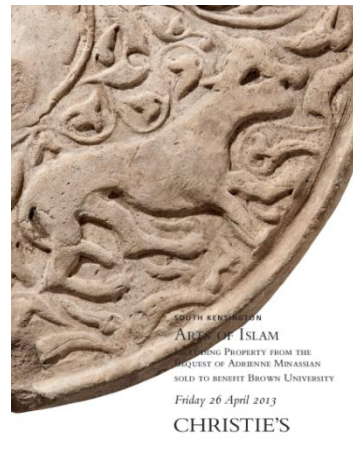
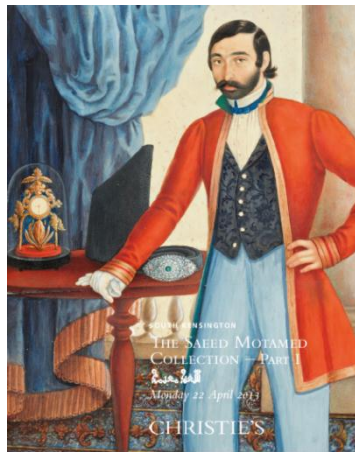
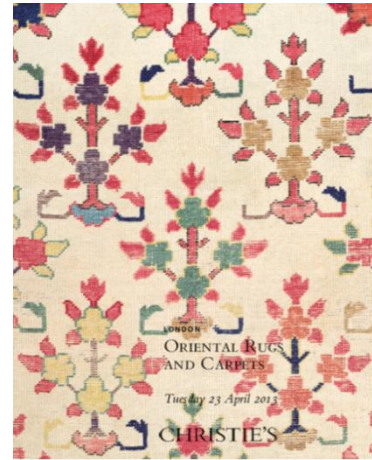
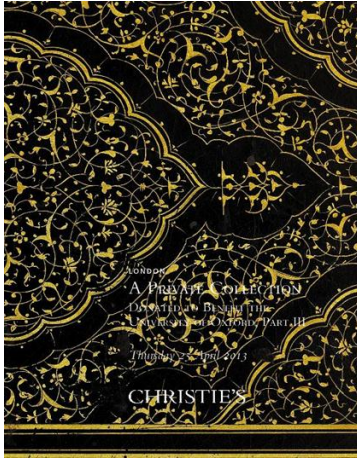
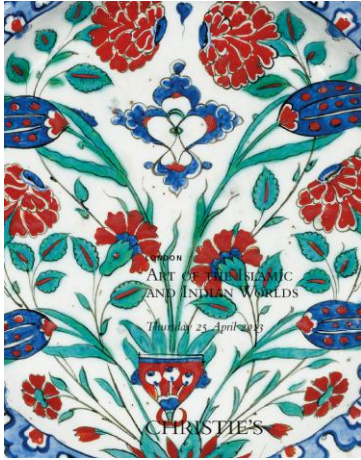


# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 20 MARCH 2013

## ISLAMIC SPLENDOURS

AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN APRIL



**London** – *Islamic Art Week* at Christie's London will feature five sales from 22 – 26 April 2013 at King Street and South Kensington, offering both new and established collectors the opportunity to acquire works with exceptional provenance and meeting the current demand for the category, which saw an increased online presence and new bidders entering the field in 2012. On **25 April 2013** the *Art of the Islamic and Indian Worlds* sale will feature over 200 lots showcasing the exquisite craftsmanship of works of art and works on paper since the 9<sup>th</sup> century. In 2012 an extremely generous benefactor donated a very impressive group of Islamic and Indian works of art on paper to benefit the University of Oxford. Following the success *Part I* and *Part II* of this sale, *Part III* of *A Private Collection Donated to Benefit the University of Oxford* will take place on **25 April 2013**. The full sale proceeds will benefit the University of Oxford where they will be used to support a curatorship at the Bodleian Libraries and also a post in Sasanian Studies. With over 200 lots the *Oriental Rugs & Carpets* sale on **23 April 2013** will include rare and exceptional examples to delight collectors and decorators. *The Saeed Motamed Collection Part I* and the *Arts of Islam Including Property from the Bequest of Adrienne Minassian sold to Bennett Brown University* at South Kensington on **22 & 26 April 2013** will offer works from two of the most important collections in the field.

## ART OF THE ISLAMIC AND INDIAN WORLDS

On 26 April 2013 Art of the Islamic and Indian Worlds will celebrate the exquisite craftsmanship of works of art produced between the 9<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The sale will feature over 200 lots and is expected to realise in the region of £4 million. Leading the strong Ottoman Turkish section of the sale is a rare gilt-copper (*tombak*) helmet (*çiçak*) (estimate: £300,000 – 500,000, *illustrated right*). The fashion for gilt copper, or *tombak*, developed in Ottoman Turkey in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



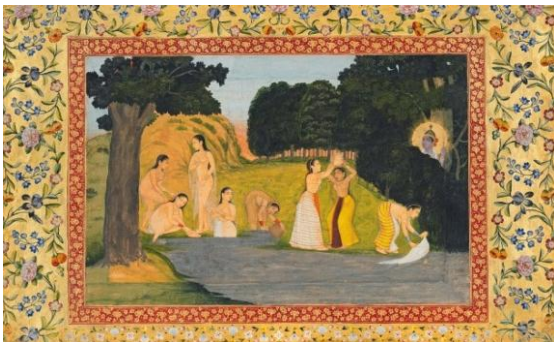
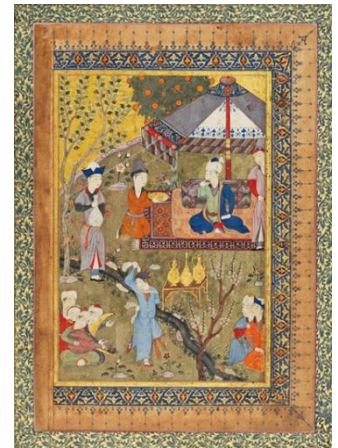
Early Islamic works include a rare and intact Fatimid lustre jar, from 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> century Egypt, which is decorated with bold fleur de lys on a ground of scrolling vine (estimate: £200,000 – 300,000). This exceptional jar is an extremely rare intact surviving example of the decorative heights achieved by Fatimid potters. The luxury status of this jar is best typified by its rich golden lustre glaze.



Elsewhere in the sale is an Imperial carved rock crystal seal of Shah Sulayman Safavi (estimate: £200,000 – 300,000, *illustrated left*). This important seal is a remarkable survival from the period; although they were essential tools of Safavid administration, because they were so often used, seals were re-carved, invalidated, or ultimately destroyed with some regularity. Their security was essential so that they did not fall into the wrong hands, and become illegitimately used. The seal, dated AH 1079/1668-69 AD, was thus created the year that he was crowned Shah Sulayman. *For further information please click [here](#).*

### A PRIVATE COLLECTION DONATED TO BENEFIT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD – PART III

In 2012 an extremely generous benefactor donated a very impressive group of Islamic and Indian works of art on paper to benefit the University of Oxford. Following the success of *Part I* and *Part II*, Christie's is pleased to announce details of *Part III* of *A Private Collection Donated to Benefit the University of Oxford* which will take place on 25 April 2013. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the University of Oxford where they will be used to support a curatorship at the Bodleian Libraries and also a post in Sasanian Studies. Comprising 56 lots the collection includes works on paper from the Islamic and Indian worlds. The collection is expected to realise in excess of £1 million. This is a great opportunity for collectors to acquire extraordinary works and contribute to this philanthropic endeavor, supporting the world-renowned University of Oxford. *For more information please click [here](#).*



The sale features a fine selection of Islamic and Indian paintings and manuscripts ranging from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Highlights include a 15<sup>th</sup> century miniature of *The Court of Pir Budaq*, published in the early 1990s by B.W. Robinson (estimate: £70,000 – 100,000, *illustrated above right*). A folio from the St. Petersburg Muraqqa' is the highlight of the Indian section. One side of the folio has a painting depicting Krishna watching the Gopis Bathe, dating to *circa* 1680 (estimate: £80,000 - 100,000, *illustrated left*).

## ORIENTAL RUGS & CARPETS

The sale of *Oriental Rugs & Carpets* on 23 April 2013 will feature property from a number of important private collections, including a group of carpets from the collection of George F. Farrow (1916-2001), one of the world's leading collectors of fine silk carpets and the author of the definitive work on the Koum Kapi master weaver Hagop Kapoudjian. This collection includes an important rediscovery of a sensational carpet, which is an addition to the diminutive canon of silk Kashgar floral lattice carpets, a silk Kashgar fragmentary carpet (estimate: £150,000 – 250,000, *illustrated right*). Comprising over 200 lots, the sale includes an attractive selection of classical carpets, a particularly strong group of silks spanning from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and fine examples of Caucasian carpets and decorative furnishing carpets.



Leading the sale is a beautiful silk and metal-thread Koum Kapi carpet which is undoubtedly one of the masterpieces of Koum Kapi weaving (estimate: £120,000 – 180,000). It belongs to a small group of unsigned and unusually large Koum Kapi carpets, the quality and technical brilliance of which suggest that they were most likely woven in the workshop of the Koum Kapi master weaver, Zareh Penyamin.

Classical Caucasian carpets are well represented within the sale with highlights including: the Dragon carpet (estimate: £50,000-70,000, *illustrated left*), a Karabagh 'Blossom' carpet (estimate: £20,000-30,000), the James D. Burns East Caucasian rug (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and the Bernheimer white ground Caucasian runner (estimate: £30,000-50,000). For further information please click [here](#).

## THE SAEED MOTAMED COLLECTION



Christie's is proud to announce details of *The Saeed Motamed Collection* which will be offered in two parts, with *Part I* taking place on 22 April 2013 and *Part II* on 7 October 2013. The sales, comprising over 600 lots, are expected to realise a combined total in the region of £1 million; part of the monies raised will benefit a charitable organisation. For a dedicated press release please click [here](#).

Saeed Motamed (1925 – 2013) started collecting art in 1953 and continued to do so until the late 1980s and early 1990s. The collection displays the depth and breadth of his knowledge of the artistic traditions of Iran, and the rest of the Islamic World. It is an expansive collection of Islamic Art which also spans centuries of the history of pre-Islamic Iran. Saeed Motamed's pioneering interest for Islamic art and

particularly his love for early Islamic glass and Persian lacquer works made him famous through Europe and America. Many pieces that once belonged to him are now prized museum exhibits. His methodical and conscientious approach for recording and documenting his acquisitions enables Christie's to offer this collection with the support of detailed and documented provenance.

An elegant Sasanian silver ewer is a fine example of pre-Islamic Iranian art (estimate: £8,000 – 12,000) and is complemented by a number of glass pieces from Iran and Western Asia including a major highlight of the sale, a 13<sup>th</sup> century Mamluk enamelled and gilt glass beaker (estimate: £20,000 – 30,000, *illustrated right*).



## ARTS OF ISLAM INCLUDING PROPERTY FROM THE BEQUEST OF ADRIENNE MINASSIAN SOLD TO BENEFIT BROWN UNIVERSITY

Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of *Property from the Bequest of Adrienne Minassian sold to benefit Brown University* in the *Arts of Islam* sale on 26 April 2013. A further 17 lots will be offered in *Interiors* at Christie's New York on 18 & 19 June 2013. For a dedicated press release please click [here](#).



Adrienne Minassian (1913-1994) was the daughter of Kirkor Minassian (1874-1944), a dealer in Islamic and Near-Eastern antiquities with galleries in New York (*illustrated left*) and Paris. Though the Minassian family closed its New York gallery in 1923, Mr. Minassian remained an active dealer in the New York art market until the end of the 1920s. He was part of a group of prominent collectors and dealers of Armenian origin such as Hagop Kevorkian or Dikran Kelekian who had emigrated to New York in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Kirkor Minassian held several public auctions in New York in the 1920s and maintained an extensive personal art collection which focused upon Islamic ceramics, sculptural objects, textiles, and manuscripts. Adrienne Minassian continued her father's legacy as a premier collector and dealer of Islamic antiquities for the latter half of the twentieth century. Ms. Minassian was one of the few dealers of Islamic art in America and her personal collection also followed the form of her father's: manuscripts, miniature painting, and ceramics were her major areas of interest. Brown University was fortunate to be one of the beneficiaries of her extensive family art collection when she passed away in 1994.

Highlights of the 65 lots to be offered at South Kensington include a group "Kubachi ware" Safavid pottery dishes, which date to 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Iran. Most of these dishes are characterized by their black geometric decoration under a deep turquoise blue glaze. Rarer examples of "Kubachi ware" have figural or polychrome decoration on white ground, such as the polychrome "Kubachi" pottery dish, *illustrated right*, which is estimated to realise between £700 and £1,000.



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