

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 21 NOVEMBER 2017

THE COLLECTION OF PEGGY AND DAVID ROCKEFELLER

MOST SIGNIFICANT PHILANTHROPIC AUCTION

ALL ESTATE PROCEEDS BENEFIT SELECTED CHARITIES

CHRISTIE'S REVEALS FIRST HIGHLIGHTS:

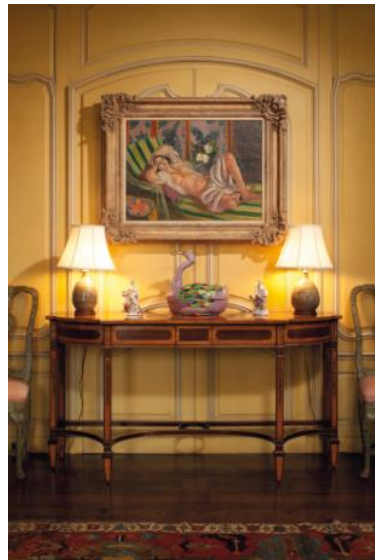
- ROSE PERIOD PICASSO FROM GERTRUDE STEIN'S COLLECTION
 - MOST VALUABLE MATISSE EVER OFFERED AT AUCTION

GLOBAL TOUR OF HIGHLIGHTS:

- HONG KONG: NOVEMBER 24-27
 - LONDON, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK: SPRING 2018
- TOURS AND EXHIBITIONS PRESENTED BY VISTAJET



Claude Monet, *Nymphéas en fleur*
Oil on canvas
63.3/8 x 71.1/8 in. (160.9 x 180.8 cm.)
Painted circa 1914-1917



Henri Matisse's *Odalisque couchée aux magnolias* in the living room of the Hudson Pines residence
23.3/4 x 31.7/8 in. (60.5 x 81.1 cm.)
Painted in Nice, 1923



Pablo Picasso, *Fillette à la corbeille fleurie*
Oil on canvas
60.7/8 x 26 in. (154.8 x 66.1 cm.)
Painted in 1905

"Eventually all these objects which have brought so much pleasure to Peggy and me will go out into the world and will again be available to other caretakers who, hopefully, will derive the same satisfaction and joy from them as we have over these past several decades."

- David Rockefeller

New York – Christie's announces the first highlights from the collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller to be unveiled in Hong Kong on November 24, which marks the start of a global tour of collection highlights presented by private aviation company VistaJet. The collection will be offered for sale at Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries in New York in the Spring of 2018. The collection sale will be the most significant philanthropic auction ever presented, with all the Estate sale proceeds destined to benefit selected charities. The first highlights include masterpieces of Impressionist and Modern Art, including a Rose Period Picasso selected by Peggy and David Rockefeller from Gertrude Stein's collection (estimate in the region of \$70 million), Claude Monet's *Nymphéas en fleur*, painted circa 1914-1917 (estimate in the region of \$35 million), and a sumptuous 1923 reclining nude by Matisse that is poised to reset the artist's record high price at auction (estimate in the region of \$50 million).

The Hong Kong exhibition (November 24-27) will be followed by global tours to Christie's flagship locations in London, Los Angeles and New York, revealing new facets of this multi-category collection with each stop. A robust program of client events including art forums and lecture series will coincide with public exhibitions at each location.

For the first Hong Kong highlights exhibition, Christie's has selected paintings, furniture and works of art that reflect the Rockefeller family's wide ranging interests and intellectual pursuits. Gathered over a lifetime and inherited from previous generations, the Collection reflects the Rockefeller family's deep, life-long passion for Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Modern works of art, American paintings, English and European furniture, Asian works of art, European ceramics and Chinese export porcelain, silver, and American decorative arts and furniture, among other categories. The Hong Kong exhibition features significant works by Claude Monet, Georges Seurat, Juan Gris, Paul Signac, Edouard Manet, Paul Gauguin, Jean Baptiste Camille Corot, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Edward Hopper, among others.

Marc Porter, Christie's Chairman, Americas, remarks: "*We are delighted to share this first exhibition which is designed to re-introduce these masterpieces to the world after generations of care and stewardship by the Rockefeller family. Our decision to begin the tour in Asia is in keeping with the Rockefeller family's long commitment and philanthropic ties to the region, dating to John D. Rockefeller, Sr.'s first charitable gift to China in 1863. We look forward to sharing additional highlights of the collection as we proceed with the tour, leading to sales in New York next spring on behalf of the selected charities.*"

The spring sales series in New York includes live and online sales. The online sales, which will run concurrently with the live auctions, will offer a selection of accessibly priced objects with estimates starting at \$200. Reflecting motifs that run throughout the collection, the online sales will be themed to include *Dining; Birds; Bugs and Beasts; Japan; Porcelain: Figurines and Serveware; At Home: Town; At Home: Country and Jewels*.

The sales will be conducted in keeping with David Rockefeller's pledge to direct the majority of his wealth to philanthropy and provide for the cultural, educational, medical, and environmental causes long supported by both David and Peggy Rockefeller. All the Estate proceeds will be donated to Peggy and David Rockefeller's charities of choice, directly benefiting the philanthropic missions that have been maintained by the family for decades.

IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART HIGHLIGHTS



Pablo Picasso
Fillette à la corbeille fleurie
Oil on canvas
60.7/8 x 26 in. (154.8 x 66.1 cm.)
Painted in 1905
Estimate in the region of \$70 million

A Rose Period masterpiece, executed in 1905, *Fillette à la corbeille fleurie* is a highlight of the collection (estimate in the region of \$70 million). Rich in pathos in its depiction of bohemian life at the turn of the 20th century, this rare work is a technical *tour de force* of draftsmanship and atmosphere. The painting maintains a storied provenance; it was acquired in 1905 by brother and sister, Leo and Gertrude Stein, and passed to Alice B. Toklas upon Gertrude's death in 1946, where it remained throughout Alice's lifetime for another 21 years. In 1968, David Rockefeller formed a group of important art collectors to acquire the renowned collection of Gertrude Stein. Drawing slips of numbered paper from a felt hat, David Rockefeller drew the first pick in the syndicate, and he and Peggy were able to acquire their first choice of the *Young Girl with a Flower Basket*, and placed it in the library of their 65th Street New York townhouse.

Henri Matisse
Odalisque couchée aux magnolias
 Signed 'Henri - Matisse' (lower right)
 Oil on canvas
 23.3/4 x 31.7/8 in. (60.5 x 81.1 cm.)
 Painted in Nice, 1923
 Estimate in the region of \$50 million



The most important work by Henri Matisse to be offered on the market in a generation is *Odalisque couchée aux magnolias*, painted in Nice in 1923 (estimate in the region of \$50 million). The subject of the odalisque, the reclining female figure, held special significance for Matisse as it presented the opportunity to measure his art against past masters. *Odalisque couchée aux magnolias*, with its symphonic synthesis of pattern and form, has long been counted among the greatest of Matisse's paintings in private hands. This sumptuous painting resided in the living room of Peggy and David's Hudson Pines home. *Odalisque couchée aux magnolias* is also the highest estimated work by Matisse to ever be offered at auction.



Claude Monet
Nymphéas en fleur
 stamped with signature 'Claude Monet' (on the reverse)
 Oil on canvas
 63.3/8 x 71.1/8 in. (160.9 x 180.8 cm.)
 Painted circa 1914-1917
 Estimate in the region of \$35 million

Monet's beloved garden of Giverny was a source of unending inspiration. *Nymphéas en fleur* is among the largest scale, most brilliantly colored, and vigorously worked canvases that the artist executed – a glorious tribute to the natural world (estimate in the region of \$35 million). This work belongs to a group of paintings Monet painted in a burst of untrammelled creativity between 1914 and 1917, as Europe plunged into the chaos of war. Upon the recommendation of Alfred Barr, the first director of the Museum of Modern Art, Peggy and David Rockefeller visited the Parisian dealer Katia Granoff and purchased the present painting in 1956. "One, which was almost certainly painted in the late afternoon and in which the water is a dark purple and the lilies stand out a glowing white, we bought immediately," David Rockefeller recalled in *Memoirs*.

ASIAN ART HIGHLIGHTS



AN IMPERIAL GILT-BRONZE FIGURE OF AMITAYUS
 CHINA, KANGXI PERIOD (1662-1722)
 16 1/2 in. (41.9 cm.) high
 Estimate: \$400,000-600,000

Leading the Chinese works of art from the collection is a magnificent gilt-bronze figure of Amitayus made in the Imperial workshops by order of the Kangxi Emperor (reigned 1662-1722) (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). In Chinese Buddhism, Amitayus is revered as the god of long-life, and it is likely this bronze was commissioned as a birthday gift for a member of the Imperial family. The Kangxi Emperor was a devout Buddhist, especially later in his life, and lavished patronage on Buddhist institutions. The substantial size and weight of this sculpture, and the fact that it was one of a celebrated group of such figures, means that a significant amount of material, both bronze and gold, was used in its creation.

A RARE ANHUA-DECORATED BLUE AND WHITE 'DRAGON' BOWL
 XUANDE SIX-CHARACTER MARK IN UNDERGLAZE BLUE WITHIN A DOUBLE CIRCLE AND OF THE PERIOD (1426-1435)
 8 1/4 in. (21 cm.) diam.
 Estimate: \$100,000-150,000

Another important Chinese work is an Imperial blue and white 'dragon' bowl, Xuande six-character mark in underglaze blue within a double circle and of the period (1426-1435) (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Two exuberantly painted five-clawed dragons, symbols of Imperial authority, writhe around the sides of the bowl in pursuit of flaming pearls, while a third dragon appears within a circular medallion on the interior. Close inspection of the interior sides of the bowl reveals additional dragons rendered in a special technique known as *anhua* ('hidden decoration'). Combining superb painting and well-balanced composition, the blue and white porcelains produced during the reign of the Xuande Emperor are considered amongst the finest porcelains ever produced. An almost identical bowl, but with a cloud motif on the interior rather than a dragon, resides in the National Palace Museum, Taipei.



DECORATIVE ART HIGHLIGHTS



A SEVRES PORCELAIN IRON-RED AND SKY-BLUE GROUND PART DESSERT SERVICE FROM THE 'MARLY ROUGE' SERVICE MADE FOR NAPOLEON I
 CIRCA 1807-1809, IRON-RED STENCILED M. IMPLÉ DE SEVRES MARK, DATE CYPHERS 7, 8 AND 9 FOR 1807-1809, VARIOUS INCISED MARKS
 Painted with scattered butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, beetles and other insects, the plates with a further gold band reserved and painted with a ribbon-tied wreath of flowers, the border gilt with paired berried leaves extending off a central vine
 28 pieces
 Estimate: \$150,000-250,000

The selection of pieces from the Sèvres porcelain 'Marly Rouge' dessert service made for Emperor Napoleon I of France are among the works in the collection with important provenance (estimate: \$150,000-250,000). Described in the factory's records as *à fond rouge, papillons et fleurs* (red ground with butterflies and flowers), this dessert service was originally ordered by Napoleon for the palace in Compiègne. However, records show its delivery on 7, 8 and 18 October 1809 to the palace of Fontainebleau. It was to Fontainebleau that Napoleon retreated for a respite after the grueling negotiations of the Treaty of Vienna, the signing of which at Schönbrunn Palace on 14 October 1809 ended hostilities between France and Austria. During this month-long stay outside Paris at his favorite country retreat, Napoleon broke the news to his empress, Josephine de Beauharnais, that he was divorcing her, as she had been unable to give him a son. Despite or perhaps because of its association with Josephine, the 'Marly Rouge' service, was part of the household effects Napoleon brought with him into exile on the island of Elba only five years later. Today, only one dolphin-footed compote and six plates remain at Fontainebleau, all recent acquisitions. Although plates have appeared on the art market in recent years, the portion of the service to be offered in the Rockefeller collection includes important pieces of form from the original delivery not seen on the art market since Abby Aldrich Rockefeller acquired the part-service over seventy-five years ago.

SELECTIONS FROM A CHINESE EXPORT
 DINNER SERVICE IN THE 'ROCKEFELLER' PATTERN,
 Circa 1805
 A Pair of Fruit Coolers, Covers and Liners (6 pieces)
 11 1/2 inches (29.2 cm) high
 125 pieces
 Estimate: \$100,000-150,000

Several generations of the Rockefeller family collected Chinese export porcelain with this richly enameled decoration, which came to be known as 'Rockefeller pattern'. Each piece in the pattern is carefully painted with a beautifully detailed and completely unique Chinese scene contained within sepia and gilt patterned borders. It was the most elaborate pattern made in the last great era of the China Trade, produced as just a few enormous dinner services for the most important China Traders of the day. John D. Rockefeller, Jr (1874-1960) and his wife Abigail Aldrich Rockefeller (1874-1948), were great lovers of Chinese porcelain and owned a large service in the pattern. Their sons Nelson and David both continued to enjoy the 'Rockefeller' porcelain; David and Peggy Rockefeller acquired additional pieces to add to it, and used it for large dinner parties in their Manhattan townhouse.



Notes for Editors:

- Sale dates and tour dates for London and Los Angeles will be announced early in 2018.
- Designated philanthropies include the American Farmland Trust, Americas Society/Council of the Americas, Council on Foreign Relations, The David Rockefeller Fund, Harvard University, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Museum of Modern Art, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Rockefeller University, The Stone Barns Restoration Corporation – Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture
- The most valuable collection ever previously offered at auction was the Collection Yves Saint Laurent et Pierre Bergé in 2009 at Christie's Paris which achieved more than US\$400 million.
- [David Rockefeller's \(Giving Pledge\) statement](#), confirming his commitment to philanthropy
- Follow @christiesrockefeller on Instagram and www.christies.com/rockefeller for coming auction details

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in first half of 2017 that totalled £2.35 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

About VistaJet



VistaJet is the first and only global aviation company. On its fleet of silver and red business jets, VistaJet has flown corporations, governments and private clients to 187 countries worldwide. Founded in 2004 by Thomas Flohr, the company pioneered an innovative business model where customers pay only for the hours they fly, free of the responsibilities and asset risks linked to aircraft ownership. VistaJet's signature Program service offers customers a bespoke subscription of flight hours on its fleet of mid and long-range jets, to fly them anywhere and at any time.

More VistaJet information and news at vistajet.com.

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Images available on request

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