

VICTORIAN SPLENDOUR, ART DECO SPARKLE AND MID-CENTURY SOPHISTICATION - OLYMPIA AUCTIONS PRESENTS ITS FIRST SALE OF THE AUTUMN



Gold, Gem-set and Diamond Nautical Flag Bracelet (lot 440, est. £800–1,200).

London, UK – September 2025. Olympia Auctions opens the autumn season with its **Jewellery & Watches sale on Wednesday 10 September 2025** offering an enticing array of jewellery from the Victorian, Edwardian and Art Deco eras to mid-20th-century and modern day. The auction follows a record-breaking spring season for Olympia Auctions' Jewellery Department which saw strong prices for period jewels and a notable appetite for signed and unusual pieces.

Emeralds and sapphires

Coloured gemstones feature strongly in the sale, one of the star lots being an un-treated Ceylon **Sapphire and Diamond Ring (See image, right)**, lot 460, est. £7,000–10,000). Most gemstones are heat treated to enhance their colour but this intense blue stone is in its natural state.



Colombian emeralds are always highly prized and this sale includes a fine example, claw-set in a **Gold, Emerald and Diamond Ring** (lot 464, est. £6,000–8,000). An old stone with only minor oil treatment (a traditional method of filling fissures to enhance clarity), the emerald was remounted by the current owner in the 1950s.

Flaws find favour

With the proliferation of synthetic lab grown diamonds onto the market there is a growing demand for antique diamonds, hand-cut and with visible imperfections that make them unique and un-replicable. Examples here are a **Diamond Cluster Ring, 1890s** centring on an old mine-cut diamond of yellow tint (**see image, right**) (lot 465, est. £2,000 - 3,000) and a circular-cut **1950s Diamond Ring** (lot 466, est. £8,000-12,000).



Statement pieces

Two very different necklaces epitomise the fast-moving fashions of the 1980s. A **Sapphire and Diamond Collar** (lot 374, est. £7,000–9,000), designed as a tapering collar of polished hinged panels centring on a collet set cushion-shaped orange sapphire, stated to weigh 8.45 carats, is bold, modern and brilliantly executed in the “bling” mode. (**See image, right**). While a **Diamond Demi-parure** (lot 442, est. £5,000-7,000) necklace and pair of pendent earrings in a delicate floral design will speak to the New Romantic.



Victorian drama

The Victorian era is represented by an opulent **pair of Diamond Pendent Earrings** (**see right**) of the 1870s (lot 467, est. £5,000–6,000). Their elaborate, articulated tassels are set with old mine- and circular-cut stones in silver and gold cut-down collets.



As signalled by the King

Early 20th century jewellery is also enjoying a current revival of interest and among several pieces in this sale, none are more quintessentially of the period than a **Gold, Gem-set and Diamond Nautical Flag Bracelet** (lot 440, est. £800–1,200). Edward VII gave such pieces - the flags encoding secret messages - to his mistress Alice Keppel. While this example does not have any encoded messages, it perfectly represents the taste and style of the era. (**See image right & at the top of the press release**).





Art Deco dazzle

Art Deco fans will be drawn to a superbly made French **Sapphire and Diamond Brooch, circa 1925** (lot 463, est. £2,000–3,000). Its unusual triangular-cut diamonds are a sign of the experimentation at that time with fancy-cut stones and make it particularly stand out. Other Art Deco treasures include a **Diamond Cocktail Watch from the 1930s (see image, left)** (lot 462, est. £2,000–3,000). Its rectangular dial framed by a bezel of circular- and baguette-cut diamonds, this geometric bracelet perfectly echoes the streamlined elegance of the Art Deco period.

Miriam Haskell Collection

A single-owner collection of iconic pieces by 1950s American designer **Miriam Haskell** (lots 386–397, est. £40–£300) includes necklaces, brooches, ear clips and parures in her signature combinations of imitation baroque pearls, paste stones and antique gilt finish, all signed and in good condition. Haskell (1899–1981) was a pioneering costume jewellery designer whose hand-assembled creations, sold through retailers such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus and Gimbels, were favoured by style icons including Lucille Ball, Joan Crawford and members of the Vanderbilt family. Today, her vintage pieces are keenly collected for their craftsmanship, detail and enduring mid-century glamour. **(See image, above right: Miriam Haskell: Imitation pearl and topaz paste necklace and pair of ear clips, 1950s, estimate: £200 - £300).**



Olympia Auctions' Head of Jewellery, Justin Roberts, said: "Our September sale — from serious gemstones to charming vintage design — has something for everyone, all expertly verified and carefully curated. Our message to private buyers is simply this - come and spend time with us, try pieces on, let us help you find something special - at the right price and with lasting value."

Live Auction:

Wednesday 10th September 2025, 11am, precisely

Public Exhibition:

Sunday 7th September, 12pm to 4pm

Monday 8th September, 10am to 8pm

Tuesday 9th September, 10am to 5pm

Location: Olympia Auctions, 25 Blythe Road, London W14 0PD

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