

JEWELRY

Sotheby's mythological earrings expected to break auction records

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Sotheby's Apollo and Artemis diamonds

By STAFF REPORTS

On the heels of its record-breaking pink diamond sale, Sotheby's is looking to again make history with a pair of colored diamonds.

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The auction house's Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels sale on May 16 in Geneva will include the Apollo and Artemis diamonds, one pink and one blue, that have been fashioned into earrings. Boasting an estimated value that exceeds any other earrings ever up for auction, these jewels are the main event for the sale.

Pair of pears

Because of the noteworthy nature of these stones, Sotheby's is auctioning them as separate lots.

Less than 3 percent of diamonds seen by the Gemological Institute of America are graded as colored stones.

The Apollo, which received a Fancy Vivid Blue rating by the GIA, weighs in at 14.54 carats. It is the largest Internally Flawless Fancy Vivid Blue diamond to ever go up for auction, and is estimated between \$38 and \$50 million.

Fancy Vivid Blue diamonds are very rare. The main source is South Africa's Cullinan mine, and less than 0.1 percent of the diamonds mined there have any blue color.

Pink diamonds are also rare, accounting for less than 5 percent of colored diamonds. The Artemis is a 16-carat stone that is expected to fetch between \$12.5 and \$18 million.

Both stones were cut and polished into pear shapes and fashioned into earrings.

The diamonds were named after twins in Greek mythology. Legends say that diamonds are the tears of Greek gods.

"The Apollo and Artemis Diamonds' will be the stars of our May sale in Geneva by far the most important pair of earrings ever offered at auction," said David Bennett, worldwide chairman of Sotheby's international jewelry division.

"These exquisite colored diamonds are enormously rare and each is a wonderful stone in its own right," he said.

"Together, as a pair of earrings, they are breathtaking. We have named them after Apollo and Artemis, a twin brother and sister of great power and beauty who were among the most widely venerated of the Ancient Greek deities."



The Pink Star diamond

On April 4, Sotheby's Hong Kong hosted the Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite auction, which included the Pink Star diamond, the largest Internally Flawless, Fancy Vivid Pink diamond to ever be graded by the GIA. The diamond is 59.60 carats and is oval and mixed-cut in shape and profile ([see story](#)).

This lot, expected to receive \$60 million, sold for \$71.2 million, breaking worldwide records for any gem sold at auction.

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