

**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, 26 July 2007

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**FROM CITY CHIC TO ALPINE RETREAT:  
A Great Opportunity to Go Shopping at Christie's London in September**



**From City Chic to Alpine Retreat: Holland Park and St. Moritz  
Christie's King Street  
Wednesday, 12 September 2007**

**London** – The distinct style of two contrasting interiors will be the highlight of a Christie's house sale in London on Wednesday, 12 September 2007. The luxury of Imperial Russia juxtaposed with Rococo silver-gilt mirrors, Chinese ceramics and garden furniture from the *Théâtre de Verdure* at *Chateau de Groussay* designed by the Cuban born architect Emilio Terry underline the contents of a grand and opulent Holland Park town house. In contrast, the St Moritz chalet was furnished with bold floral upholstered French provincial furniture and decorated with charming foliate-patterned ceramics and glass mirroring an alpine idyll. Offered from a private collector, the sale is expected to fetch in excess of £1.5 million; estimates range from £100 to £80,000.

The contrasting interiors are bound together by a collection of fashion accessories that go beyond the wildest dreams of any international fashionista. Handbags and belts by Hermès, Chanel, Louis Vuitton and shoes by the iconic Manolo Blahnik, will be a lure for many who wish to avoid the long and in many cases now closed waiting lists to join the



fashion elite. Must-have pieces include a *baby blue crocodile leather Chanel bag* (estimate: £500-1,000) *illustrated right*, a Louis Vuitton *steamer bag* (estimate: £500-800) and a pair of Manolo Blahnik *electric blue crocodile court shoes* (estimate: £300-500) *illustrated left*.



International glamour and luxury are by-words for Hermès and in particular the Kelly bag which was named in honour of the blonde and patrician Hollywood actress, Grace Kelly. In 1956, Princess Grace had been married less than a year to Prince Rainer of Monaco when she obscured her pregnancy with a crocodile Hermès bag on the cover of *Life* magazine. Created in 1892, the bag was down-sized for daywear in the 1930s. After its Royal moment on the cover of *Life*, it was dedicated to Princess Grace, and, as in a fairytale, lives on after her.

The collection includes twenty-three super-fine crocodile leather Kelly handbags, in a variety of classic colours, ranging in size from the diminutive and decorous 25 cm. example (estimate: £2,000-4,000) *illustrated right*, up to the most coveted and intensely desirable 35 cm. fashion statement (estimate: 10,000-12,000) *illustrated on page 1*.



Furniture and interior highlights include a sumptuous German Ormolu and glass lustre thirty-six light chandelier, *circa* 1830 (estimate: £40,000-60,000) *illustrated on page 1*, a pair of rococo north Italian silver-gilt mirrors, *circa* 1735 (estimate: £40,000-60,000) *illustrated left*, a set of twelve neo-classical Russian brass-mounted stained mahogany dining chairs, late 19<sup>th</sup> century/early 20<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £15,000-25,000) and a Chinese export famille rose part dinner service, Qianlong (1736-95) (estimate: £30,000-50,000). Silver highlights

include a pair of George III wine coolers (estimate: £30,000-50,000), whilst for the library a large collection of art reference and literature books will be offered with estimates from £150 to £5,000. Garden furniture includes sixteen green painted beech garden chairs, designed by the Cuban born architect Emilio Terry for the *Théâtre de Verdure, Chateau Groussay*, *circa* 1945-50 (estimate: £20,000-40,000) *illustrated right*.



This private collection offers a rare and privileged opportunity to wrap oneself up in the world of cool and dynamic international interior design ranging from city chic to alpine retreat and to join the worldwide passion for classic fashion.

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*A selection of images is available on request*

**Public Viewing Dates:**

Sunday, 9 September 2007: 12.00pm-5.00pm

Monday, 10 September 2007: 9.00am-4.30pm

Tuesday, 11 September 2007: 9.00am-8.00pm

**Auction:**

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

Christie's London, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1Y 6QT

**Catalogues**

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