

*For Immediate Release*

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## **MONART – A FINE SINGLE-OWNER COLLECTION**



*A rare tall brown, orange and white Monart lamp  
Estimate: £3,000-5,000*

**Monart**

**24 September 2003**

*South Kensington – The biggest single-owner collection of Monart glass ever to appear at auction goes under the hammer at Christie's on Wednesday 24 September. Amassed over 20 years by a leading Monart author and enthusiast, the collection represents the most impressive sale of 20<sup>th</sup> century British glass since the Parkinson Collection auction held at Christie's South Kensington in October 1997 and April 1998.*

*Featuring over 200 lots, the sale is expected to realize in excess of £150,000. Showcasing all major areas of Monart production, including vases, bowls, dressing table sets, scent bottles, lamps and*

*paperweights, the auction will draw particular collector interest from Britain and the United States. Monart aptly takes place on the same day as the Liberty & Co. sale, as it was sold known as 'Scotch Glass' at the world-famous London department store for many years.*

*Characteristically, Monart glass is vividly coloured, comes in a wide variety of shapes and styles and was made at the North British Glassworks in Perth, Scotland. The company, founded in 1865 by John Moncrieff, initially made specialist glass products for the chemical and engineering industries. After demand slumped following the First World War with continental imports entering the domestic market, the company found itself with excess capacity and in 1924 began the production of art glass.*

*Decorative bowls and vases were the first to exit the production line, followed by lamps and light fittings and by the 1930s, the company began producing good quality paperweights. Although only ever a small fraction of the company's total output, Monart was made continuously until the outbreak of the Second World War – and then again after the war until 1961.*

*Monart glass was only ever produced by a Spanish family of glassblowers, the Ysarts. The father, Salvador, was born in Barcelona in 1878 and after serving his apprenticeship in Spain, worked in Paris under Charles Schneider who in turn had studied under Emile Gallé. In 1915, the Ysarts moved to Scotland and in 1922, Salvador and his eldest son were recruited by John Moncrieff Ltd to produce laboratory glass. When Mrs Moncrieff saw a decorative vase Salvador had produced in his spare time, she recognized the commercial potential and the Ysarts' began producing Monart glass commercially in 1924. The name derived from the first three letters of Moncrieff and the last three of Ysart and it was sold successfully in Scotland, England and the United States for over thirty years.*

*Sale highlights include a blackground paperweight incorporating a blue Monart vase with flowers, owned by Salvador Ysart (estimate: £2,500-3,000); a rare, tall brown, orange and white lamp in perfect condition, one of only two known to be in existence (estimate: £4,000-6,000); and a dressing table set, comprising a ring stand, powder bowl, trinket bowl and candlestick belonging to Mrs Ysart (estimate: £1,500-2,000).*

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*Images available on request  
Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*