

For Immediate Release

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COLLECTION CLAUDE ET SIMONE DRAY TOTALS €59.7 MILLION

**HIGHEST TOTALING SALE IN FRANCE FOR MORE THAN 15
YEARS**

**A NEW WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A SALE OF
20TH CENTURY DECORATIVE ART**

**NEW WORLD AUCTION RECORD ESTABLISHED FOR
A 20TH CENTURY WORK OF ART
AT €4.2 MILLION**

13 LOTS SOLD FOR MORE THAN €1 MILLION

19 NEW WORLD AUCTION RECORDS SET

Georges Artemoff, Rembrandt Bugatti, Edgar Brandt, Charles Catteau, Albert Cheuret, Joachim Costa, Fernand Grange, André Groult, Katsu Hamanaka, Matéo Hernandez, Paul Iribé, Paul Jouve, Armand-Albert Rateau, Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann, George-Laurent Saupique, Clément Serneels, Simonet, Louis Sue & André Mare, Michel Zadounaisky

Paris - Christie's sale of *Claude & Simone Dray Collection* has realized a total of €59.7 million (\$76,272,126 / £41,287,927) on the 8th and 9th June 2006. This result is the highest total for a sale in France for more than 15 years. The 20th century decorative art segment of the sale totaled €50 million, setting a new record total for a sale of 20th Century Decorative Art. Collectors from all over the world paid tribute to the taste of Claude & Simone Dray who formed their collection over a 25 year period and brought together works by the most important Art Déco artists.

“The sensational results of Claude and Simone Dray Collection sale reinforce Paris position as one of the capitals of the international art market. After four and a half years of active presence in France, it’s a great honor for our specialists and for Christie’s to have been chosen to sell such a prestigious collection of 20th century art.” Declared **François Curiel**, Chairman of Christie’s Europe, who was the auctioneer of the sale.

Spectacular prices were attained for the 17 lots by **Armand Albert Rateau** realizing €19 million. The splendid pair of chased and gilt bronze *jardinières* with an openwork design of daisies fetched €4.1 millions, a result which pulverized all the previous world auction record for the artist and made this pair of *jardinières* the **most expensive 20th Century work of Art**. The enchanting dressing table of around 1920 in bronze, patinated green after the antique, with a black marble top outlined in white, with a pre-sale estimate of €500,000-700,000, opened a bidding battle in the room and on the telephones, quintupling its high pre-estimate to achieve €3,036,000. The table *aux oiseaux* (lot 48) and his armchair *aux poissons* (lot 52), both created for the Blumenthals, were sold at respectively €2,028,000 and €1,580,000.

Among the highlights was the unique double-sided screen, *l’Oasis* by Edgar Brandt (lot 80), sold for €1.9 million, a new world auction record for the artist.

The range and quality of **Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann’s** art was demonstrated in the selection of 38 top objects that included one of his earliest masterpieces, the exceptional corner cabinet designed in 1916, veneered in amaranth and inlaid in ivory with a sumptuous stylized bouquet (lot 160), which realized €1,580,000. A magnificent table lamp from 1925 in silvered bronze with a hemispherical shade, hung with a curtain of glass beads (estimate: €180,000-220,000), was sold for €348,000, a world auction record for a lamp by the artist.

A world auction record was also set for **Rembrandt Bugatti** when his *Asian Elephant* sold for €908,000.

The sale also included the finest examples of **Jean Dunand’s** art among which the panel *aux félins s’abreuvant* (lot 67), which had belonged to celebrated couturier Madeleine Vionnet in the 1920s. It quadrupled its estimate at €415,200. Other highlights included a commode in green galuchat, malachite and silvered bronze by **André Groult** which surpassed its pre-sale estimate at €1,244,000.

The second part of the auction comprised monumental sculpture and figurative paintings. *Lailla* by **Kees VanDongen** painted at the peak of the artist’s Fauve period in 1908, was sold for €3,372,000. *Lailla* ranks amongst van Dongen’s greatest nudes not only of this period, but of his entire career. Also included in this sale was the artist’s *Femme aux fleurs* which realized €650,400.

In the contemporary part two important works by the Colombian artist **Fernando Botéro** were offered: *Les musiciens*, 1983 (lot 48) sold for €594,400 and a bronze *Nu allongé à la cigarette* (lot 44) which fetched €404,000.

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Images available upon request