

Press Release

**For Immediate Release
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CHRISTIE'S DIVERSE \$1.5 MILLION DECORATIVE ART AUCTION OFFERS KOREAN CERAMICS, JADE, FURNITURE, SILVER, JEWELLERY a model of the yacht 'AMERICA', THE JOHN ALLEN COLLECTION of CORKSCREWS & an historic 16th CENTURY FLORENTINE DOOR from DAVID JONES' SYDNEY

Melbourne, Australia,

Session I 6.00pm Wednesday 08 March 2006 (Oriental & Furniture)

Session II 2.30pm Thursday 09 March 2006 (Corkscrews)

Session III 6.00pm Thursday 09 March 2006 (Jewellery, Silver & Art)

Melbourne, Australia – An intriguing mixture of unusual items, from rare Korean ceramics and Oriental works of art to an extensive collection of corkscrews, blend with the more expected but equally desirable offerings of fine furniture, silver, jewellery and 20th Century design at Christie's auction of Decorative Arts and Furniture over three sessions on March 8 and 9 in Melbourne.

Chinese jades from the collection of renowned hotelier, the late Peter Stafford and an extensive private collection of Korean ceramics and Oriental works of art are highlights of the first session. Considered "*the greatest hotelier of his generation*", Peter Stafford (1925-2004), a Queenslander by birth, was the manager of The Savoy, The Mandarin and The Dorchester hotels. He was famed for his discretion, tact and good manners and the leadership which enhanced the already household names of each of these fine hotels. Thirteen jades from his discerning collection, inherited by the current owner, are offered with *estimates ranging from \$500 to \$3,000*.

The Public Trustee for the Australian Capital Territory, on behalf of a client, is excited to be presenting a rare collection of mainly **Korean ceramic** and **Oriental works of art**. Assembled during extensive travel throughout Asia, Korea and China in the 1960s and 1970s the collection took pride of place in the owner's private Canberra residence as treasured items. They are offered for sale in the hope that their historic value and beauty will continue to be appreciated. The entire collection is valued at over \$60,000, however, *estimates on individual items range from as little as \$300 up to and in excess of \$2,000*.

Furniture on offer includes a **16th Century Florentine Oak Door and Surround** originally from Villa Giramonte. After a 19th Century renovation it was removed and stored until 1963 when it was purchased by the director of the David Jones Art Gallery, the late Robert Haines, to serve as the gallery's entrance on the seventh floor of the Elizabeth Street, Sydney Store. It carries an *estimate of \$15,000-20,000*.
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Other highlights in the furniture category are a **Victorian gilt-metal mounted and mother of pearl inlaid, ebonised bookcase** (*estimate \$12,000-15,000*) and a **late Victorian inlaid satinwood revolving bookcase** (*estimate \$9,000-10,000*).

Following the success of selling *The Charles F. Lane Collection of Corkscrews* in 2005 Christie's is delighted to be offering **The John Allen Collection of Corkscrews**. It features an extensive and comprehensive survey of corkscrews in approximately 150 lots, consisting of individual corkscrews and other lots with multiples, comprising over 400 corkscrews in total. They will be sold in a special afternoon session on Thursday 9 March commencing at 2.30pm.

The final session, on Thursday evening comprises 20th Century design, works of art, jewellery and silver. Amongst the highlights are a **German Art Deco bronze group of Europa & the Bull** (*Estimate \$8,000-9,000*); a number of **Russian icons**, including a **Late 17th/early 18th Century one of St. John the Baptist** (*estimate \$9,000-10,000*) and a **17th Century Flemish verdure tapestry** (*\$30,000-35,000*). Silver on offer features pieces from **The W.R. Burge Collection**, notably an **Irish George II Sterling silver strawberry dish** (*estimate \$10,000-15,000*); a **George III Sterling silver covered tankard** (*estimate \$8,000-10,000*); a **George III sterling silver oval tray** (*estimate \$7,000-10,000*) and a **George II Sterling silver tea kettle, coffee pot and tray** (*estimate \$20,000-30,000*). Items of jewellery from the Burge Collection include a **French Lapis lazuli, diamond and gold bracelet by Louis-Francois Cartier** (*estimate \$12,000-18,000*) and a magnificent **sapphire and diamond necklace circa 1900** (*estimate \$30,000-50,000*).

One of the more unusual offerings is a **unique detailed maritime display model** of the famous schooner yacht **'America'**, inaugural winner in 1851 of the race and trophy which was to become known as the *'America's Cup'*. The win began what was to become the longest 'winning streak' in sporting history as the trophy was held by the New York Yacht Club for 122 years, until its 12 metre yacht *'Liberty'* was defeated by *'Australia II'* in 1983. The scratch built model is 127cm (50inches) long with an *estimate of \$10,000-15,000*.

Highlights of the sale will be on view at Christie's Sydney Saleroom, 287 New South Head Road, Edgecliff on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 February from 12 noon to 5pm daily. The entire Decorative Arts sale will be on view at Christie's in Melbourne from Saturday 4 March. The auction will be conducted over three sessions, at 6.00pm (*Oriental & Furniture*) on Wednesday 8 March then at 2.30pm (*Corkscrews*) and 6.00pm (*Jewellery, silver & works of art*) on Thursday 9 of March 2006. Catalogues are available from Christie's offices.

More information about Christie's sale of Decorative Arts on 8 & 9 March can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.