

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER A RANGE OF EARLY 17TH CENTURY STRINGED
INSTRUMENTS TO CONTEMPORARY GUITARS IN FINE MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS SALE IN OCTOBER**



Pieter Rombouts
A Tenor Viola da Gamba
Amsterdam, 1708
Estimate: \$10,000-15,000



Ferdinando Gagliano
A Violin, Naples, 1750
Estimate: \$100,000-120,000



Gibson Incorporated
A Solid-Body Electric Guitar, Les Paul Custom
Kalamazoo, MI, circa 1953
Estimate: \$15,000-25,000

Fine Musical Instruments

October 13, 2009

New York- Christie's fall *Fine Musical Instruments* sale on October 13 will present an extensive range of instruments ranging from 17th century viols from the Erich Lachmann Collection to more contemporary guitars and amplifiers, including a rare C.F. Martin 000-42 model. The sale also offers a classical selection of violins, cellos and bows, leading with a 1750 violin by Ferdinando Gagliano of Naples, and a 1929 violoncello by Carl Becker of Chicago.

Guitars

Commencing the auction is an extensive range of classical to fretted guitars from recognized makers such as Fender, Gibson and C.F. Martin. Highlights will include an iconic Gibson solid-body electric guitar, Les Paul Custom, circa 1953 (*illustrated above*- estimate: \$15,000-25,000); an early 1952 Fender solid-body electric guitar, Telecaster (estimate: \$18,000-26,000); and a 1959 Fender electric

guitar, Esquire (estimate: \$10,000-15,000). In addition, the sale features a particularly strong selection of over 40 guitar amplifiers from Fender, Gibson and Valco dating from the 1930s to present today.

For the acoustic collector, the sale offers a rare pearl inlaid OOO-42 by C.F. Martin, 1940 (*illustrated right-* estimate: \$50,000-70,000). In 1940, Mr. Gale German, a semi-professional musician, purchased the guitar in Salina, Kansas and performed with it until his retirement. The guitar has remained in the possession of the German family in its original condition along with copies of photographs and recordings, documenting the rare single ownership. Other highlights include eight more C.F. Martin guitars ranging from Style 000-21 to Style D-18; a classical guitar by Robert Bouchet, Paris, 1964 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000); and a José Ramirez classical guitar, Madrid, 1901 (estimate: \$7,000-9,000).

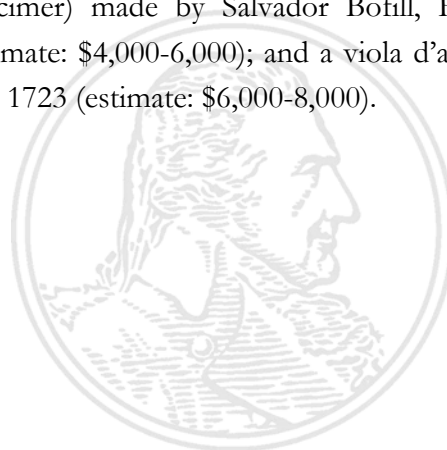


The Erich Lachmann Collection from UCLA

Born in Berlin in 1886, Erich Lachmann was a violin maker, dealer and collector. By 1932, Lachmann relocated to Los Angeles where he continued his highly successful business in the trade of fine Italian violins and became regarded as the most influential dealer on the West Coast prior to World War II. As a private collector he was equally successful in acquiring great works with a wide range of historical significance. The collection grew to be encyclopedic with examples as diverse as early 18th century French viols to 19th century Neapolitan mandolins. Shortly before his death in 1961, Erich Lachmann sold the bulk of the collection along with some additional instruments to the University of California Los Angeles. The instruments and bows have remained at UCLA for the last 48 years where they were exhibited and used by artists at the university.



Highlights of the Lachmann collection include a viola da braccio by Paul François Grosset, Paris, 1744 (estimate: \$4,000 -6,000) with a beautifully carved head; a tenor viola da gamba made by Pieter Rombouts, Amsterdam, 1708 (estimate: \$10,000 -15,000); a Psaltery (Hammered Dulcimer) made by Salvador Bofill, Barcelona, 1760 (*illustrated left-* estimate: \$4,000-6,000); and a viola d'amore by Georg Aman, Augsburg, 1723 (estimate: \$6,000-8,000).



Stringed Instruments of the Violin Family

This season, Christie's will offer a diverse selection from the violin family including violins, cellos and bows. One of the many highlights is a rare cello by Carl Becker, 1929 (*illustrated right*- estimate: \$30,000-50,000). This extraordinary cello was made by Carl Becker (1887-1975), a celebrated American violin maker based in Chicago and was revered for his superb craftsmanship, tonal quality and signature radiant red varnish.



From Italy, the Gagliano family belonged to the heart of the Neapolitan violin making school and the balanced sound of their instruments makes them such sought after by connoisseurs and musicians worldwide. A violin made by Ferdinando Gagliano, 1750 (*illustrated on page 1*- estimate: \$100,000-120,000) is a fine example of workmanship with a beautifully carved scroll and distinct shape of the lower body. Another example of the Gagliano violin tradition is made by Fernando's brother, Guiseppe Gagliano, circa 1780 (estimate: \$70,000-90,000) distinct for its bold and clean execution as well as a striking and elegant shape.

The sale also features an impressive selection of over 100 violin, viola, and cello bows by French, English, and German makers spanning from the 19th to 20th centuries. Among the most noteworthy are from three renowned Parisian makers including a silver-mounted cello bow by Dominique Peccatte, circa 1830 (estimate: \$30,000-50,000); a silver-mounted violin bow by Claude Joseph Fonclause, circa 1840 (estimate: \$5,000-7,000); and a silver-mounted violin bow by Louis Joseph Thomassin, circa 1890 (estimate: \$3,000-5,000).

Woodwinds

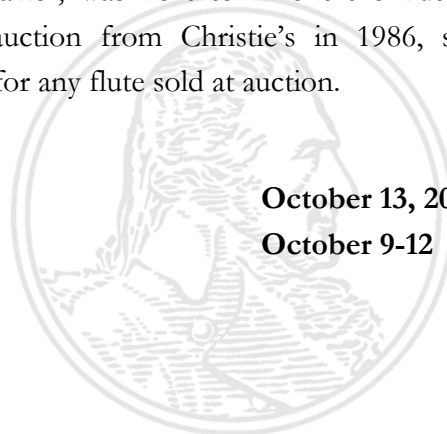
Another exciting instrument offered is a platinum flute, known as the Ex-William Kincaid, made by Verne Q. Powell, Boston, 1939 (*illustrated left*- estimate: \$30,000-50,000). William Kincaid,



considered the greatest 20th century American flutist, purchased the flute and used it for numerous recitals and recordings. Following his death in 1967, the flute was passed to one his celebrated pupils, Elaine Shaffer. Efrem Kurtz, the distinguished conductor and widower of Shaffer, was next to inherit the flute before it was purchased at auction from Christie's in 1986, setting a world auction record for any flute sold at auction.

Auction: Fine Musical Instruments
Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

October 13, 2009 at 10am
October 9-12



About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totalled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. For the first half of 2009, art sales totalled £1.2 billion/\$1.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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