

# CHRISTIE'S

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE *BACCHIC FIGURE SUPPORTING THE GLOBE* BY ADRIEN DE VRIES  
REALIZES \$27.9 MILLION (£17.7 MILLION/ €22.5 MILLION)  
AT THE INAUGURAL NEW YORK EXCEPTIONAL SALE  
**New World Record Price for the Artist at Auction****



**MANNERIST MASTERPIECE SOLD TO THE RIJKSMUSEUM IN THE NETHERLANDS  
FOR FUTURE DISPLAY TO THE PUBLIC**

**New York** – Christie's is honored to announce that the magnificent *Bacchic Figure Supporting the Globe* by Adrien de Vries was bought by the Rijksmuseum with the support of the Rembrandt Society, the BankGiro Loterij, VSB fund, Mondriaan fund and private donors. The Mannerist sculpture, which is widely recognized as a masterpiece by the 17<sup>th</sup> century artist known as the "Dutch Michaelangelo", was won by the museum after a tense three-way phone bidding battle that lasted four minutes and captivated the audience at Christie's Rockefeller Center saleroom in New York. The final price with premium of \$27,885,000 (£17,743,735/ €22,503,724) marks a new world auction record for any work by de Vries.

**Following the sale, Taco Dibbits, Director of Collections for the Rijksmuseum remarked:** *"We are thrilled to have acquired this exceptional work of art by the Dutch Michelangelo, Adriaen de Vries. Until today there was no sculpture by him in the Netherlands."*

**Christie's Jussi Pylkkanen, Global President of Christie's and the auctioneer for the sale, commented:** *"The de Vries is a truly magnificent and rare bronze and it deserved to make an exceptional price. It follows the trend of masterpieces achieving outstanding prices at Christie's throughout 2014".*

*This masterpiece by Adriaen de Vries is one of the most important sculptures of the Mannerist period and its reappearance on the marketplace made for a hugely significant event. We could not be more proud to have had the opportunity to shepherd this work into a collection as important and remarkable as that of the Rijksmuseum".*

- The sale of de Vries' *Bacchic Figure Supporting the Globe* marks the second time this fall auction season that Christie's has sold a major masterpiece to a public institution. In November, Christie's sold Edouard Manet's *Le Printemps* to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, where the Impressionist masterpiece was unveiled to the public just before the holiday season (see November [release here](#)).
- The excellent results of the *Bacchic Figure Supporting the Globe* reassert the continuing momentum of the masterpiece market, which has gone from strength to strength throughout the course of 2014 at Christie's.
- The last time that a major work by de Vries appeared on the auction market was on December 7, 1989, when *The Dancing Fawn*, was sold for £6.8 million, the previous auction record for the artist.

**Adrien de Vries' masterpiece is among the star lots of Christie's inaugural New York *Exceptional Sale*.  
Complete results of the *Exceptional Sale* will be announced later on Thursday.**

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#### **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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*Images available on request*

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