

CHRISTIE'S

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ART OF DESIGN

THE LEX AITKEN & ALFREDO BOURET GONZALEZ COLLECTION
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

&

SIBYL COLEFAX & JOHN FOWLER

39 BROOK STREET, MAYFAIR

AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON ON 4 JUNE, 2014



Far left and right: 39 Brook Street, Mayfair. Centre: The Sydney home of Lex Aitken and Alberto Bouret Gonzalez

South Kensington, London – The summer season at South Kensington will include an innovative sale on 4 June that celebrates decoration with an international reach and universal appeal. Following a very successful collaboration last July, Christie's invited Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler, Brook Street, Mayfair, to contribute to this sale which celebrates the best of international interior design and decoration. The sale combines a carefully curated selection of 60 lots which exhibit the quality, elegance and world-class reputation of the Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler name alongside a collection formed over the course of a lifetime by the late Melbourne-born interior designer Lex Aitken and his partner, the esteemed fashion illustrator and designer Alfredo Bouret Gonzalez. The sale will appeal to both first-time collectors and aficionados of design who will be attracted by the good taste synonymous with each contributor. The auction will include furniture, ceramics, pictures, lighting and decorative objects with estimates from £300 to £80,000.



Far left and right: The exterior and an interior from the Sydney home of Lex Aitken and Alfredo Gonzalez. Centre: The Yellow Room, Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler, 39 Brook Street, Mayfair

Lex Aitken's international career is reflected in the diversity of countries represented among the objects in this sale. Yet the influence of London is evident throughout as it was where he built his reputation in the 1960s as Lex Aitken Antiques, his eponymous business on the capital's road of designers, Pimlico Road. Aitken's integrity and flair endeared him to clients - including luminaries such as Lucien Freud, who shared his contagious enthusiasm for works of art, furniture and design. Alfredo Bouret Gonzalez, Lex Aitken's long-term partner, shared his taste and connoisseurship honed in Paris where he sketched for the great couture houses and *Vogue* and was granted unique access to the reclusive genius Balenciaga. Gonzalez moved to London where he established his boutique, 'Mexicana', importing peasant shirts and other Mexican wear to a delighted London audience, which included HRH Diana, Princess of Wales and Valentino. Both Aitken and Gonzalez were generous supporters of the arts. After they retired to Aitken's native Australia, settling in Sydney, they contributed to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the RMIT University and the Powerhouse Museum, Melbourne.



The sale is led by two fine portraits, the first by Jacques-Emile Blanche (French, 1861-1942), entitled *Jeune fille à la fenêtre*, a charming full length oil (estimate £15,000-25,000) and a striking depiction of *Mrs Moody*, three-quarter length, in a white dress, holding a dog in her lap, in a landscape by British master George Romney (1734-1802) with an estimate of £50,000-80,000 (shown here). The Romney can be seen hanging above the sofa in the Sydney home of Mr. Aitken and Mr. Gonzalez (illustrated first page, centre).

SIBYL COLEFAX & JOHN FOWLER, 39 BROOK STREET, MAYFAIR



A giltwood and parcel-gilt tole ten-branch chandelier, mid-20th century
Estimate: £3,000-5,000



A pair of English cream-painted and grained display cabinets, 19th century
Estimate: £3,000-5,000



A George III giltwood mirror, circa 1760-1770
Estimate: £2,000-3,000

THE LEX AITKEN & ALFREDO BOURET GONZALEZ COLLECTION FROM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



Graham Sutherland, O.M. (British, 1903-1980)
Head with Red Background
Estimate: £8,000-12,000



A Victorian red and gilt decorated letter box by W. Thornhill, c.1870
Estimate: £1,000-1,500



A Korean brass-mounted ebonised cabinet, late 19th century
Estimate £2,000-3,000



An impressive panoramic view of Lahore Company School, Punjab, *circa* 1850
Estimate: £10,000-15,000



Alfredo Bouret-Gonzalez (b. 1926)
A group of eight pen and ink fashion illustrations, *circa* 1950
Estimate: £1,500-2,500



Jacques-Emile Blanche (French, 1861-1942)
Jeune fille à la fenêtre
£15,000-25,000

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The complete e-Catalogue will be available to view online from May 2014 at www.christies.com/calendar

Public Exhibition:

Saturday, 31 May: 11.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday, 1 June: 11.00am – 5.00pm
Monday, 2 June: 9.00am – 7.30pm
Tuesday, 3 June: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Auction:

The Art of Design: The Collection of Lex Aitken & Alfredo Bouret Gonzalez and Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler Antiques
4 June 2014

Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from under £1,000. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Popular Culture Memorabilia, Vintage Couture, Islamic Art, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, amongst others.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 billion, making it the highest annual 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 totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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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