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presents

*This History Of  
Colored Diamonds*

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## The Sweet Josephine Pink Diamond



It would be easy to characterize this record-setting auction price as a case of billionaires being billionaires. However, discerning readers and investors should look beyond the tabloid ready details of Joseph Lau's life and business dealings and appreciate his investment strategy. The Hong Kong investor has previously purchased gemstones for older daughter Zoe – a blue diamond and a ruby – and another blue diamond purchases in 2009 known as "Star of Josephine." It was his purchase of the Blue Moon – now known as Blue Moon of Josephine – and "The Pink" which was auctioned on 10 November, 2015, at Christie's Magnificent Jewels Auction in Geneva, Switzerland that drew worldwide attention.

The Magnificent Jewels auctions are intended to attract the wealthiest individual buyers and the rarified cream of the investing class. The auction cleared in excess of 110,264,375 Swiss Francs, with 28,725,000 of that sum being realized from Mr. Lau's purchase of The Pink.

The Fancy Vivid Pink stone weighs 16.08 carats and is the largest cushion cut stone ever offered for bid, one of only three stones of this classification to come up for public sale in 250 years. The stone was previously in private ownership in America prior to the Christie's sale.

Set in a gold and platinum ring with two rows of pave white diamonds surrounding it and a third row of smaller pink diamonds below, the stone is classified as a Type IIa and is rated as being of VVS2 clarity. Type IIa diamonds make up no more than two percent of natural diamonds, and are almost completely free of nitrogen impurities. VVS2 diamonds are two steps below the rarest rating of Internally Flawless, and may show Very Very Slight (the VVS part) inclusions that you may need a microscope to pick out, and then only if you have a very skilled and trained eye. They are not visible to the naked eye of a layman or professional, and may not even show up under the standard jeweler's loupe, but may take a gemologist some time and squinting to detect.

Mr. Lau purchased a highly important stone, and has made a clear pattern of investment in colored diamonds and other stones much as other investors may invest in art, fine wines, and other alternatives to the rollercoaster stock market and real estate. His daughters may realize the benefits when they reach adulthood, as their father passes on the stones that he purchased and named for them in their childhood. Such stones are seeing dramatic increases in value per carat as time goes on, and these small, portable investments are far less volatile than the "correction" prone stock market. Even for a billionaire, proper investments that hold long term value are of importance as part of a financial strategy.

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## The Aurora Green Diamond

The Aurora Green diamond is a 5.03-carat natural green diamond, making it the world's largest fancy vivid green diamond ever to be graded by the Gemological Institute of America.

The diamond is exceptional for a variety of reasons including its color, larger than usual size, and VS2 clarity. However, its lack of fluorescence, an uncommon feature of this diamond type, is what truly makes this stone one of a kind.

Green diamonds obtain their color by absorbing radiation right before exiting the Earth's uppermost layer of crust during the natural process of formation. Through this process, green diamonds absorb red and yellow light that contributes to their reflective properties.



When it came time for the sale of the Aurora Green, it had been nearly seven years since a fancy vivid green hit the auction blocks. It was in late May 2016 when the Aurora Green went on the block at Christie's Magnificent Jewels Hong Kong auction. The diamond boasted a unique rectangular-cut set on a gold ring flanked by round pink diamonds.

Christie's generated a media sensation as it announced this exclusive piece was up for auction. Many speculated that the diamond would sell between \$16 million and \$20 million, based on the sale of the previous two green diamonds.

Ultimately, the Aurora Green diamond sold for \$16.8 million, which is more than \$3.3 million per carat. The special diamond set a world record for fancy vivid green diamonds sold at auction. Chow Tai Fook Jewellery, one of the largest jewelers worldwide based out of Hong Kong, purchased the beautiful and unique piece.

# The Blue Oppenheimer Diamond



The latest captivating blue diamond to come to the market is the Oppenheimer Blue, a 14.62-carat fancy vivid blue diamond. The rectangular cut diamond is rated the highest and clearest saturation color blue possible by the Gemological Institute of America. It has been nicknamed the “gem of gems” amongst investors and collectors seeking to get their hands on this rarity of nature.

As with many other famous diamonds, ownership plays a key role in the value of these gemstones. No different is the history of the Oppenheimer Blue, which was once owned by one of the most powerful families of all time. The Oppenheimer empire began with Ernest Oppenheimer, who left Germany at an early age to work as a diamond broker in London. He was later sent to Kimberly in South Africa as a buyer who saw great potential at the world’s largest diamond deposits.

Years later, with the help of John Pierport Morgan, he founded the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Ltd., which enabled the control of the De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines. In the early 1900s these mines controlled the supply of the diamond market worldwide, resulting in diamond prices to rise steeply. After the business was passed along to family members, eventually the family’s share of De Beers was sold.

At one point, the family had unlimited access to some of the world’s largest diamond deposits such as the Premier Mine, where the Oppenheimer Blue is believed to have originated. The rare blue diamond was named after its previous owner, Sir Phillip Oppenheimer who owned the diamond up to the 1990’s when it was then sold to a jeweler at an undisclosed amount.

Christie’s offers nearly 350 auctions annually, of which many include a wide range of unique and beautiful fancy colored diamonds. The Oppenheimer Blue was the centerpiece of the May 2016 Magnificent Jewels Auction hosted by Christie’s, selling for a whopping \$57 million to an anonymous buyer.

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## The Purple Orchid Diamond

Purple diamonds are held to very high standards as their color represents wealth, royalty, and power; it is no coincidence that these diamonds are so exclusive. Fancy colored diamonds obtain their distinct color as a result of various trace elements such as nitrogen, boron, or hydrogen. These elements make each and every one of the diamonds unique. Although not scientifically proven, it is highly assumed that these purple beauties obtain their color as a result of extra hydrogen being introduced during the natural formation process.

Purple diamonds are typically discovered in Australian and African mines, although found in very low volume. Because natural fancy purple diamonds are so hard to find, they have generated a great amount of interest among investors and collectors, driving a drastic increase in price.



The journey of these precious gems is often one of a nomadic form, from the moment they are discovered until the moment the diamond reaches the hands of the fortunate owner. No different is the story of the Purple Orchid.

The Purple Orchid is a fancy intense pinkish purple diamond that quickly grabbed the attention of many investors for its size and the rarity of its color. The cushion cut diamond was discovered at an unnamed mine in South Africa, one of the very few places around the world where purple diamonds can be found. The diamond was purchased in its rough and natural state, weighing 4 carats. After several months of intensive polishing and cutting to reveal the diamonds true orchid color, it was unveiled in its final form, weighing 3.37 carats with VS2 clarity. The VS2 clarity is a rating that denotes the stone as nearly flawless. Purple diamonds of this color, intensity, and weight are considered a true rarity of nature.

The Purple Orchid was scheduled to be auctioned off at Hong Kong's Jewelry and Gem Affair on September 2014. The asking price for the diamond was set at \$4 million, approximately \$1.2 million per carat. As is common in high valued auction, both the final selling price and winning bidder were never disclosed.

## The Moussaieff Red Diamond

Each year, only a small amount of red diamonds are found worldwide, with the majority originating out of Australia, Africa, and Brazil. The frequency of one of these diamonds being discovered is less than 0.1%, with the majority weighing under half a carat. Because red diamonds are one of the rarest types of diamonds in the world, they are among the most expensive and exclusive to own.

The Moussaieff Red Diamond weighs in at 5.11 carats with a triangular brilliant cut, also referred to as a trilliant cut. Although this diamond seems small in comparison to some of the other famous diamonds we have featured, the Moussaieff is currently the largest Fancy Red Diamond reported by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA).

The Moussaieff Red was found in the 1990's by an unknown farmer in the Abaetezinho River in Brazil. The stone, in its original form, weighed 13.9 carats.



The William Goldberg Diamond Corporation acquired and processed the diamond, branding it as the "Red Shield." In the early 2000's, Shlomo Moussaieff, an Israeli-born jewelry dealer in London, purchased the stone for an estimated \$8 million. Moussaieff Jewelers Ltd. is the current owner of the Fancy Red.

Shlomo Moussaieff came from a family of jewelers and antique collectors, however his fortune didn't come easy. Moussaieff was a dyslexic young boy who struggled in school with his inability to read, causing him to end his formal education at an early stage. Moussaieff left home at the age of 12 as he believed he was a disappointment to his family due to his disability.

It wasn't until he moved to London that Moussaieff's career as a jeweler took off. He arrived with nothing more than a license to sell jewelry and the desire to succeed. Much of his profit came from wealthy Arabs searching for jewelry in London. The other part of his customer base was comprised of royal families and wealthy celebrities; Elizabeth Taylor was said to be one of his best clients. Moussaieff has always had an eye for the exquisite, as well as a smart and fair business mentality. These qualities lead him to success, with his current fortune estimated at \$250 million.

Highlights of his successful career include the purchase of the Moussaieff Red. With the understanding that color greatly influences the price of diamonds, Moussaieff saw the perfect opportunity to own the largest red diamond known to exist. On two occasions in recent years, The Moussaieff Red was displayed at "The Splendor of Diamonds" exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution, along with other famous precious items.

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## The Pink Star

Records are meant to be broken, right? On April 4, 2017 that's exactly what happened. This pink diamond became the most expensive stone ever sold.

The Pink Star is a 59.6-carat diamond with GIA rating of internally flawless. On April 4<sup>th</sup> at the Sotheby's Hong Kong auction, Jewelry company Chow Tai Fook placed a bid that processed for \$71.2 million dollars. After the sale, the chairman of Chow Tai Fook renamed the stone as "CTF Pink Star" in honor of his late father.

In their statement, Sotheby's said, "Not only was the price more than double the previous record for a fancy vivid pink diamond, but it was also a new record for any work ever sold at auction in Asia,"



The Pink Star originally weighed 132.5 carats in its rough state, but over the span of two years, the diamond was "meticulously cut and polished"; as Sotheby's said. The diamond appeared for the first time in public in 2003. It later joined the 45.52 carat blue Hope Diamond as part of an exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Originally, the diamond sold for \$83 million at Sotheby's auction in November 2013. However, the buyer defaulted on the payment. This time around, the Pink Star sold within just five minutes.

The diamond which previously held the record for most expensive jewel sold was the Oppenheimer Blue, selling for an incredible \$57.5 million at Christie's May 2016 Geneva auction. The previous auction record for a pink diamond was the 24.78-carat Graff Pink that sold for \$46.16 million at Sotheby's Geneva 2010 auction.

# About Arpège Diamonds

We hope that our *History of Colored Diamonds* has deepened your appreciation for naturally colored diamonds!

Arpege Diamonds strives to provide industry leading insight and stay on top of the latest trends in colored diamonds. If you would like to read more of our monthly features on alternative investing, naturally colored diamonds and of course, other diamond histories, please visit our free “virtual library” located on our website. [Click here to go there now.](#)

**Arpège Diamonds is committed to providing industry trends and information for those who appreciate colored diamonds both for their beauty and their value!**

We have a broad selection of naturally colored diamonds available for sale, including those listed on this page.

Contact us at **866-821-5508** or visit us at [www.ArpègeDiamonds.com](http://www.ArpègeDiamonds.com). We stand ready to assist you with your interest in naturally colored diamonds.



6.04 CARAT  
VIVID YELLOW  
DIAMOND



1 CARAT  
ARGYLE RED  
DIAMOND



1.01 CARAT  
PURPLE PINK  
DIAMOND



1.02 CARAT  
LIGHT BLUISH GREEN  
DIAMOND