

Melbourne 23 April 2015

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Australia's Rarest Jewels for Auction

Important Jewels, Auction in Melbourne 12 May 2015



A rare and important 18ct gold fancy vivid pink diamond and diamond ring. Estimate \$330,000-530,000

The first recorded 'one carat plus' pink diamond to have been retrieved from the East Kimberley in Western Australia will be a highlight of Sotheby's Australia's **Important Jewels** auction to be held in Melbourne on **12 May 2015**. Set in an 18ct gold ring, the **rare and important marquise-shaped 1.03 carat natural fancy vivid pink diamond** is accented by brilliant-cut diamonds (estimate \$330,000-530,000, lot 118, pictured).

The pink diamond was purchased in the rough by Mr William Leslie in 1981. One of the founding Directors of Ashton Mining Ltd, Mr Leslie was a member of the Joint Venture Development Committee, Ashton Joint Venture. The diamond was sourced while the consortium were in the exploration phase, undertaking a feasibility study for the commercial viability of a mine which would later market their diamonds from the East Kimberley as Argyle Diamonds. In late 1981 the pink diamond was subsequently polished in London under the supervision of the acclaimed designer Stuart Devlin and made into the ring.

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The scarcity of fancy vivid pink diamonds has driven them to the forefront of the world's most coveted coloured diamonds. Their occasional appearance at auction and the exceptional quality of this 1.03 carat pink East Kimberley diamond represents an exceptional opportunity for collectors and connoisseurs.

Also sourced from an Australian mine is the **very rare 'Willows' yellow sapphire weighing 35.73 carats**. The sapphire is set as a pendant and is the largest natural yellow sapphire ever offered at auction in Australia. In 1946 the sapphire was discovered on the Willows field in Central Queensland, about 341 km from Rockhampton. The large gemstone – known as the 'Willows' sapphire is a beautiful clear golden yellow stone places it in a very exclusive category of Australian yellow sapphires and is the largest and finest that the American Gemological Laboratories has examined to date.



Very rare 'Willows' 35.73 carat yellow sapphire pendant. Estimate \$100,000-150,000

'Sotheby's Australia is honoured to be entrusted with two extremely rare and magnificent Australian gemstones' said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia. 'Both stones form a unique part of Australia's mining history and reflects the superior quality of gems found in this country.'

The *Important Jewels* sale consists of over 250 lots of magnificent designer pieces, watches and gemstones with a pre-sale estimate range of \$2.9 to \$4.2 million. The sale includes items of historical interest through to contemporary and provides a unique opportunity for a collector to experience a broad spectrum of jewels from the finest design houses.

AT A GLANCE

Important Jewels

Auction in Melbourne, 12 May 2015, 5.30 pm
Level 2, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne

Lots on offer 253
Estimate \$2,885,050-4,211,850

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 Queen Street, Woollahra, 1-4 May, 10 am to 5 pm
Exhibition in Melbourne, Level 9, 41 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, 8-11 May, 10 am to 5 pm

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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