

# CHRISTIE'S

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## THE ART OF THE HORSE PRIVATE SALES EXHIBITION EQUESTRIAN ART ACROSS THE AGES

SHANGHAI 21-30 October 2014  
HONG KONG 21-25 November 2014



**Shanghai / Hong Kong** – Christie's is proud to announce *The Art of the Horse*, a ground-breaking cross-departmental private sales exhibition to be showcased in Shanghai and Hong Kong this fall at the culmination of the Chinese Year of the Horse. Coinciding with the grand opening of Christie's new Shanghai headquarters at the Ampire Building (21-30 October), and shown at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (21-25 November), at the time of the Hong Kong autumn sales, the exhibition features highly important works exploring the portrayal and symbolism of the horse from diverse cultures across the ages. This unique show comprises over 50 works from a broad range of collecting categories, from paintings, drawings and photographs to sculpture, jade and jewellery, with a total value of over US \$30 million. Incorporating the best of Chinese and international artists, from Antiquities to Post-War and Contemporary Art, *The Art of the Horse* offers a fascinating insight into how different cultures have engaged and connected with this beguiling creature through artistic expression.

John Stainton, International Director, and Co-Curator of the exhibition, commented: "*Equestrian art is a genre that transcends local markets and collecting categories. From the great names of Stubbs, Géricault, Degas, Munnings and Marini in Europe, Remington, Botero and Prince in the Americas, to Xu Beibong and Ma Jin in China, with fabulous Antiquities, Renaissance sculptures, jade, and jewellery, the works in this exhibition provide a feast both for those who love horses, and for those who admire great works of art.*"

Jonathan Stone, Chairman of Asian Art, and Co-Curator of the exhibition, commented: “*The Art of the Horse pays tribute to the enduring qualities of the animal, made manifest in art. Physically majestic and culturally symbolic, the horse is revered both in Asia and the West. In light of this, the exhibition is especially timed to coincide with the opening of Christie’s magnificent new home in Shanghai and with the Hong Kong Autumn sales.*”



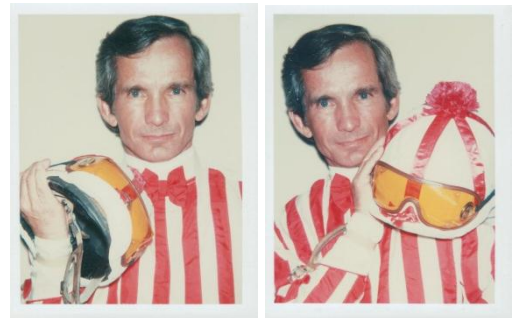
The role of the horse as a sporting inspiration is exemplified in the energetic and striking racing scene, *The Start*, by **Alfred Munnings** (*illustrated left*). For Munnings the start of the race epitomised the power and beauty of the horse, capturing the moment of stillness before the race begins when the horses and jockeys erupt into a mass of energy and speed. Strong sculptural qualities capture a moment charged with nervous tension. Also included in this show is one of the most prestigious polo paintings showing the celebrated American *Devereux Milburn on ‘Gargantilla’, on a polo field*, which was painted by Munnings in 1924. Other notable works depicting sporting events include **Kees van Dongen’s** *Champ de courses à Mandelieu (Alpes-Maritimes)*; and one of **John Frederick Herring’s** most exceptional works that captures champion race horse *Priam at the Goodwood Gold Cup* in 1831.

The exhibition includes three works by **Edgar Degas**, one of which is *Cheval se cabrant* (*illustrated right*), an original wax model executed circa mid-late 1880s-1890s and cast from 1920-1921, which is widely considered to be one of the finest, most expressive and formally sophisticated of Degas' surviving sculptural representations of the horse. The artist had been studying and portraying rearing horses in his drawings from the 1870s to the 1890s, yet only one sculptural model of the subject survived, from which this particular work was cast. Other sculpture highlights include **Marino Marini’s** *Piccolo cavallo* and *Piccolo miracolo*; **Fernando Botero’s** bronze *Horse with Bridle*; **William Turnbull’s** astonishing *Horse II*; and Britain’s most well-known contemporary equestrian sculptor, **Nic Fiddian Green’s** *Still Water*, the best-known model of which stands at Marble Arch in London.



**Frederic Remington’s** *Hole in the Day* depicts a sweeping view of mounted Native American braves on a hill at sunset; *Untitled (Cowboy)* by **Richard Prince** (*illustrated left*), captures the image of the cowboy that is so familiar in American iconology; photographs by **Tim Flach** include *Horse Mountain, November 2001*; and **Andy Warhol’s** unique Polaroid

portraits of Willie Shoemaker show the greatest American jockey of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (*illustrated right*).

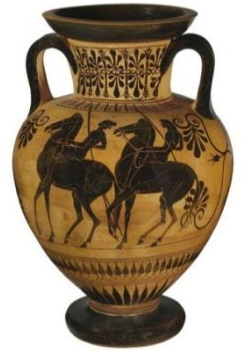


*The Art of the Horse* explores the role of the horse in both Western and Eastern art, and showcases some exceptional and varied representations of the horse in Chinese culture. An exhibition highlight is **Xu Beihong’s** *Horses Drinking*; he was a founder of Chinese modern fine art and is especially known for his Chinese ink paintings of horses and birds. Other works include **Ma Jin’s** *Resting beside a Running Stream* which demonstrates the artist’s fine and ingenious style; and a rare **White Horse Jade Group** from the Qianlong Period (*illustrated below*). This





work presents a pair of horses in a unique composition, as well as displaying the Mughal style of embellishment. A painting from the Mughal era attributed to **Mukhlis**, *Grooms shoeing a horse*, circa 1585-90, is a fine example of the growing taste for horse portraiture that spread through Mughal India in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Few paintings however depict the unusual subject of the shoeing of a horse. The exhibition also



includes five antiquities, stretching as far back to *circa* 540-530 BC with **An Attic Black-Figured Amphora** (*illustrated right*), a rare and intact survival from this era, attributed to the group of Toronto 305.

Further beautiful objects that reflect the broad range of collecting categories include an illuminated manuscript, *Le chevalier délibéré*, by **Olivier de la Marche** and dated 1547. Renowned as the most vivid recorder of the court of Burgundy, de la Marche composed his chivalric version of the *Ars moriendi*, or Art of Dying. De la Marche intended the vivid imagery of his poem to be given visual form and instructed fifteen miniatures. This is one of only five surviving manuscripts containing all fifteen subjects listed in the author's original instructions.

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**Public Exhibition:**

**SHANGHAI** From Tuesday 21 until Thursday 30 October 2014:

Monday-Friday, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Saturday-Sunday, 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

**HONG KONG** From Friday 21 until Tuesday 25 November 2014:

Monday-Friday, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Saturday-Sunday, 11.00 am - 5.00 pm

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year total in Christie's history. 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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.*

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