

The art of perfect timing as Adam's delivers a trifecta

Three auctions offer a glittering array of jewellery, watches and art



Philip Carton
Fine Arts

Benjamin Franklin is believed to have said that diligence is the mother of good luck, and the expertise of jewellery specialist and Adam's director Claire Mestrallat certainly proves the point.

This year alone, she has identified and sold three exceptionally rare Kashmir sapphires for record-breaking prices.

Her end-of-year Fine Jewellery auction on December 2 includes another of these elusive velvety blue stones, a 5.08ct cushion-shaped Kashmir sapphire set between baguette-cut diamond shoulders in a platinum and 18k gold ring signed Boucheron (€100,000 to €150,000).

With Christmas around the corner, there is no shortage of festive sparkle in the 234-lot sale.

Take, for example, Lot 64, a pair of ruby and diamond ear clips by Harry Winston, each composed of oval and circular-cut rubies framed by brilliant-cut diamonds, mounted in platinum and 18k gold (€20,000 to €30,000).

Lot 80 is a charming late 19th century diamond and enamel locket-pendant lapel watch modelled as a stylised beetle. Its watch face is cleverly concealed beneath hinged red guilloché enamel wings with black stripes and rose-cut diamond accents,

completed by similarly cut diamond eyes (€2,500 to €3,500).

From the same distinguished European collector comes Lot 103, a fine ladies' diamond-set secret cocktail watch by Patek Philippe (€8,000 to €12,000).

The timepiece is revealed beneath a hinged cover embellished with marquise, tapered baguette, and brilliant-cut diamonds, with a polished snap-back case and a two-row bracelet decorated with baguette-cut diamonds throughout.

Sticking with cocktails, the sale also features two extravagant cocktail rings.

Lot 164 is a dramatic 38.4ct cushion-shaped aquamarine encircled by brilliant-cut diamonds, set on a rock-crystal gallery accented with more diamonds, mounted in 18k gold by Margherita Burgener (€8,000 to €9,000).

Lot 175 is an impressive frosted rock crystal bead inlaid with brilliant-cut diamonds and set on a raised scalloped mount pavé-set with further diamonds, designed by Verdura (€1,400 to €1,800).

The origins of these eye-catching cocktail rings can be traced back to the Prohibition Era in the United States, when women wore bold, oversized rings to secret speakeasies as stylish symbols of independence and defiance.

Watches

On December 3, Adam's presents its Fine Watches auction, a superbly curated sale of 108 timepieces that is sure to set pulses racing.

Among the highlights is

Lot 35, the sporty and highly desirable Patek Philippe Aquanaut. Launched in 1997 as the brand's first new men's model since the Nautilus in 1976, aimed at a younger clientele, the Aquanaut features its distinctive black embossed "grenade" dial with Arabic numerals. This example is offered without its typical rubber strap (€10,000 to €15,000).

Another standout is Lot 39, a Cartier Santos 100 Skeleton limited-edition titanium ADLC manual-wind wrist-watch (€20,000 to €40,000).

And, of course, no watch sale would be complete without a Rolex. Lot 100 is the Submariner Date 'Kermit II' in stainless steel. Introduced in 2003 to mark the Submariner's 50th anniversary, the model is instantly recognizable by its bright green bezel

(€10,000 to €15,000).

Old Masters

Finishing a busy week of live auctions Adam's presents its Irish Old Masters on December 4.

The sale's top lot by value is *A View of Dublin Bay from Mount Merrion* by Italian artist Gabriele Ricciardelli. "It is a truly exceptionally painting and a very rare topographical scene of Dublin from the 18th century, by the artist who spent 10 years in Ireland," said auctioneer Stuart Cole.

Given its history and blue chip provenance, its estimate of €80,000 to €120,000 almost seems modest.

See: adams.ie



Kashmir sapphire
and diamond ring
(€100,000 to €150,000)

Cartier Santos
100 Skeleton
(€20,000 to
€40,000)



19th century lapel watch
(€2,500 to €3,500)



**Rare pair of ruby and diamond earclips by Harry Winston
(€20,000 to €30,000)**



**Patek Philippe lady's watch
(€8,000 to €12,000)**