

Colored Diamonds Get Some Love at Sotheby's Geneva Auction



A 103.62-carat yellow diamond known as the Love Stone was the top-seller at the most recent Sotheby's auction in Geneva, fetching CHF 2.2 million (\$2.5 million).

The claw-set ring containing the cushion modified brilliant-cut, fancy-intense-yellow, VS2-clarity stone fell within its CHF 1.8 million to CHF 3.6 million (\$2 million to \$4 million) estimate, Sotheby's said Thursday.

In total, the November 8 Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels auction brought in \$46.5 million, with over 82% of the items finding buyers. About half of the lots surpassed their upper estimates, the auction house reported.

Participants from Asia more than doubled year on year, accounting for nearly 37% of the sale's purchases, Sotheby's added. Buyers under 50 years old made up more than 22%, having doubled in the last five years.

“Today’s results reaffirmed the strength at the top end of the market,” said Catharine Becket, who heads the auction house’s Magnificent Jewels sales in Geneva. She noted heavy bidding for both colored and white diamonds.

Here are some of the auction’s other top items:



A round-cornered rectangular step-cut, 20.52-carat, D-color, internally flawless diamond on a ring sold for CHF 1.8 million (\$1.9 million), beating its CHF 1.6 million (\$1.8 million) high estimate.



This ring features a cut-cornered square modified brilliant-cut, 4.42-carat, fancy-intense-green diamond between two white diamonds of the same cut, with pink diamonds surrounding it all. The piece fetched CHF 1.6 million (\$1.8 million), within its presale price range.



Sotheby's sold this claw-set Graff ring with a cushion-shaped, 7.58-carat Burmese ruby and diamonds for CHF 1.6 million (\$1.8 million), above its CHF 1.4 million (\$1.5 million) upper estimate.



A ring with a cushion-shaped, 3.46-carat, fancy-deep-blue, VS1 diamond went for just over CHF 1.4 million (\$1.6 million) at the auction, within the expected range.



This cut-cornered square modified brilliant-cut, 31.60-carat, fancy-vivid-yellow, VVS2 diamond on a ring brought in CHF 1.2 million (\$1.3 million), just above its low estimate.

Main image: The 103.62-carat yellow Love Stone diamond. (Sotheby's)