



Striking diamond and ruby arrow brooch by Bulgari. (Photo: Christie's)

Art Deco Jewelry Dazzles At Geneva Auctions

By Marie Chabrol

The month of November is now associated with the major jewelry and watch auctions held annually in the beautiful city of Geneva. All the biggest houses and collectors meet there to discover rare pieces often offering sought-after provenances. For this season, Christie's and Sotheby's, as well as Antiquorum and Phillips, offered more than a thousand lots, most of which were sold. This *Luxury Week* totaled nearly US\$139 million in sales including many Art Deco jewels. It was a very hot week indeed!

Following the strong results already seen this year for Art Deco jewels, demand remained robust in Geneva for pieces from the 1920s and 1930s, widely recognized as the golden era of jewelry. Six months after the benchmark price of US\$3.6 million achieved for the *Beaumont Necklace* at Sotheby's last May, a Cartier sapphire and diamond bracelet at this November Sotheby's realized one of the highest prices at auction for an Art Deco bracelet. Pursued by six bidders, it sold to an Asian collector for US\$6,135,451. Created in 1927 and coming from an Asian-American collection, the bracelet is set with a sensational Burmese cabochon sapphire weighing 46.07 carats. The Sotheby's sale also highlighted a sapphire and diamond clip brooch by Cartier from 1937 featuring a distinctive geometric fan motif that sold for US\$328,348. An emerald and diamond pendant/brooch combination, created by Cartier in 1927 featuring extraordinary cabochon emeralds from Colombia, prompted selling at more than four times the estimate for US\$1,062,836, while a stunning diamond and rock crystal sautoir made by Chaumet in 1929 achieved a final price of US\$529,397.

At Christie's, amazing pieces from the Art Deco period and early 20th century were offered and all realized good results. We might cite, particularly, an impressive and rare Georges Fouquet gold cuff featuring orange topazes and an important emerald which sold for CHF237,000. We cannot discuss this auction without mentioning an emerald and diamond (3.78 carats, D VVS1) ring by Marcus that sold for CHF88,000, a Raymond Yard rock crystal brooch for CHF30,000 and a lovely diamond and ruby arrow brooch that sold for CHF37,000.

Sapphire and diamond bracelet by Cartier. (Photo: Sotheby's)



Emerald and 3.78-ct diamond (D VVS1) ring by Marcus. (Photo: Christie's)



Raymond Yard rock crystal brooch. (Photo: Christie's)



Georges Fouquet gold cuff featuring an emerald, orange topazes and diamond accents. (Photo: Christie's)



A 6.03-ct fancy intense purple-pink diamond, with white diamond accents. (Photo: Sotheby's)



A 7.03-ct fancy deep blue diamond ring by Moussaieff. (Photo: Sotheby's)



A pair of brilliant-cut pear-shaped diamond earrings, 12.71-ct and 12.07-ct. (Photo: Sotheby's)

Spectacular 78.29-ct white diamond. (Photo: Sotheby's)



The *Beaumont Necklace*. (Photo: Sotheby's)



A 14.69-ct very light blue diamond. (Photo: Sotheby's)



Colombian emerald and diamond brooch by Cartier. (Photo: Sotheby's)

Diamonds were on tap as well, with 80% of the stones offered in the Sotheby's evening session finding buyers, including a new record for a 14.69-carat very light blue diamond on a pendant that reached US\$1,293,184. Others included a spectacular 78.29-carat white carats diamond that achieved US\$2,929,870 (buyer is Samer Halimeh of New York) and a fancy intense purple-pink diamond weighing 6.03 carats that realized US\$3,354,196. At Christie's many colored and colorless diamonds attracted high prices: a 32.49-carat fancy light purplish-pink (CHF2.5 million), a 7.03 fancy deep blue diamond ring by Moussaieff (CHF12 million) and a pair of brilliant-cut pear-shaped earrings, 12.71-carat and 12.07-carat (CHF2 million).

In summary, 80% of lots were sold at the Geneva auctions, many achieving prices between or above estimates. As seen for many years, there was strong activity from Asian and American-Asian buyers, especially female Asian collectors who purchased some of the rarest and most sought-after pieces such as Sotheby's Cartier Art Deco bracelet with an exceptional Burmese sapphire. Next up are the auctions coming in May 2020. ■