry, their artisan cutters understand the centuries-old secrets held within a diamond and know just how to unleash the beauty, inner light, life and brilliance of each individual stone. Diacore is committed to making a meaningful contribution to the development of the communities in Botswana and its Corporate Social Responsibility policy encompasses a number of initiatives, including the Gaborone Marathon.

One of the most respected and experienced jewellery specialists, Patti Wong, Chairman of Sotheby's Diamonds, draws on her skill and knowledge as well as instinct and intuition to then select the stones that are always the starting point for a Sotheby's Diamond jewel. She is a true insider with an unerring eye and looks not only for superb quality, colour, clarity and excellent cut but also for charm and character, vitality, vivacity, fire, life and brilliance in each diamond.

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Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of Sotheby's Financial Services, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection advisory services of its subsidiary, Art Agency, Partners. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

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