

Louis Vuitton gets huge *lump* of coal for Christmas, *upending* tradition

The largest rough diamond discovered since 1905, the 1, 758-*carat* Sewelo, was revealed with great *fanfare* last April, named in July and then largely disappeared from view. Now it has resurfaced with a new owner — and it's not a name you might expect.

lump 块; 瘤

upend 颠倒

carat 克拉

fanfare 炫耀; 热议

It is Louis Vuitton, the luxury brand better known for its logo-*bedecked* handbags than its mega-*gems*, which has been present on Place Vendôme, the heart of the high jewelry market, for less than a decade.

bedeck 装饰

gem 宝石; 精华

And it is the latest sign, after the \$16.2 billion purchase of Tiffany by French *behemoth* LVMH in November, that LVMH is out not just to compete, but to utterly dominate the high jewelry market.

behemoth 巨兽

Discovered in April 2019 at the Karowe mine in Botswana, the baseball-size Sewelo is the second-largest rough diamond ever mined.

The largest was the 3, 106.75-carat Cullinan diamond, which was discovered in South Africa in 1905 and eventually yielded two enormous high-quality stones, both now part of the British crown jewels, as well as many smaller stones.

However, Sewelo is covered in carbon (at the moment it looks like a big lump of coal), which makes exactly what kind of diamond material is inside a “mystery,” according to Ulrika D’Haenens-Johansson, a senior research scientist at the *Gemological* Institute of America.

gemological 宝石学的