

CHRISTIE'S

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DUCHESS OF WINDSOR'S' CARTIER JEWELS TO BE AUCTIONED

**A GIFT FROM LORD LLOYD WEBBER TO SARAH BRIGHTMAN,
ONCE OWNED BY THE DUCHESS OF WINDSOR, NOW OFFERED BY
CHRISTIE'S GENEVA**

**TWO ICONIC CARTIER TIGERS, ESTIMATED AT UP TO \$2.5M,
GO ON SALE 11 NOVEMBER.**



The Duchess of Windsor wearing the Cartier Tiger jewels, at the Gala opening of the new Lido Revue in Paris, 11 Dec 1959, © Getty Images/Popperfoto



Sarah Brightman wearing the Cartier Tiger jewels at The Phantom of the Opera opening party at Beacon Theatre, NY, 26 Jan 1988 ©Getty Images/Wire Image

Geneva – Two pieces of tiger jewellery by Cartier, formerly from the legendary collection of the Duchess of Windsor and given to Sarah Brightman by her then husband Andrew Lloyd Webber, are the early highlights of the upcoming Magnificent Jewels auction at Christie’s in Geneva on November 11. The two tiger pieces comprising of an onyx and diamond clip brooch and bracelet, with emerald eyes, were both made in the 1950s and are to be sold as one lot with a combined estimate of US\$1,800,000-2,500,000. The Cartier Tiger Collection has been a highlight of 20th century jewellery design since it first appeared in 1928.



The rarity of these pieces is enhanced by the story behind their ownership – two romantic tales where they became symbols of love through the act of giving. Edward VIII was King for less than a year when he abdicated in 1936 to marry Wallis Simpson. Living in France, together they created a remarkable collection of avant-garde jewels that defined the style of the 1940s and 1950s. These pieces were bought by the Duke and Duchess of Windsor from Cartier between 1956 and 1959.

In the legendary sale of her collection in 1987, in Geneva (the most valuable collection of jewels ever auctioned at the time), a total of seven Great Cats pieces, by Cartier were offered, including the two tiger pieces now presented for sale. It was at this auction that

Andrew Lloyd Webber bought them for his then wife, Sarah Brightman. They were a present to her to celebrate the huge London and Broadway success of ‘The Phantom of the Opera’, which he wrote and in which she starred. Over the years, the jewels have brought immense joy to Ms. Brightman, who would now like to release them to new splendor in order for others to appreciate them as she did.

By virtue of their unique history, Sarah Brightman intends to offer a portion of the proceeds from the sale to The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, which significantly supports the arts, music in schools, The Architectural Heritage Fund and awards 30 performing arts scholarships annually. This donation will ensure the causes they both support benefit from the sale.

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About Sarah Brightman

International superstar, Sarah Brightman is the world's biggest selling Soprano. Her voice has rung out from theatres, arenas, cathedrals, world heritage centers and Olympic stadiums, bringing to life some of the world's most beautiful music. Sarah's work transcends any specific musical genre, synthesizing many influences and inspirations into a unique sound and vision. Sarah made her West End musical theatre debut in *Cats* where she met composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. She went on to star in several Broadway musicals, including the world-renowned *The Phantom of the Opera*, where she originated the role of Christine Daaé. After many successful years on the musical stage, Sarah resumed her music career and today, remains among the world's most prominent performers, with global album sales of over 35 million. Sarah has also appeared in several films over the years including Stephen Evans' *First Night (2011)*, starring opposite Richard E. Grant.

In 2012, Sarah became a UNESCO "Artist for Peace" Ambassador. Through this, in addition to her role as a Challenger Learning Center Advisory Board Member (2013) and a Virgin Unite youth scholarship benefactor (2012-2015), Sarah continues to advocate education and empowers the role of woman in science and technology within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Brightman recently announced that she would be part of a three-person crew travelling to the International Space Station (ISS) on board a Soyuz rocket. Once on the ISS, she will orbit the earth 16 times daily and intends to become the first professional musician to sing from space.

About The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was founded in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principle provider of funding for all its charitable activities. In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant-giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £9m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, £1m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation also owns two important paintings, a Canaletto "Old Horse Guards from St James's Park", currently on exhibition at Tate Britain and a Stanley Spencer "The Garage" on exhibition at The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totalled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year total in Christie's history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*