

JEWELRY

## Bonhams promotes Jean Ghika to global head of jewelry

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*Bonhams hosts more dedicated jewelry sales per year than any other auction house. Image credit: Bonhams*

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By STAFF REPORTS

Auction house Bonhams has appointed Jean Ghika as its new global director of jewelry.

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Ms. Ghika, who was most recently Bonhams' director of jewelry for the United Kingdom and Europe, will oversee sales of jewelry in the auctioneer's offices in London, New York, Hong Kong and Los Angeles. The executive succeeds Matthew Girling, global CEO and former global director of jewelry, who is taking on a "chairman emeritus" role in Bonhams' jewelry division.

### Growing division

Ms. Ghika has been with Bonhams for 25 years. She became Bonhams' director of jewelry for the U.K. and Europe in 2007, and has led the auction house to be the leader in the U.K. market for seven of the past nine years.

In 2011, she was responsible for the sale of a fancy blue diamond Bulgari ring. The 1.8 million pound sale was the largest amount received for a piece of jewelry at auction in the U.K. that year.

Another auction she oversaw in 2013 saw the greatest price per carat for a fancy deep blue diamond, a record that remains to this day. The 5.3-carat stone sold for 6.2 million pounds.

Bonhams holds more dedicated jewelry sales per year than any other auction house, and it also auctions more jewelry lots than its peers.



*Jean Ghika is now the global director of jewelry at Bonhams. Image courtesy of Bonhams*

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to take on this role," Ms. Ghika said in a statement. "All four selling locations in London, New York, Hong Kong and LA have established themselves with our clients and we have created a distinct identity in the marketplace, characterized by our personal approach and client service."

Despite stepping down from the role, Mr. Girling will remain closely involved in Bonhams' jewelry division, and will still take key jewelry auctions in London, New York and Hong Kong.

"I have worked with Jean for more than 21 years and I am delighted to hand over this global role to her," Mr. Girling said in a statement. "She has demonstrated excellent business acumen in her current role and has been instrumental in giving strategic direction to the U.K. and European fine jewelry teams."

Last year, Bonhams built a campaign around the realization that many consumers are unaware of the market value of their vintage jewelry.

Research has found that in the last 10 years, period and designer jewelry has outperformed the housing market. The United Kingdom's Office of National Statistics have found that interest in rare, sought-after vintage jewelry pieces has soared by more than 80 percent while the average price of homes in England has risen in value by just 47 percent in the same time period ([see story](#)).