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## Tiffany is tickled pink

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### JEWELLERY DIAMONDS

# Tiffany is tickled pink

The jeweller has acquired 35 of the very last, exceptional Argyle gems – one could be yours, writes **Lauren Sams**.

**Vicky Reynolds** wants to take you on a date with a diamond.

Reynolds, Tiffany & Co.'s chief gemologist, has had the enviable task of chaperoning the final 35 Argyle diamonds sold around the world, meeting with potential buyers and discussing how these rare and exceptional gemstones will be used.

It is, she says, "the stuff my dreams are made of. This is truly once in a lifetime."

Reynolds has worked with New York-based Tiffany & Co. since 1987 – almost as long as the Argyle diamond mine, owned by Rio Tinto, operated in Western Australia's East Kimberley region (it opened in 1983). When the mine closed in 2020 due to finite resources, the final annual tender – ordinarily a highly anticipated and prestigious event on the gemstone calendar – was deemed the hottest ticket going.

The Argyle mine produced 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds, and each year, only 50 to 60 were offered in an invitation-only tender process. So when Rio Tinto called Reynolds after the tender, to offer Tiffany and Co. a further 35 diamonds noted for their vivid pink and purple colour, she jumped at the chance.

"Tiffany has a long tradition with diamonds," she says from her office in Manhattan. "And for a long time, we've had a great relationship with Argyle. So to have these gems presented to us was special."

She travelled to see the diamonds on offer three times before making the final call.

"To see one or two Argyles is impressive, to see 35 at once is extraordinary," she says. "You get to see the entire spectrum of what Argyle offers: those intense pinks, purple-pinks and deep reds. There was a moment where we just knew we had to acquire the collection."

Reynolds now faces the "wonderful conundrum" of creating jewellery with the diamonds, three of which weigh in at over

one carat (representing rarity within rarity). The others range from 0.3 to 0.7 carats.

Working with Tiffany's design team, she will create a collection that showcases them at their best. But first, she is touring the world with them, showing Tiffany's VIP clients what could be theirs.

"This will not come around again," says Reynolds. "These diamonds were always rare; now they are almost impossible to find. So we want to show them to our clients first, to see them in their cut stage before they become jewellery."

She says Australian clients in particular have been vocal in their passion for Argyle

diamonds, so covetable for their "unusually bright colour, from the heat and pressure of being in the earth for about 1.5 billion years".

And this dovetails with the jeweller's own history of sourcing exceptional gemstones, such as the famous Tiffany yellow diamond, a 287.43-carat rock that was discovered at South Africa's Kimberley mine in 1877 and acquired by Charles Lewis Tiffany the following year.

With the closure of Argyle, this breadth of pink diamonds will not be seen again, says Reynolds. "It's like the Kashmir sapphire mine," she says, which closed after just five years in 1887 when it was considered depleted. "We still see those stones but they are very rare, they are all from that five-year period. I see Argyle in that lineage, it has a similarly esteemed provenance."

As for the prices? They will be "as unique as the stones themselves", says Reynolds. In other words, it won't be a cheap date.



#### Need to know

The Tiffany & Co. High Jewellery collection, including the Argyle diamonds, will be on display from May 9-18 at the Sydney boutique.



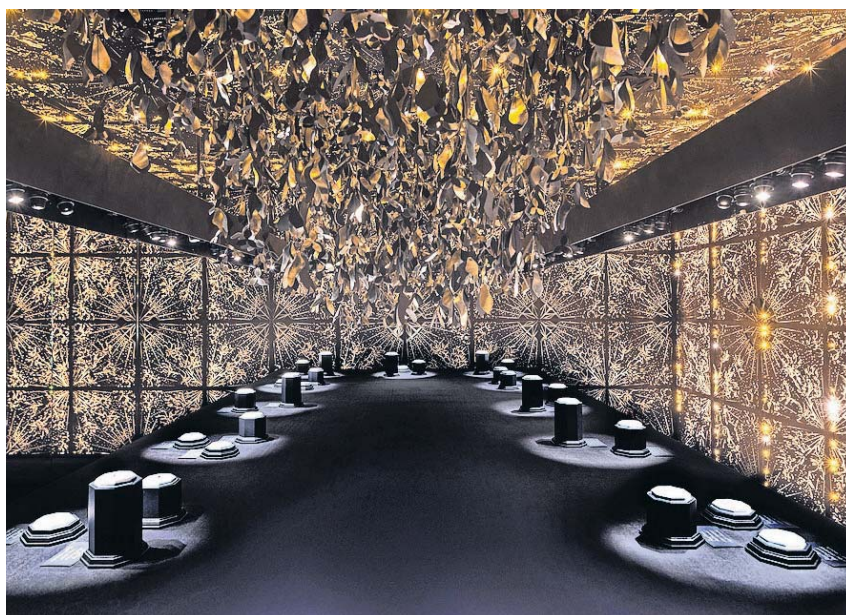
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Tiffany ring in platinum with a fancy vivid purplish pink diamond and white diamonds.



Showroom at Tiffany headquarters in New York City; gemologist Vicky Reynolds, above.