

Melbourne 12 May 2015

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Standout Results at Sotheby's Australia

Important Jewels, Auction in Melbourne 12 May 2015



Very rare 'Willows' 35.73 carat yellow sapphire pendant. Sold for \$122,000 May 2015

Impressive results were achieved at Sotheby's Australia's Important Jewels sale in Melbourne. Comprising 253 lots the overall sale result demonstrated the continued demand for historic, modern and contemporary jewels. The sale totalled \$1,552,267 selling 72% by volume and 54% by value.

Mined in Queensland Australia in 1946 the very rare 'Willows' yellow sapphire weighing 35.73 carats drew strong interest. The sapphire, set as a pendant is the largest natural yellow sapphire ever offered at auction in Australia realised \$122,000 (estimate \$100,000-150,000, lot 154, pictured). Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'The 'Willows' yellow sapphire was exceptional and we were thrilled to achieve an auction world record for an Australian yellow sapphire at \$3,414 per carat. The stone captivated people from Australia and around the world.'

Sotheby's Australia's continued global reach was witnessed with a significant number of international registrations. A fancy yellow 13.81 carat round brilliant-cut diamond claw-set in an 18ct gold ring had six telephone bidders registered from countries including Israel, Hong Kong and the United States of America. After much competitive duelling from room and telephone bidders the diamond achieved \$231,800 (estimate \$100,000-150,000, lot 122, pictured following).

Other significant diamond results include; a platinum and 4.94 carat diamond ring which sold for \$58,560 (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 210) and a 6.55 carat emerald-cut diamond, claw-set between a pair of baguette diamond shoulders doubled the pre-sale low estimate of \$25,000 selling for \$57,340 (estimate \$25,000-35,000, lot 119).

Interest in signed designer jewellery was high as demonstrated in the strong results achieved. Cartier's 18ct white gold, diamond and ceramic 'Love' bangle achieved a final sale price of \$21,960 (estimate \$7,000-10,000, lot 177). A Harry Winston platinum and 2.33 carat diamond ring sold for \$34,160 (estimate \$18,000-24,000, lot 55).

Bidding interest remains strong in quality watches and timepieces. A Patek Philippe stainless steel automatic chronograph wristwatch with date sold for \$41,480 and quadrupled the pre-sale high

estimate (estimate \$7,000-10,000, lot 246). The final three lots were watches by Audemars Piguet, with lot 252 an oversized 18ct pink gold, forged carbon and ceramic limited edition automatic chronograph wristwatch with date, selling to a telephone bidder for \$31,720 (estimate \$7,000-10,000, lot 252).

‘The results achieved this evening exemplify Sotheby’s Australia’s commitment of presenting the finest jewels and watches for auction,’ said Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby’s Australia. ‘The collection featured a diverse array of significant pieces by designers, and items were sold to our domestic and international collectors.’



A fancy yellow 13.81 carat round brilliant-cut diamond claw-set in an 18ct gold ring Sold for \$231,800 May 2015

AT A GLANCE

Important Jewels

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

Lots on offer 253

Total sold: \$1,552,267

Sold by volume: 71.94%

Sold by value: 53.80%

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

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