

For Immediate Release

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AFFORDABLE ARTS & CRAFTS FOR THE HOME

Arts & Crafts

Christie's, South Kensington

30 June 2005 – 10.30am

South Kensington – Creative homemakers and collectors will love the variety of beautiful, accessible and highly original items at South Kensington's next *Arts and Crafts* sale on 30 June 2005. Christie's offers an opportunity to recreate a period home from the huge array of over 250 lots of ceramics, textiles, glass, furniture, sculpture, lights, metalwork and works on paper. With prices starting at £300, the sale will cater for all tastes and budgets. It celebrates the emergence of the Arts and Crafts movement of late 19th & early 20th centuries in Britain. The pioneering nature of the Movement will be evident in the International Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum (17 March – 24 July 05.) Objects can be viewed in the exhibition and similar pieces acquired at Christie's South Kensington.

The Arts and Crafts Movement developed as a reaction against the dawning industrial age and the lack of a design style to represent the nation. The Great Exhibition of 1851 showcased the best of British manufacture but also highlighted the lack of aesthetic awareness in Britain. It acted as a catalyst inspiring designers such as A. W. N. Pugin, William Morris and Christopher Dresser to create objects that would elevate the moral consciences of ordinary people. Designers were especially concerned with the relationship between form and function and in particular on domestic design.

Leading the sale is "The Magnus", a Cymric silver and enamel clock, designed by Archibald Knox for Liberty & Co (estimate: £18,000-£20,000). The clock was owned by Sir Albert Spicer (1847 – 1934) a successful international paper merchant and Liberal MP. Archibald Knox was widely known for his Celtic designs and his work for Liberty, the world-famous Regent Street department store that retailed affordable Arts and Crafts wares to the new wealthy middle-class.

The second part of the Harry Lyons collection will also be offered. These pieces were displayed in the Christopher Dresser retrospective exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum last year and, therefore, were not offered in the highly successful Harry Lyons sale that Christie's South Kensington held in October 2004. Highlights from the collection include a James Dixon decanter (estimate: £6,000-£8,000), toast racks (estimates: £3,000-£5,000) each and a fireplace (estimate: £6,000-£8,000)

Other aspects of the sale which will attract particular attention include a selection of stained glass; an impressive pair of Minton Art Studio vases, beautifully painted by W. P. Morgan with Venus and Cupid, (estimate: £3,000-4,000); a mahogany screen by Morris & Co with silk embroidered panels (estimate: £3,000 – 5,000), and a stunning collection of William de Morgan tiles (estimate: £600 – 800 each).

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Images available on request

Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

- The Victoria & Albert Museum's International Arts & Crafts, sponsored by Heals, runs from 17 March to 24 July 2005. Tickets can be obtained by calling 0870 906 3883 / www.vam.ac.uk
- **OMAR RAMSDEN: SILVER FROM THE DAVID AND VIVIAN CAMPBELL COLLECTION, 20 April 2004, Christie's King Street**
A distinctive collection of silver by one of England's most creative 20th century silver designers is to be sold on 20th April at Christie's King Street. The 85 lots, designed by Omar Ramsden (1873-1939), is the greatest group of "art" silver by this significant English silversmith ever to appear at auction. With pieces dating from 1901 to the end of Ramsden's career in 1939, the collection is estimated to fetch in excess of £500,000. (see separate press release)
- Christie's Decorative Arts department retains a proud tradition of pioneering new sale categories such as Aesthetic Movement, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Liberty, and has held specialist Arts & Crafts sales since 2000. The most expensive lot sold by Christie's Decorative Arts Department, South Kensington was a Christopher Dresser Teapot for £95,000 in July 2004. Catalogues: 020 7389 2820

In 2005 Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, will have the following opening hours:

Monday - 9am to 7.30pm

Tuesday to Friday - 9am to 5pm

Open for Weekend Shopping on Saturday and Sunday - 10am to 4pm

The weekend openings will be throughout the year except for bank holidays.

Viewing Dates for Arts and Crafts:

Saturday 25 June – Thursday 30 June 2005

Christie's South Kensington is now open seven days a week with regular new sales on Sundays. The UK's busiest auction house, Christie's South Kensington offers more sales in more categories than any other auction house. With prices ranging from £200 to over £20,000, the average price at Christie's South Kensington is £1,000. Established in 1975 on the Old Brompton Road, Christie's South Kensington offers over 50,000 objects a year including works of art, furniture, paintings, prints and drawings, glass, ceramics, lighting, modern design, and silver. There is something for everyone and all you need to decorate your home or start a collection.

Christie's South Kensington is also famed for its popular collectible sales including Toys, Teddy Bears, Cameras, and Costumes, Posters, Film, Football and Pop Memorabilia to name just a few! If you are looking for a little luxury from as little as £200, regular sales of Vintage Jewellery, Fashion and Fine Wines also regularly appear on the auction calendar. For those contemplating selling, Christie's expertise is available 7 days a week, free of charge, at the Valuation Counter to advise you on the current market value for your works of art.