

JEWELRY

## Bonhams hires jewelry exec from Sotheby's

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

By STAFF REPORTS

Auction house Bonhams has appointed Brett O'Connor as its senior international jewelry director and senior vice president, U.S.

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When Mr. O'Connor starts at Bonhams this November, he will be based in the company's New York office, becoming part of the auction house's U.S. executive team. With this hire, Bonhams is looking to grow its jewelry operations in markets including both the U.S. and China.

"I am delighted to welcome Brett to the team," said Jean Ghika, global head of jewelry at Bonhams, in a statement. "He has an excellent track record and is extremely well regarded within the industry."

"I am particularly looking forward to working with him to further build our presence in the U.S. and Asia, which are some of the most important and fastest-growing markets for jewelry," she said.

### New hire

Mr. O'Connor has a combined 24 years of experience in the jewelry auction space. He was most recently at Sotheby's Geneva, where he was based for the last 16 years.

In his latest role, Mr. O'Connor led jewelry auctions in markets including Hong Kong, Geneva, London and New York. He also worked with clients to help counsel them on their collections.

Some of the sales he oversaw included the collections of Maria Callas and the upcoming auction of Marie Antoinette's jewelry.

Before working at Sotheby's in Geneva, Mr. O'Connor was at the auction house's Hong Kong headquarters. Earlier in his career, the U.S.-born gemologist worked for companies including Phillips and Christie's in the New York and Los Angeles markets after graduating from the Gemological Institute of America.



*Brett O'Connor. Image courtesy of Bonhams*

"I am pleased to be joining Bonhams at an important point in the company's long history and excited to be returning to the U.S. with a view to expanding the jewelry department's global presence," Mr. O'Connor said in a statement.

Auction house Bonhams recently appointed Ms. Ghika as its new global director of jewelry.

Ms. Ghika, who was most recently Bonhams' director of jewelry for the United Kingdom and Europe, now oversees 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 has taken on a "chairman emeritus" role in Bonhams' jewelry division ([see story](#)).

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