

26ct. Diamond Ring Fetches \$979K at John Moran



A 25.80-carat diamond led the recent John Moran Auctioneers jewelry sale, going for \$979,000, nearly double its high estimate.

It was one of 85 jewels from the March 29 sale of the estate of Lady Leslie Ridley-Tree, a well-known Santa Barbara philanthropist, the Monrovia, California-based auction house said recently. The pear-shaped brilliant-cut, G-color, SI2-clarity diamond in a ring, flanked by two pear-shaped diamonds totaling approximately 1.25 carats, was originally expected to bring in up to \$500,000.

The white-glove estate sale featured signed and unsigned jewels adorned with sapphires, rubies, pearls, emeralds and large diamonds. Many of the pieces achieved well above their estimates.

Here are some other highlights from the sale:



Diamond stud earrings of 10.07 and 10.22 carats sold for \$468,750, far exceeding their \$300,000 high estimate.



A braided gold necklace made in Germany realized \$46,875, shattering its \$8,000 high estimate.



A Baroque South Sea cultured pearl, diamond and irradiated diamond necklace, with 66 round diamonds, went for \$34,375, shattering its \$5,000 high estimate.



This David Webb bracelet features three carved oval rock crystal links and two lapis lazuli links, and is topped with five carved lapis lazuli stones. It garnered \$28,125, more than triple its high price of \$8,000.



A wide-hinged bangle bracelet with 45 round diamonds brought in \$22,500, nearly double its \$12,000 upper estimate.



A large rectangular emerald-cut Zambian emerald is the centerpiece of an 18-karat yellow gold ring surrounded by 18 round diamonds that sold for \$21,250, more than triple the \$7,000 it was predicted to fetch.



A Tiffany & Co. bird brooch made of mother-of-pearl set with 107 diamonds, topped with 28 yellow sapphires, a carved black onyx beak and round ruby eyes, yielded \$17,500, well above its \$9,000 high estimate.



Another bird brooch, an antique featuring round and rose-cut diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds, fetched \$10,625, more than triple its \$3,000 high estimate.

Main image: The ring featuring a 25.80-carat diamond. (John Moran Auctioneers)