

CHRISTIE'S

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THE **SCULPTURE & EUROPEAN WORKS OF ART** SALE WILL INCLUDE
EXCEPTIONAL WORKS FROM THE MARCH COLLECTION
ON 16 JUNE 2015, IN PARIS



A gilt-copper, coral and enamel frame depicting saint Barbara

Trapani, first half 17th century

45 cm. high; 36 cm. wide

Estimate: €40.000-60.000

Paris - Christie's is thrilled to be presenting, on June 16th, a stunning ensemble of works from the March family collection –the renowned Spanish banking dynasty and art connoisseurs. With global pre-sale estimates ranging from €800,000 to €1,300,000, the 35 lots of this collection crafted from coral and copper, date back to 17th century Sicily, and more specifically from the city of Trapani. The section will be led by an exceptional set of four candlesticks, estimated between 200,000 and 300,000 euros, and a coral and rock crystal cross estimated at 70,000-100,000 euros.

Isabelle Degut, head of the *Sculpture & European Works of Art* department: « *This harmonious, unique, and extremely rare ensemble of unequivocal provenance constitutes one of the most prestigious collections to be presented at auction for several decades* ».

Coral has long been a prized material, used as much in its natural form than crafted in the process of creation for complex works of art. Several centers of production emerged as early as the 17th century, including Landshut, in Bavaria, and several in Spain and Sicily. Trapani was certainly the most important of these centers, supported by the court of the Sicilian Viceroy from the late 16th to the 18th centuries. Due to its geographical position and rich natural resources, including extensive coral banks, Trapani became one of the principal commercial ports in the

Mediterranean. Trapani work is characterized by the employment of small pieces of coral carved into many different shapes and set in a ground of gilt-copper to obtain a variety of effects. Coral was considered to be a very precious and rare commodity in the 16th century and has found its way to European courts as diplomatic gifts. Coral became one of the materials favoured for the fashioning of works of art for princely *Kunstkammern* principally due to its rarity and because of the burgeoning interest in the Natural Sciences throughout Europe.

The present collection is exceptional for the quality, rarity and quantity of examples which it comprises – 35 lots. It includes pieces made for use in private chapels, such as patens, candelabra and crosses. In addition, there are personal objects such as reliquaries, and small coffers, as well as images of saints used in private devotion which were, without a doubt, treasured personal possessions, passed down through generations.

The March family – a Spanish banking dynasty founded by Juan March Ordinas (1880-1962) – were one of Spain's most important collecting families over three generations. It was Juan March who commissioned the architect Luis Gutiérrez Soto to design a Renaissance-inspired Palazzo between 1939-44 in the centre of Palma de Mallorca. It was Bartolomé March Servera (1917-1998), the youngest son, a financier and philanthropist, who forged the enduring and creative friendship with decorator Pierre Delbée and the Maison Jansen. As an avid collector, he expanded and refined the family's collection to include manuscripts, turned ivories, Old Master paintings and contemporary sculpture.



Through this context, the collection of works of art fashioned from coral in the Sicilian city of Trapani is truly spectacular, and will be offered on June 16th. Manolo March – the son of Bartolomé - inherited the same collecting gene and these objects formed an integral part of the interior he created at his summer home Son Galcerán, where he assembled both inherited and acquired works of art with a distinctive and unifying vision and refined artistic flair.

Sale: Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 2pm.

Public Exhibition: Thursday 11, Friday 12, Saturday 13 and Monday 15 June 2015 from 10am. to 6pm.

Christie's: 9, avenue Matignon – 75008 – Paris

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Christie's est la première maison de ventes aux enchères dans le monde, avec des ventes aux enchères et des ventes de gré à gré qui ont atteint en 2014, la somme totale de \$8.4 milliards. Christie's est synonyme d'œuvres d'art exceptionnelles, de services incomparables et de prestige international. Fondée en 1766 par James Christie, la Maison Christie's a dirigé les plus importantes ventes aux enchères des 18^{ème}, 19^{ème} et 20^{ème} siècles et est aujourd'hui le lieu le plus célèbre pour vendre des objets uniques et exceptionnels. Christie's organise près de 450 ventes par an dans plus de 80 catégories différentes, dont les tableaux, le mobilier, la joaillerie, la photographie et les vins. Les prix s'échelonnent entre \$200 et \$100 millions. Christie's rencontre également un grand succès dans l'organisation de ventes de gré à gré pour ses clients internationaux, dans toutes catégories confondues en particulier en art d'Après-guerre et Contemporain, Impressionniste et Moderne, Tableaux Anciens et Bijoux. Le total des ventes de gré à gré s'élève à \$1.5 milliard en 2014, une augmentation de 20% comparé à l'année dernière.

Christie's compte 54 bureaux répartis dans 32 pays et 12 salles de ventes dans le monde entier, notamment à Londres, New York, Paris, Genève, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubaï, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai et Bombay. Christie's a été la première maison de ventes aux enchères à développer de nouvelles initiatives dans des marchés en pleine croissance comme la Russie, la Chine, l'Inde et les Émirats Arabes Unis, en organisant des ventes aux enchères et des expositions qui ont remporté un franc succès à Shanghai, New Delhi, Mumbai et Dubaï.

NB: Les estimations ne comprennent pas les frais acheteurs. Le montant total des ventes inclut la somme du prix marteau plus les frais acheteurs et n'inclut pas les frais généraux, les frais de financement ou les frais liés aux éventuelles demandes de crédits faites par les acheteurs ou les vendeurs.

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