

For Immediate Release

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SUPERB LONDON COLLECTION TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S IN MAY

Park West – The Sale of Works of Art from a Regent's Park Villa



The Drawing Room at Park West

Park West – The Property of a Private Collector

22 May 2003

London – In May 2003, Christie's London will stage two superb private single owner collections of furniture and works of art, the first to be overseen at King Street by the newly formed Private Collection and Country House Sale Department, *50 Years of Collecting – The Decorative Arts of Georgian England*, on 14 May (see separate release) and *Park West – The Property of a Private Collector* on 22 May. The Park West sale will offer works amassed by a collector who, with immense flair, formed a remarkable group of objects to adorn the romantic interiors of his London home. A John Nash-Revival villa built in a picturesque crescent beside Regents Park, *Park West* has for 25 years been the setting for a varied yet focused collection of sculptural and decorative furniture and works of art. The Collection is expected to realize in the region of £1 million.

“The Park-West Collection perfectly encapsulates the essence of the late 18th century with gilt-bronzes and terracotta sculptures, French furniture, allegorical pictures and delicate Meissen porcelain, a highly tempting array for discerning connoisseurs, passionate collectors and style-conscious decorators alike”, says Orlando Rock and Andrew Waters, from the Private Collection and Country House Sale Department “Many of the objects to be offered were acquired in the early 1980s from respected dealers, such as William Redford, Agnew’s and Partridge Fine Arts, or carry the provenance of earlier great collection sales.”

A highlight of the Park West Collection is a grouping of over 40 terracotta sculptures and an object that perhaps best typifies the taste of the collector is a playful, and yet graceful, terracotta figure of a bacchante raising a tambourine (estimate: £25,000-35,000). The figure once formed part of the collection of Major-General Sir George Burns and was included in the celebrated sale held by Christie’s at North Mymms Park, Hertfordshire in 1979 (lot 4) and is attributed to Claude Michel (1738-1814) – better known as Clodion – one of the most influential sculptors of the late 18th century. This representation of Baccantes can be compared with an example by Clodion signed and dated 1783 in the Dutuit Collection, Petit Palais, Paris. Clodion specialized in terracotta groups of cavorting nymphs and satyrs, and his work can be found in many of the world’s most important museums.

The Park West Collection also boasts a set of four Louis XIV white marble busts of the seasons, *circa* 1700 (originally purchased from the J.P. Morgan family home, Princetown, New Jersey) (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and a Louis XVI terracotta bust of a Gentleman by Clemens Jayet, who was appointed Professor of Sculpture at the Academy of St Luke, Paris in 1804 (estimate: £10,000-15,000). From the drawing-room of Park West, furniture ranges from a Louis XVI ormolu-mounted *console desserte* by Charles Topino (estimate: £10,000-15,000) to a fine Napoleon III burr-yew *secretaire à abattant* attributed to Alexandre Beurdeley (estimate: £20,000-40,000), after a design by Adam Weisweiler, inset with a jasperware panel depicting ‘The Judgement of Paris’. A pair of triumphant Empire ormolu and patinated figural candelabra (estimate: £20,000-30,000), a pair of Italian *Marmo Rosso Antico* urns by Bernadetto Boschetti, mid 19th century (estimate: £15,000-25,000) and a fine bronze figure of *Persens Arming* by Sir Alfred Gilbert, O.M., R.A., (1854-1934) (estimate: £15,000-25,000) further indicate the diverse nature of the collection. The sale will also feature a select group of ceramics including **a pair of Italian Castelli maiolica plaques, circa 1750, from the Workshop of the Grue family, (£6,000-8,000) and a pair of Meissen Malabar figures on Louis XV ormolu bases (£6,000-8,000).**

Viewing

The atmospheric rooms of Park West will be recreated in Christie’s Great Room from 18-21 May 2003

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Images available on request

These auctions will be featured on www.christies.com. A complete illustrated online catalogue will be published with hard copies available to purchase via the site. If a collector is interested in finding any specific works of art for their collection Christie's online search engine Lotfinder® Assistant can immediately source specific forthcoming items of interest.

Notes to Editors

This sale and 50 Years of Collecting – The Decorative Arts of Georgian England, to be held on 14 May, are the first to be overseen by the newly formed Private Collection and Country House Sale Department. Orlando Rock heads the team, ably assisted by Andrew Waters, Director of the department, both highly experienced specialists. The Private Collection and Country House Sale Department will be concentrating on developing single-owner and special collection sales as well as house sales in the UK, and house sales in those Continental European countries without a dedicated saleroom.

Orlando and Andrew have nearly three decades of experience at Christie's. Orlando joined Christie's in 1990 and was appointed a director of the company in 1997. Orlando has been responsible for the sales of both important French and Continental Furniture and Important English furniture in London and subsequently spent three years in New York. He played an important role in the sale of Works of Art from Houghton, the Bute Collection and the Alexander Collection and most recently was involved in the Longleat sale. Andrew Waters joined the Christie's South Kensington furniture department in 1989. He has been responsible for cataloguing the furniture sections of the Country House sales for many years and notable successes have included Castello de Bendinat in Majorca, the Manor House at Clifton Hampden and, most recently, the ambitious Tyntesfield project.

Furniture Sales at Christie's London in 2003

Important English Furniture	10 April
50 Years of Collecting – The Decorative Arts of Georgian England	14 May
Park West – The Property of a Private Collector	22 May
Boulle To Jansen - An Important Private European Collection (evening sale)	11 June
Boulle To Jansen - An Important Private European Collection (day sale)	12 June
Important European Furniture and Sculpture	12 June
Important English Furniture	10 July
Fine English Furniture	18 September
Fine European Furniture	13 November
Important English Furniture	27 November
Important European Furniture	11 December