

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHRISTIE'S HONORS THE EUROPEAN DECORATIVE ARTS THIS MONTH**

***Month-Long Series Celebrates Five Hundred Years of Design with Sales, Viewing & Events***

*Important English Furniture & Ceramics* – October 11

*Le Goût Steinitz* – October 19

*Important European Furniture, Works of Art, Ceramics & Carpets* – October 19

*19th Century Meissen: The Collection of Dr. W.A. Criswell* – October 25

*19th Century Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art & Ceramics* – October 25

*Important Silver & Objects of Vertu* – October 26

**New York** - Christie's announces it will once again present a month-long celebration of the European Decorative Arts this month in New York. Last fall's highly successful series, which demonstrated the vibrancy of the traditional collecting categories with a sale total of \$38 million, wowed collectors with the breadth of treasures – and this season promises to be equally as impressive. During an exciting series of viewings, auctions, and special events, ***European Decorative Arts Month*** will offer collectors an unrivaled opportunity to acquire works of art of an extraordinary richness and variety from over five hundred years of design. With the diverse offerings encapsulated in this month-long series, *European Decorative Arts Month* promises to offer something for every collector.

**Significant Private Collections Lead *Important English Furniture***

*Important English Furniture & Ceramics* - October 11

Christie's *European Decorative Arts Month* opens with the October 11 sale of ***Important English Furniture & Ceramics***. The sale will present collectors with several significant works from the early to late Georgian periods, pieces from renowned makers such as Thomas Chippendale and Mayhew and Ince, as well as an array of property from a number of important private collections.

From the collection of **Neil and Sharon Phillips** comes an elegant pair of early George III mahogany armchairs attributed to Thomas Chippendale, circa 1760 (estimate: \$300,000-500,000). These chairs are identical in every detail apart from the shape of the back legs to the **Dumfries House** suite with its Chippendale documentation. Following Christie's recent involvement in the acquisition of Dumfries House by The Art Fund, these chairs will no doubt be among the most highly coveted items offered. The basic chair pattern appears to have been amongst the drawings prepared for engraving but not included in Chippendale's seminal pattern book, *The Gentleman & Cabinet-maker's Director*, 1754.

Also amongst the significant private collections offered is property from the Georgetown residence of **Mrs. Marion O. Charles**, one of Washington's most distinguished hostesses. Of note from her collection is a pair of Regency gilt-brass mounted penwork, black and cream painted pier tables, circa 1800, of exceptional quality (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). From the estate of **Reginald F. Lewis** comes a pair of George III giltwood open armchairs, circa 1760-1765 undoubtedly commissioned for one of the grandest interiors of the time (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). A well-known lawyer, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Lewis made headlines in 1987 with his purchase of the international division of Beatrice Foods. At the time of his death in 1993 TLC Beatrice International was the largest African American-owned business in the country. A portion of the proceeds from the sale will benefit the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation which encourages achievement and cultural enrichment within the African American Community.

The sale also includes several important works from the early to late Georgian period, including a pair of George II giltwood torchères, a suite of George II giltwood seat furniture commissioned by the **Earl of Darnley for Cobham Hall in Kent**, and a magnificent George III "pier-commode-table" attributed to Mayhew and Ince, circa 1775-1780 (estimate: \$300,000-500,000).

The ceramics section of the sale offers English porcelain from the Derby, Worcester and Coalport factories, to name but a few. It includes several pieces from important armorial services including The Stowe Service, made in 1813 for the **Duke of Buckingham** and arguably the most important English Regency service ever made (estimate: \$50,000 - 60,000).

### Richness & Variety Underscore Elegant European Offerings

*Important European Furniture, Works of Art, Ceramics & Carpets - October 19*

Christie's sale of **Important European Furniture, Works of Art, Ceramics & Carpets** on October 19 celebrates the richness and variety of European Furniture and Decorative Arts from the 16th to the 19th century. Highlights of the sale include Italian works of great elegance and craftsmanship, including a whimsical chinoiserie lacquer cabinet with the rare and luxurious feature of a gold ground (estimate: \$250,000-400,000) and a magnificent Roman inlaid marble tabletop from the late 16th century (estimate: \$600,000-1,000,000).

The sale features a number of private collections, including property from the estate of **Reginald F. Lewis**. Reflecting Lewis's discerning taste and connoisseurship comes an impressive and richly mounted Louis XV bureau plat attributed to Jean-Pierre Latz (estimate: \$200,000-400,000).

Among the rare works of art in the sale is a pair of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian ivory vases attributed to Nikolai Vereshchagin. Through their amazing delicacy these vases exemplify the extraordinary ability of the Russian carvers of this material (estimate: \$100,000-200,000).

Leading the selection of ceramics in this sale is an exceedingly rare and beautiful Sèvres blue celeste coffee-can and saucer from the ‘service aux camées’ commissioned in 1776 by **Catherine The Great of Russia** (estimate: \$30,000-50,000). A *tour-de-force* of design and manufacturing techniques, the full service was the most elaborate and expensive set ever produced by this maker, taking three years to complete and nearly bankrupting the factory. Nearly all of the original service has been retained by the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

Of Russian taste is an important ormolu-mounted ‘jewelled’ vase and cover of 1780-1782, its decoration related to a set of cups and saucers painted with portraits of Louis XVI, Marie-Antoinette and the “Count and Countess of the North”, the son and daughter-in-law of empress Catherine the Great, three of which are retained in the imperial collections at the palace of Pavlovsk.

Also with royal provenance is a Sèvres green-ground armorial ecuelle, cover and stand of 1813, a gift from **Louis XVIII** to the wife of Ferdinand VII of Spain, the infanta Maria Isabel de Bragança of Portugal, pregnant with her first child, Maria Luisa Isabel. Based on a design of 1811 by Claude Charles Gérard for Empress Marie-Louise on the occasion of the birth of the future King of Rome, only seven examples of this form were ever made, including the present diplomatic gift (estimate: \$70,000-100,000).

### Famed Parisian Gallery Honored in Landmark Sale

*Le Goût Steinitz I* – October 19

Among the “jewels in the crown” this fall season is the three-city sales series of objects and furniture from the famed Parisian antique dealer, Bernard Steinitz. The October 19 kick-off sale in New York will be followed by the November 14 sale in London and the December 6 sale in Paris. Comprising nearly 600 lots, each expressing the acclaimed eye and the love of fine objects for which Steinitz is known, the three sales are expected to realize in the region of \$10 million.

The opening sale in New York, *Le Gout Steinitz I*, will present a carefully edited selection of the finest examples of French craftsmanship and will provide a wonderful showcase for the elegant objects and theatrical richness that define Steinitz’s legendary taste. The sale will offer collectors a variety of treasures - from rare lacquer pieces from the Louis XV and Empire periods, to chic neo-classical pieces of unadorned mahogany, rare sculptural works of art, and spectacular examples of 19th century craftsmanship.

Highlighted among the many rare lacquer pieces is a magnificent Chinese Export black and gilt-lacquer bureau cabinet, circa 1760. One of the richest examples known of Chinese case pieces made for export to the West, this piece is estimated at \$150,000-250,000.

The full theatrical richness of *le goût Steinitz* is also exhibited in a spectacular pair of Venetian mirrors (estimate: \$70,000-100,000). Richly encrusted with colored glass cabochons and

flowers these mirrors combine the most celebrated aspects of Venetian craftsmanship at the height of the rococo period: extravagant carving in wood and intricate glass blowing.

Typifying sumptuous neoclassical design are two spectacular bookcases in mahogany with superb ormolu mounts, originally part of the décor of Joseph Bonaparte's hôtel Marbeuf (estimate \$350,000-500,000). A Louis XVI ormolu-mounted mahogany bureau plat attributed to David Roentgen (estimate: \$150,000-250,000) and a richly mounted Restauration center table from the period of Napoleon III (estimate: \$120,000-180,000) are also of particular note.

Of the wonderful examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century elegance and craftsmanship is a pair of French patinated-bronze, ormolu and porphyry nine-light candelabra (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Known as "les grands faunes", the models for these iconic candelabra have been sought after and admired for more than 200 years. A superb pair of 19<sup>th</sup> century giltwood consoles with rare Roman marble tops of *Breccia di Serravezza* is also among the top highlights (estimate: \$250,000-400,000). And of note among the rare sculptural works of art presented is an important pair of carved marble busts of infant moors (estimate: \$250,000-400,000).

### Fabulous Figures & Flowers Captured in Private Collection of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Meissen

*The Collection of Dr. W. A. Criswell, Sold to Benefit Criswell College - October 25, 10 am*

On October 25, Christie's will offer a collection of 19th century porcelain from the **Collection of Dr. W.A. Criswell**, a renowned pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas for over fifty years, and the founder of Criswell College. The Criswell Collection features over 300 intricately detailed Meissen figures and flower-encrusted wares, including models rarely seen at auction. The collection is exemplary for its quality and range. The breadth of subjects include 18th century gentry to mythological figures, animals, tea-services, and candelabra. Top lots include a pair of Rococo style Armorial vases with a portrait of King Albert of Saxony made to commemorate his 15<sup>th</sup> year on the throne (estimate: \$20,000-30,000), and figures modeled after Kändler and included in orders to the Russian court — *Triumph of Neptune* and *The Parcae* (both estimates: \$7,000-9,000). The Criswell philanthropic vision also sets this collection apart; in keeping with his wishes, the entire auction will be sold without reserve and with all proceeds benefiting the *W.A. Criswell Foundation* which funds Criswell College, founded by Dr. Criswell to educate pastors, missionaries and Christian workers.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century High Style & Exuberant Design

*19<sup>th</sup> Century Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art & Ceramics – October 25*

19<sup>th</sup> century opulence is seen throughout the October 25 sale of **19<sup>th</sup> Century Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art & Ceramics**. Five distinct private collections form the core of this sale, including a group of re-discovered works from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904.

Among the important furniture and decorative arts offerings is a pair of English Louis XIV style ormolu-mounted cut-brass and tortoiseshell-inlaid ebonised 'Boullé' commodes after the model by André-Charles Boullé, by Blake of London, circa 1850 (estimate: \$300,000-500,000); an exquisite bronze and marble régulateur by Millet (estimate: \$150,000-250,000); and a Roman micromosaic table top depicting a group of putti driving a mythological-beast-drawn chariot (estimate \$60,000-80,000). The afternoon session offers an exciting private collection comprising over forty lots of exquisite furniture and decorations supplied by the most celebrated *ébénistes* and *bronziers* of the Gilded Age and includes an impressive Louis XV style ormolu-mounted pedestal attributed to Joseph-Emmanuel Zwiener and sold by Boudet, the renowned Parisian firm, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$20,000-30,000). Inspired by the *bureau du Roi* commissioned by Louis XV, the laurel-festooned and lion-pelt-hung pedestal is not only a mythological celebration of Herculean labors, but also a celebration of the opulent *haut décor* of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Recently re-discovered in Lake Ozark, Missouri, works exhibited at the **Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904** are featured from the Koplak Brown Family Collection. A set of six life-size bronze figures of the Peplophoroi, after the antique, cast by the Fonderia Chiurazzi, Naples, circa 1904 (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) lead the offered collection of bronzes cast by the Fonderia Chiurazzi for The Italian Pavilion at the Exposition. A focal point of François Linke's exhibition stand in St. Louis, his 'Régulateur Louis XV surmonté du motif le Temps' (estimate: \$50,000-100,000) was hailed by critics as Linke's *chef-d'oeuvre* when the model was first exhibited in Paris.

The sale also features a grand selection of exuberant porcelain and pottery, including a focused Parisian Neoclassic collection of approximately 100 pieces of finely painted Vienna style porcelain plates, chargers, cups and vases. Another collection is devoted to the 19th century French revival movement of Bernard Palissy's 16th century rustic ware and features works by the artisans Alfred Renoleau, Léon Brard and Victor Barbizet. Palissy was commissioned to design grottos for the de Medici, and when his work was rediscovered by the French centuries later, these natural forms termed 'rustic ware,' became fashionable. Several exceptional pieces of *pâte-sur-pâte* by Mintons and Sèvres complete the sale, including a pair of Mintons Aesthetic movement celadon vases with a monogram for Lawrence Birks, one of the leading makers of the *pâte-sur-pâte* technique (estimate: \$50,000-70,000).

### Top European Silver from the Renaissance to Today

*Important Silver and Objects of Vertu* – October 26

The October 26 sale of ***Important Silver and Objects of Vertu*** will offer a strong selection of top European silver from the Renaissance period to the present. Leading the sale is an impressive private European collection that offers not only masterpieces of English silver, but an extraordinary selection of objects of vertu, including snuff boxes and zarfs.

The highlight among English silver presented in *Property from a European Collection* is without a doubt the monumental Regency silver-gilt centerpiece candelabrum executed by Paul Storr, London 1816 (estimate: \$600,000-900,000). This highly sculptural piece features a figural group representing Mercury delivering the infant Bacchus to the Nymphs of Nysa, and is

among the finest examples of the extraordinary collaboration of artist, modeler and silversmith – all working under the inspired direction of the royal suppliers, Rundell, Bridge and Rundell. Standing over forty inches in height, this *tour de force* of Regency silver will be among the most highly sought after pieces this season.

*Property from a European Collection* will also present a highly important selection of zarfs. These elaborately ornamented cup holders were used for the ritualized process of serving Turkish coffee during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are today highly prized for their sumptuous decoration. Many of the zarfs offered are set with diamonds, emeralds, and rubies. Among the highlights is a magnificent Swiss gold, diamond and emerald-set zarf from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: \$80,000-120,000).

Sale highlights also include a selection of English silver from the **Estate of Sharon Phillips**, as well as works by Hester Bateman and Paul Storr, among others. Catering to the modern collector is a magnificent Italian silver deer from Buccellati (estimate: \$12,000-18,000) and a number of pieces by **Georg Jensen**, including a Danish silver tea and coffee service with tray (estimate: \$25,000-35,000).

### European Decorative Arts Month – Sale & Viewing Dates

	Viewing
<i>Important English Furniture &amp; Ceramics</i> October 11	Oct. 6-10
<i>Le Goût Steinitz</i> October 19	Oct. 13-18
<i>Important European Furniture, Works of Art, Ceramics &amp; Carpets</i> October 19	Oct. 13-18
<i>19th Century Meissen: The Collection of Dr. W.A. Criswell</i> <i>Sold to Benefit the Criswell College</i> October 25	Oct. 20-24
<i>19th Century Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art &amp; Ceramics</i> October 25	Oct. 20- Oct. 24
<i>Important Silver &amp; Objects of Vertu</i> October 26	Oct. 20- Oct. 25

#### About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

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*Images available on request*

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More information about Christie's *European Decorative Arts Month* sales can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.