

Press release

Follow-up report on the **Fine Jewels** sale on 15 May 2024



New record hammer price for jewellery

An excellent solitaire ring played a major role in the successful jewellery sale, whose result of **277,000 euros** constitutes a new record for this segment at Van Ham. The total added up to approximately 1.8 million euros. The first-rate offerings of designer jewellery from Bulgari and Van Cleef & Arpels met with great interest. Those who successfully bid on the popular Birkin bags from Hermès could be doubly pleased, as the impressive proceeds for the bags from a private collection will be donated to a good cause. Moreover, at Hermès the bidders would have been put on a waiting list for several years.

This Spring the extensive diamond offerings were literally of a high calibre. A **solitaire ring** (lot 56) with a 6.5-carat cut diamond in top condition was the highlight of the sale, triggering an international bidding war. Its price quickly climbed from the estimated 60,000 euros to a total of about 277,000 euros – the new customer from the US thus produced the highest hammer price at a jewellery sale at Van Ham. Another **diamond ring** (lot 57) with a 6-carat diamond was also much coveted: it is changing owners for 99,000 euros including the buyer's premium.



Lot 56: **Solitaire ring**
1 cut diamond | 6.50 carats | D-VVS2
Result: €277,000



Lot 13: **Emerald diamond ring**
Around 1920 | 1 emerald, c. 3.1 carats
Result: €22,000



Lot 57: **Diamond ring**
1 emerald-cut diamond | 6.05 carats | F/VS1
Result: €99,000

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The selection of exquisite coloured gemstones was also quite impressive. Among the historic pieces of jewellery was an **emerald-diamond ring** (lot 13) from the 1920s. The extraordinary purity of the 3.1-carat emerald made the gemstone a rare object of desire. Its estimate of 2,400 euros was increased nearly tenfold with a total result of 22,500 euros. This revaluation of emeralds was noticeable throughout the sale. The Ceylon sapphires on a pair of **ear clips** (lot 66) are from one of the most coveted sapphire mining areas and weigh 7.1 and 8.6 carats respectively. To the new owner, the untreated and bright blue eye-catchers were worth about 18,500 euros.

The **Van Cleef & Arpels** brand is known for its creative and innovative designs that are marked by their unique shapes, colours and patterns. The series with the characteristic use of bright blue lapis lazuli in combination with diamonds, for instance, is striking. A **bangle** from the series (lot 137) went to a buyer from Switzerland for 24,000 euros. Another creation by the renowned luxury brand was a spring-like **necklace** (lot 141) with flowers made of coral, diamonds and chrysoprase which achieved a result of 34,000 euros.



Lot 66: **Ceylon sapphire earrings**
Origin Sri Lanka | 7.1 carats and 8.6 carats
Result: €18,500



Lot 141: **Van Cleef & Arpels**
Chrysoprase-coral diamond necklace
Result: €34,000



Lot 137: **Van Cleef & Arpels**
Crowned lapis lazuli diamond bangle
Result: €24,000

A piece of jewellery with high recognition value that was auctioned for a good cause came from a private collection in North Rhine-Westphalia: the **diamond bracelet** from **Bulgari's** iconic Serpenti Collection. This homage to the company's symbolic animal achieved a result of 59,500 euros. The legendary **Birkin bags** from **Hermès**, which also came from this collection and were as good as new, set the fashionistas hearts aflutter. The version made of Clemence leather in blue jeans (lot 187) achieved a result of 18,500 euros, while the iconic bag made of ostrich leather in cyclam (lot 185) was sold for 24,000 euros.



Lot 185: **Hermès**
Birkin 30 | 2009 | Ostrich leather | Cyclam
Result: €24,000



Lot 183: **Bulgari**
Serpenti | Diamond emerald bracelet
Result: €59,500



Lot 187: **Hermès**
Birkin 30 | 2009 | Clemence leather | Blue jeans
Result: €18,500

Van Ham – About us

Founded in 1959, the Cologne-based auction house Van Ham is a family business run by Markus Eisenbeis, now in its second generation. The internationally acclaimed auctions cover the areas of Modern & Contemporary Art, Old Masters & Impressionism, Works of Art & Art Nouveau as well as Fine Jewels & Watches. In 2023, Van Ham achieved the best result in its history with a total turnover of around 53.8 million euros, putting it in second place among German auction houses. Van Ham is the market leader among art auction houses in Germany in the Jewels & Watches segment and is also the leader for online sales with over 40 curated Online Only auctions per year.

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