

For Immédiat release  
Paris, 16 September 2011

**CHRISTIE'S**

Contact: David Madec +331 40 76 84 08 [dmadec@christies.com](mailto:dmadec@christies.com)  
Carine Decroi +331 40 76 85 88 [cdecroi@christies.com](mailto:cdecroi@christies.com)

**Medieval Works of Art from the  
Marquet de Vasselot Collection  
Paris, 16th November 2011**



**Paris** – Christie's Paris has the honor to announce its forthcoming sale composed of 24 lots from the Marquet de Vasselot collection. Not only due to their quality but also their provenance, these exceptional works of art can be considered medieval treasures intimately tied to the history of art. They will be offered on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November in Paris for a global estimate of € 2.000.000 – 3.000.000.

Lot 20

**AN EXCEPTIONAL PROVENANCE**

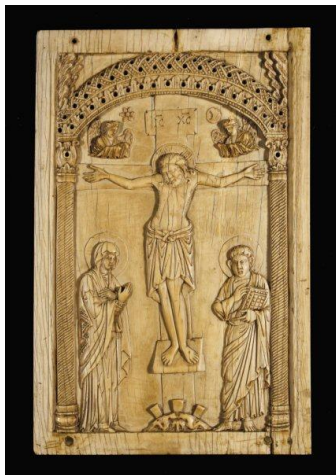
The medieval works of art in the Collection of Jean-Joseph Marquet de Vasselot (1871-1946) were in large part inherited from his father-in-law Victor Prosper Martin Le Roy (1842-1918) who put together a magnificent grouping at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in France. The sale includes exceptional pieces, acquired from the most eminent collections of art of the 19<sup>th</sup> century among them Frédéric Spitzer, Michel Boy and Eugène Piot. The magnificent works of art assembled by Martin le Roy was studied and later enriched by his

son-in-law, Jean-Joseph Marquet de Vasselot, French art historian, curator at the Louvre and director of the Cluny Museum. His expertise as a scholar was highly regarded and supported by major publications about tapestries and medieval enamels. It was in 1906 that he undertook the publication of the *Catalogue raisonné* in five volumes of the Collection of Martin le Roy with the intention of making it possible for scholars to discover the treasures that the collection contained.

Both of men were extremely generous to the Louvre and the Cluny Museum in their own life time by donating works of art to enrich the national collections. The remaining remarkable and extremely rare group of objects reflects the taste as well as the elegant and eclectic spirit of these two passionate art collectors, representing a major testimony to the decorative art of the Middle Ages. The works of art have been beautifully preserved and are offered by the direct descendants of Jean-Joseph Marquet de Vasselot.

### **WORKS OF A RARE QUALITY**

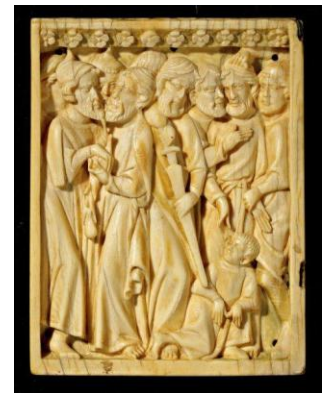
The sale is composed of a series of exceptional ivories, enamels, gilt-bronze, an illuminated Gothic manuscript and pressed leather cutlery cases.



Lot 9



Lot 22



Lot 23

### **Ivories dating from 10<sup>th</sup> century to 14<sup>th</sup> century:**

A rectangular carved ivory book-cover of the Crucifixion, Constantinople, 10<sup>th</sup> century (lot 9, estimate: €300.000-500.000).

A carved ivory group of the Virgin and Child Enthroned, Paris, circa 1250-1270. The size, the delicacy and the remarkable condition make this an exquisite object in the collection. (lot 20, estimate: €1.000.000-2.000.000).

A rectangular carved ivory diptych panel depicting the Betrayal, French, late 13<sup>th</sup> century or early 14<sup>th</sup> century (lot 22, estimate: €12.000-18.000).

A carved mirror case cover, French, 14<sup>th</sup> century, (lot 23, estimate: €30.000-50.000).

### **Limoges enamels from 1185 to 1200:**

A gilt-copper and polychrome enamel reliquary casket, Limoges, circa 1200. (lot 16, estimate: €80.000-120.000).

A gilt-copper and polychrome enamel terminal from a processional cross depicting the symbol of St. Matthew, Limoges, circa 1185-1195. (lot 19, estimate: €8.000-12.000)



Lot 16



Lot 19



lot 11

### **Copper and gilt-bronze**

A gilt-copper ajourée applique of Saint Mark's Lion, probably Italian, 14<sup>th</sup> century (lot 10, estimate: €5.000-8.000)

A gilt-copper chrismatory, Flemish or German, 15<sup>th</sup> century. (lot 11, estimate: €10.000-15.000)

### **Manuscript Illumination**

The Marquet de Vasselot collection presents a quintessential example of a gothic manuscript illumination (lot 13, estimate: €250.000-350.000). Composed of 28 pages from a magnificent antiphon of Franciscan use, executed in Flanders, circa 1310-20, bearing the arms of the Count of Flanders. Each leaf contains a beautiful historiated initial, with delightful and lively marginal drollerie.

## **Acquisitions from the Louvre and musée du Moyen Age - Thermes et Hôtel de Cluny**

In the context of the first privately negotiated sale to the French Nation, since new legislation was approved in July 2010, three major works of art from the Marquet de Vasselot Collection have been purchased by the Louvre and musée du Moyen Age - Thermes et Hôtel de Cluny. A pair of gilt-bronze figures depicting two apostles (Paris, second quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> century), a carved ivory figure representing Christ at the column (Paris, circa 1300-1310) will join the rooms of the Louvre. A gilt-copper and polychrome enamel element from a processional cross depicting the eagle of Saint Jean has been acquired by Cluny where it will join other works from the collection. Three other works of art have been classified 'Trésors National', a carved ivory Byzantine book cover, first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century and the book of Hours of Jeanne de France in Latin and in French, Vallée de la Loire, mid-15th century.

Viewing: from Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 from 10h to 18h.

Sale: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 19h

Contact: Isabelle Degut, Head of sales, Early European and Sculpture department.

[idegut@christies.com](mailto:idegut@christies.com) ; tel: + 33 1 40 7 6 8 4 19

9 avenue Matignon

75008 Paris

# # #

Images available on request

Visit Christie's on the web at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2011 that totaled £2.0 billion/\$3.2 billion. In 2010 it achieved global auction and private sales of £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, Zurich, 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.