

For Immediate Release

5 April 2006

Contact: Christina Freyberg

0207 389 2117

cfreyberg@christies.com

**MIXING OLD AND NEW, THE CURIOUS AND THE DECORATIVE –
A SUPERB COLLECTION AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON**

Notting Hill: No Ordinary Life
Christie's South Kensington
16 May 2006 at 10.30am



South Kensington – A kaleidoscopic mixture of the old and the new, the curious and the decorative, will be offered on Tuesday 16 May 2006 at Christie's South Kensington sale *Notting Hill: No Ordinary Life*.

Inspired by the theatrical collecting of the late Geoffrey Bennison, the sale is made up of over 500 lots, ranging from Jupe tables and architectural cabinets to specimen minerals and stalactites. Everything estimated at £5,000 and below will be offered without reserve.

Against a background of mainly white walls and bare floorboards in this house in Ladbroke Gardens, the sale is a wonderful example of how the owners created a modern family setting. This is in contrast to the Victorians who tended to fill every available space with furniture, objects and over-sized plants. Here the owners deliberately created space around each piece. In doing so, they demonstrated, with unique flair, how it is possible to mix antique pieces with modern items and works of art to create a contemporary interior.

No one particular period or style has dominated the decoration of the house and this can be clearly seen in the diverse array of furniture and works of art offered, ranging from East to West. A fabulous large Arts and Crafts oak circular dining table by Robert Lorimer, circa 1900 (estimate: £40,000-60,000) accompanies a set of six George IV mahogany dining chairs attributed to Gillows, *circa* 1825 (estimate: £1,500-2,500). However, they could easily sit alongside a set of sixteen mahogany and upholstered high-back dining chairs, including two armchairs, late 20th century (estimate: £5,000-8,000) or even a large circular Irish Georgian dining table by Mack, Williams and Gibton, circa 1825 (estimate: £20,000-30,000).

Modern seating sits alongside the traditional and unusual, from an iconic classic chrome and black leather desk chair by Charles Eames, late 20th century (estimate: £200-400), to an unusual outsize yew wood and elm Windsor chair with candle branches (estimate: £6,000-8,000), to the most traditional

Edwardian green leather covered three-seater sofa (estimate: £1,000-1,500), and a late Regency brass-mounted mahogany daybed, carved with a scroll serpent, 1815-20 (estimate: £2,000-3,000). A decorative grey painted Regency architectural bookcase, 19th century (estimate: £3,000-5,000), a pair of George II style brown painted and parcel gilt side tables in the manner of William Kent, early 20th century (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and a fantastic Ceylonese ebony and inlaid octagonal centre table, circa 1850 (estimate: £7,000-10,000) are just some of the other items to be offered.



As a juxtaposition to white walls, the sale includes a wonderful suite of late 17th century Spanish painted and parcel-silvered leather wallpaper panels originally from Cordoba in Spain and more recently from Barrington Court (estimate: £10,000-20,000), as well as a late set of Dutch polychrome and gilt embossed leather panels (estimate: £8,000-12,000). The sale also includes a massive antique Ziegler carpet from the drawing room (estimate: £30,000-60,000), a bold design in soft pastel colours.

A number of long sets of photographs and drawings, each in contemporary frames will be offered including a collection of nine photographs of Italian buildings and monuments (estimate: £1,000-1,500) and a larger set of twelve drawings of the costumes of the Turkish nobility, circa 1790, by Thomas Stothard (estimate: £8,000-12,000). In addition, there are two exceptionally large Old Master paintings in the sale, After Antonio Tempesta, entitled *A Leopard Hunt* (estimate: £5,000-8,000) and After Peter Paul Rubens's *The Munich Lion Hunt* (estimate: £5,000-8,000). While three modern polished white metal framed wall mirrors with convex bossed borders (estimates from: £800-1,500) are a contemporary alternative to more traditional examples.

Lighting is an important consideration in any home and the sale includes a wide variety of decorative lamps including a good collection of Regency bronze lamp bases by makers such as Thomas Messenger (with estimates ranging from £400-2,500). Among the small decorative items offered is an interesting mix of fossils and minerals including specimens of lapis lazuli, malachite and quartz (estimate: £800-1,200) and a number of stalactites (estimates range between £400-1,000).

#

Images available on request

Visit Christie's website at www.christies.com

Public Viewing:

Saturday 13 May: 10am – 4pm
Sunday 14 May: 10am – 4pm
Monday 15 May: 9am – 7.30pm
Tuesday 16 May: 9am – End of Sale

Sale: Tuesday 16 May 2006, 10.30am
85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD
Public Enquiries: 020 7930 6074