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THE CHÂTEAU DE GOURDON COLLECTION REALISES €42 MILLION / £37 MILLION / \$59.3 MILLION

13 WORLD RECORDS FOR ARTISTS AT AUCTION

8 WORKS SOLD FOR OVER €1 MILLION/8 OVER £1 MILLION/ 9 OVER \$1 MILLION

BUYERS FROM 30 COUNTRIES COMPETED IN 5 SALES OVER 3 DAYS

Paris – Having captured the attention of international collectors around the world, Christie's landmark series of five sales over three days from *The Château de Gourdon Collection* at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, realised a total of €42,387,113/£37,065,000/\$59,346,000 selling 84% by lot, and 84% by value.

One of the finest private collections of early 20th Century Decorative Art and Design ever to be offered at auction, The Château de Gourdon Collection comprised important one-off pieces, prototypes, special commissions and objects created by some of the artists for their own use. The spectacular public exhibition curated by Nathalie Crinière at the Palais de Tokyo drew the admiration of over 17,000 visitors in 4 days. Buyers (by lot / by origin) were 75% European, 21% American, 2% Asian and 1% Middle-Eastern, they bid competitively on the telephone, in the room and on Christie's Live™ throughout the five sales.

8 works of art sold for over €1 million (8 over £1 million and 9 over \$1 million). 13 world records were set for artists at auction, led by the chaise longue by **Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann** (lot 18) at €2,865,000 /£2,528,362 /\$4,048,245.

Philippe Garner, Christie's International Head of 20th Century Decorative Art & Design:

"A resoundingly strong result for this spectacular collection. Big prices were achieved in the opening session, setting the tone for the week, with eight lots fetching in excess of €1million. Competitive bidding remained consistently strong throughout the subsequent two days of sales. The work of French Modernists under the collective banner of the UAM (Union des Artistes Modernes) have never before been presented so comprehensively; this exceptional spotlight served the artists well and great results were achieved for Robert Mallet Stevens, René Herbst, the Martel brothers, Eileen Gray and other leading lights of this pioneering group. Christie's are privileged to have been entrusted with the sale of this collection. It involved a highly complex

operation, staged in the monumental Parisian venue of the Palais de Tokyo. The pre-sale exhibition drew 17,000 people over four days. The sale of the Château de Gourdon Collection will be remembered as a historic event for the French auction market and for 20th century Decorative Art and Design."

"It was an exceptional sale. The international market responded with enthusiasm to this superb ensemble, particularly the Art Déco and UAM works. We are proud to have fetched 13 world auctions records for artists from this period; Christie's remain the international leader in this specialist field." **François de Ricqlès, President of Christie's France.**

ART DÉCO

The impressive collection included 35 examples by **Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann (1879-1933)**, which realised more than €13 million/£11million /\$18 million. Considered the 'Riesener' of the 20th century, he is hailed as the master cabinet-maker and 'ensemblier' of this period. International private collectors and art dealers were seduced by fine pieces in Macassar ebony, rosewood and mahogany, with inlays of ivory, tortoiseshell and shagreen. Having been declared a Trésor National*, the star lot of the sale was Ruhlmann's chaise longue 'on skis' (lot 18), 1929, which sold for €2,865,000 / £2,528,363 / \$4,048,245, setting a world auction record for the artist.

The 'Tardieu' writing desk (lot 14), sparked competitive bidding and sold to Vallois Gallery for €2,305,000 /£2,034,162 /\$3,256,965, the second highest price for Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann at auction.

Bidders also competed fiercely for Ruhlmann's imposing 'Lassalle' commode, *circa* 1925, (lot 71) which sold for €1,801,000 /£1,589,383 /\$2,544,813; the 'Nicolle' drinks cabinet (lot 66) of 1926 which fetched €1,498,600 /£1,322,514 /\$2,117,522 and the 'Colonnnettes' dressing table (lot 69), *circa* 1919-1920, which realised €337,000/£297,403/\$476,181.

The visionary designs of **Eileen Gray** captivated the imagination of many during the public viewings at the Palais de Tokyo. Gray's black-lacquered 'Brick' screen (lot 26), which was developed from the panels she used in the hallway of the apartment of Suzanne Talbot on Rue de Lota, *circa* 1922, sold for €1,353,000/£1,194,022/\$1,911,789. This was part of her personal furnishings and featured in her apartment on Rue Bonaparte. The 'Bibendum' armchair (lot 31), with a tubular chrome base and seat formed from stacked, curved, cream-coloured 'sausages', which clearly evoke the logo of tire-manufacturer Michelin, was sold for €709,000 /£625,692 /\$1,001,817.

The *Les Palmiers* paneling by **Jean Dunand** (lot 25), comprising panels of incised, textured and lacquered wood, commissioned *circa* 1928-1929 for the smoking room of a Paris apartment, was also declared a Trésor National* and sold for €2,193,000 /£1,935,322 /\$3,098,709.

The section for perfume bottles (lots 446 to 475) sparked competitive bidding in the room and on the telephone, realising a combined total of €164,785/ £145,423/ \$232,841. Baccarat

bottles, such as the Baccarat perfume bottle for Guerlain (lot 464) which realised €7,500/ £6,619 / \$10,598, fetched up to ten times their pre-sale estimates.

U A M (Union des Artistes Modernes)

Robert Mallet-Stevens (1886-1945), the UAM Chairman, was represented by more than 30 lots, with a number originating from his personal collection, notably his dining room. The four lots from the Villa Cavrois located in Croix, in northern France (lots 42 to 45) will return to their original home having been 'pre-empted' for €540,000/£476,550 /\$763,020 by **le Centre des Monuments Nationaux** for the Cavrois villa.

Pierre Chareau (1883-1950) highlights were led by the famous 'Religieuse SN31' (lot 395) with alabaster shades which sold for €589,000/ £519,793/ \$832,257, setting a world auction record for lighting by the artist. Five pieces of furniture designed for the child's bedroom at Maison de Verre were also 'pre-empted' by **le Musée des Arts Décoratifs** (lot 415 to 419).

The series of sales drew to a close with an auction purely featuring works by the UAM, it totalled €6.2 million/ £5,471,500/ \$ 8,760,600, selling 90% by lot and 90% by value. Impressive prices were achieved for works by **René Herbst, Boris Lacroix, Jan & Joel Martel, Robert Mallet-Stevens, Pierre Chareau, Gérard Sandoz, Hélène Henry, Jean-Paul Sabatou, Jean Perzel, Jacques Adnet**, among others.

A chair by **Eileen Gray**, *circa* 1926-1929 (lot 800), a circular gueridon, 1928 (lot 837) by **René Herbst** and a pivoting chair by **Louis Sognot and Charlotte Alix**, *circa* 1930 (lot 870) were 'pre-empted' by **Le Georges Pompidou Museum**.

Artist records were set for works by **Boris Lacroix** (lot 806); **René Coulon** (lot 65); the **Martel** brothers with the UAM woman, *Nude*, 1931 (lot 39) which realised €313,000/ £276,223/ \$442,269 and the lighting of **René Herbst** (lot 844) and **Jacques Adnet** (lot 32), which realised €133,000/ £117,373/ \$187,929 and €139,000/£122,668/\$196,407 respectively.

ART NOUVEAU

The extravagant mahogany bed and its pair of bedside tables, produced *circa* 1905, sculpted in sensual fluid forms ornamented with gilt bronze water-lilies by **Louis Majorelle (1859-1926)** fetched a world auction record for the artist, selling for €1,162,600/ £1,025,995/\$1,642,754. The matching desk far exceeded its pre-sale estimate selling for €259,000/ £228,568/ \$365,967. Two further artist records were set when a pair of candelabras by **Maurice Bouval (1822-1912)** (lot 351) realised €75,400/ £66,541/ \$106,540, and a table lamp by **Mathurin Moreau (1822-1912)** (lot 350) fetched €61,000/ £53,833/ \$86,193.

MODERNISM IN PRINT

The sale of books, documents and photographs totalled €566,200/ £499,672/ \$800,041, selling 82% by lot and 91% by value. The Maharaja of Indor portraits by **Man Ray (1890-1976)** far exceeded their pre-sale estimates.

OLD MASTER PAINTINGS, ARMS AND ARMOUR, SCULPTURE, FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART

The three sections of this sale were all met with great enthusiasm, fetching in excess of €2 million/ £1.7 million / \$ 2.8 million. Highlights included a Louis XVI secrétaire by **René Dubois** which sold for €361,000/ £318,583 / \$510,093; the *Adoration of the Magi, the Nativity and The Circumcision* which realised €313,000/ £276,223 / \$442,269 against a pre-sale estimate of €60,000-80,000 and a wooden sculpture representing St. Sebastien, which fetched eight times its pre-estimate, selling for €91,000/ £80,308 / \$128,583. Among the Arms and Armour there was particularly strong demand for flintlocks and carbines.

*Lots declared as Trésor National, are subject to potential export restrictions.

WORLD AUCTION RECORDS:

Lot 18

Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann (1879-1933)

'Aux skis' chaise long chair

Estimate : €2,000,000-3,000,000

Sold: €2,865,000 /£2,528,362 /\$4,048,245

World auction record for the artist

Lot 32

Jacques Adnet (1900-1984)

Suspension, *circa* 1930

Estimate: 50,000-70,000

Sold: 133,000/117,373/187,929

World auction record for lighting by the artist

Lot 38

Francis Bacon (1909-1992)

Composition

A handwoven wool carpet

Estimate: €20,000-30,000

Sold: €109,000 /£96,193 /\$154,017

World auction record for a textile by the artist

Lot 39

Joel et Jan Martel (1896-1966)

'Nu féminin' dit de L'UAM

Estimate : 200,000-300,000

Sold :313,000/276,223/442, 269

World auction record for a textile by the artist

Lot 61**Fernand Léger (1881-1955)**

A handwoven wool carpet *circa* 1930 designed by Fernand Léger

Estimate : €80,000-120,000

Sold: €169,000 / £149,142 / \$238,797

World auction record for a carpet by the artist

Lot 65**René Coulon (1908-1997) for les Glacières de Saint Gobain**

A pair of tempered glass stools

Estimate : €15,000-20,000

Sold: €85,000 / £75,013 / \$120,105

World auction record for the artist

Lot 78**Louis Majorelle (1859-1926)**

'Aux Nénuphars' double bed and pair of matching bedside cabinets.

Estimate : €1,000,000-1,500,000

Sold: €1,162,600/ £1,025,995/ \$1,642,754

World auction record for the artist

Lot 350**Mathurin Moreau (1822-1912)**

'The Source',

A five-light figural gilt-bronze sculpture, with onyx base, *circa* 1900

Estimate : €10,000-15,000

Sold: €61,000/ £53,833/ \$86,193.

World auction record for the artist

Lot 351**Maurice Bouval (1863-1920)**

'Obsessions' and 'Dreams',

A pair of figural gilt-bronze candelabra, with onyx bases for 'Thiebaut Frères'

Estimate: €15,000-20,000

Sold: €75,400/ £66,541/ \$106,540

World auction record for the artist

Lot 395**Pierre Chareau (1883-1950)**

'SN 31 Religieuse'

standard lamp, with four alabaster panels within adjustable black-patinated metal mounts, 1923, by Pierre Chareau

Estimate : €300,000-500,000

Sold: €589,000/ £519,793/ \$832,257

World auction record for the artist

Lot 806**Boris Lacroix (1902-1984)**

Living room furniture, *circa* 1930

Estimate : 50,000-60,000

Sold: 145,000/127,000/204,885

World auction record for the artist

Lot 844**René Herbst (1891-1982)**

'Suspension' 1929

Estimate : 15,000-20,000

Sold : €139,000/£122,667/196,407

World auction record for lighting by the artist

Lot 859**Jacques Le Chevalier(1896-1987), René Koechlin (1866-1951)**

Lamp Bursted sphere

Estimate: 35,000-45,000

Sold: 70,600/62,305/99,758

World auction record for lighting by the artist

Images available on request

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totalled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 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 \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in 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 United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium