

Press Release

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CHRISTIE'S

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**A MOST DISTINCTIVE TASTE –
A PRIVATE EUROPEAN COLLECTION TO BE OFFERED
AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE 2009**



**Le Grand Goût - A Private European Collection
17 June 2009**

Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1Y 6QT

London – Christie's will offer an opulent and diverse private European collection of furniture and works of art on 17 June 2009 in London. Assembled over a number of years by a private, discerning collector, and including 18th and 19th century French furniture, sculpture and Chinese porcelain, the collection was inspired by the taste of the great collections of the Rothschilds. Estimates range from £1,000 to £300,000, and the auction is expected to realise in excess of £2.5 million.

Amjad Rauf, International Furniture Specialist and Director of Christie's UK: *"This collection was assembled by a private collector who has an exceptional eye for quality, and who has assembled a collection which instantly reflects the distinctive taste of those greatest of collectors, the Rothschilds. The selection of furniture and works of art to be offered in June reflect the discerning eye of a truly great collector who looked above all for quality, beautiful craftsmanship, colour and texture."*



A leading highlight of the auction is a suite of ten Italian giltwood armchairs covered in Roman silk embroidery which was originally in the celebrated Rosebery / Rothschild Collection at Mentmore Towers in Buckinghamshire, England (estimate: £200,000 to £300,000) *illustrated left*. A set of six giltwood side chairs attributed to Thomas Chippendale, the most famous of English cabinetmakers, is expected to realise £20,000 to £40,000 (*illustrated at the top of the page*).



The selection of 18th Century French furniture includes examples by some of the most famous Parisian cabinet-makers including Adam Weisweiler, Jean-Baptiste Gourdin, Georges Jacob and Roger Vandercruse. A pair of bergères a la turque by Georges Jacob which shows the fashion for exotic and whimsical creations developed for the French Royal family, Louis XVI, his wife Marie Antoinette and their entourage is expected

to realise £40,000 to £60,000, and a Louis XV ormolu-mounted tulipwood, kingwood and marquetry bonheur du jour, or lady's writing desk, by the great ébéniste Roger Vandercruse carries an estimate of £30,000 to £50,000.

The selection of 19th century furniture, sculpture and works of art in the collection includes an exceptional pair of glistening white marble, ormolu and cut-glass life size figural torchères by Eugène Delaplanche dated 1885 (estimate: £200,000 to £300,000; *illustrated right*). Accompanying them is an important ormolu-mounted mahogany piano à queue with its movement by Steinway & Sons (estimate: £150,000 to £250,000), and a fine French 'Bouffe' centre table inset with a beautiful 18th century Florentine *pietre dure* panelled top (estimate: £150,000 to £250,000).



The collection also features a selection of precious Chinese blue and white porcelain including fine examples from the Wanli Period, Ming Dynasty; and also from the Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong Periods of the Qing Dynasty. A rare blue and white barbed-rim dish from the Yongle Period (1403-1425) is expected to realise £20,000 to £30,000 (*illustrated left*), and a Chinese blue and white 'Hundred Crane' jar and matched cover from the Wanli Period (1573-1620) carries an estimate of £20,000 to £30,000 (*illustrated top of page one*).

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Images available on request

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