

## Bling club

Sydney's second-hand jewellery market is red-hot with two major upcoming auctions being held by Leonard Joel and Bonhams attracting plenty of attention.

First cab off the rank is the Leonard Joel Important Jewels auction in Woollahra on April 20, and the undisputed star of the show will be the humungous diamond ring being sold by an unnamed "investor". The seller only bought the diamond, mined in Canada, a few months ago and could pocket somewhere between \$990,000 and \$1.2 million, making it potentially the most expensive diamond ever to be offered in Australia.



The diamond ring being auctioned with an estimated price range between \$990,000 and \$1.2 million.

The magnificent 25.02 stone was cut from a 47.961 carat "rough". Since arriving in Australia it has sat mostly in a safe, but was recently set into a ring by a Strand Arcade jeweller so potential buyers could try it on. It went on view on Friday.

Bonhams jewellery expert **Fiona Frith** says that for many buyers, it is the story behind the jewels – who owned them and where they were acquired – that holds almost as much appeal as the stones and settings.

Last year Bonhams secured more than \$2 million for an unidentified Australian family who needed to offload a pair of large sapphires. The auction house soon realised they were rare Kashmir sapphires, and in the middle of the pandemic sent them to New York where they were snapped up for 100 times what the family had hoped they were worth.



The upcoming Bonhams auction includes pieces from a Singaporean beauty queen.

Bonhams next jewellery sale happens on April 27 and includes the glittering collection of an unnamed late Sydney socialite who travelled south-east Asia and amassed an extraordinary collection of pieces by Greek society jeweller **Ilias Lalaounis** along with other remarkable creations in amber and jade.

Those pieces will be joined by the collection of a former Singaporean beauty queen who has decided to offload her redundant jewels, but has chosen to do so in Sydney to avoid alerting her girlfriends in her hometown.