

CHRISTIE'S

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A SUPERB EUROPEAN PRIVATE COLLECTION

*Important French Furniture, European Ceramics, Silver, Old Master Drawings,
Old Master Pictures, Impressionist Pictures.*

Christie's Paris, Wednesday 22 June 2005

Paris – Today's sale of a European Private Collection totalled €9,734,774 / £6,473,625 / \$11,793,679. With 100% sold by value, it is the most important works of art sale held at Christie's Paris.

This superb collection offered over 170 works of art, encompassing various collecting fields from European ceramics, furniture and silver to paintings and drawings by the Old Masters and Impressionist artists.

Fierce bidding from French and International buyers in the saleroom and on the phone proved to the art market that these rare and exquisite pieces were of the best quality and highly coveted by collectors.

Tonight, some world records have been established under the hammer of François Curiel and Pierre Mothes. Among these records, the very rare and extraordinary 18th Century Meissen Herons' pair, produced circa 1730 by J.-J. Kändler, Meissen's chief modeller, was sold for € 5,612,000 / £ 3,731,980 / \$ 6,798,938, becoming the most important work of art ever sold in France. The figures were remarkable for their power, vivacity and the originality of their modelling and were created for the Saxon-Elector Augustus the Strong's Japanese Palace in Dresden. Other majestic and stately animals had already been sold by Christie's in London, in June 2002, during the Longleat Collection sale; the Meissen white model of a fox achieved £1,051,650.

The most important Old Master Drawings were the two impressive illustrations by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo from the celebrated Punchinello series. Punchinello at the market (estimate: €150,000-200,000) and Punchinello riding a camel (estimate: €220,000-320,000), which achieved €437,600 / £291,004 / \$530,152 and €292,000 / £194,180 / \$353,758 respectively, a new auction world record price for the artist.

A remarkable pair of rare, high quality Japanese lacquer gold-mounted boxes by Louis Mailly, 1739 (estimate: €120.000-180.000), was well received, its price reaching €404,000 / £268,660 / \$489,446 reflects the depth of the market for small sized silver works of art and objects de vertu.

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