



Lightning strikes thrice as Adam's unveils more rare Kashmir sapphires



There's something quite special about Adam's Fine Jewellery and Ladies Watches sale which takes place on September 9. "Sometimes lightning strikes twice, even three times," said Claire Mestrallet, head of Jewellery & Watches at the auction house. Mestrallet masterminded the record-breaking sale in May of a Kashmir sapphire for a hammer price of €550,000.

Just four months on, among the 246 sparkling gems she is bringing to auction are two more exceptionally rare Kashmir sapphires. They come from an Irish-American family with a fascinating provenance.

"The rarity of these gemstones cannot be overstated, as the mine in the Kashmir region from which they originated was so small that it was completely depleted after just five years (1882-1887)," said Mestrallet.

The first of the two lots leading the sale is Lot 46, a very rare early 20th century sapphire and diamond brooch. It has a cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire of 6.53ct with double frame of old European and single cut diamonds, and carries an estimate of €150,000 to €250,000.



The second is Lot 48, also an early 20th century sapphire and diamond brooch of cluster design, centring on an oval-shaped Kashmir sapphire of 8.24ct within a frame of old-cut diamonds (€200,000 to €300,000).

For those seeking to extend the joy of summer, there are three Cartier novelty brooches which are just the ticket. Lot 69 is a stylised butterfly brooch with lapis lazuli and jade wings, with diamond, ruby and turquoise cabochon collet accents (€8,000 to €12,000).

Lot 70 is a turtle with a polished chalcedony shell decorated with gold and rose-cut diamonds (€5,500 to €6,500).

Lot 89 is a sculpted gold bird perched on a branch, with an oval-shaped amethyst body. Its head is highlighted with brilliant-cut diamonds and a rectangular-cut emerald eye, and it has a polished gold beak (€8,000 to €10,000).

Highlights also include a number of desirable and timeless bracelets, such as lot 18, a contemporary-looking 19th century diamond and enamel bracelet (€4,000 to €5,000).

From Italy are three more fine examples. Lot 88 is a 1950s retro gold bracelet (€4,500 to €5,500); Lot 93, a Bulgari gold and stainless Parentesi bracelet (€6,500 to €7,500); and Lot 122, an impressive 18k gold Giunco cuff bracelet of polished lattice design by Milan-based Vhernier (€10,000 to €15,000).

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