

For Immediate Release

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EXCEPTIONAL FRENCH, ITALIAN AND GERMAN FURNITURE TO BE OFFERED IN DECEMBER



Important European Furniture and Sculpture including the Beit Collection of Early Italian Bronzes

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London – Christie's announces the sale of *Important European Furniture and Sculpture including the Beit Collection of Early Italian Bronzes* on 7 December 2006, which will include approximately 300 lots of furniture, sculpture and works of art from the 16th to the 19th century and is expected to realise in the region of £5 million.

The furniture section of the sale includes examples of French, German and Italian craftsmanship of exceptional quality, and is led by a pair of north Italian ivory, stained horn and brass-inlaid ebony, rosewood and fruitwood marquetry and carved walnut console tables by Antonio de Luccio and dating to the last quarter of the 17th century (estimate: £300,000-500,000). Antonio de Luccio is responsible for every known piece of marquetry furniture produced in Venice during the second half of the 17th century, and the present pair is an outstanding example of his superior craftsmanship. The tops are dated 1686 and exude with bold, pictorial scenes inspired by Netherlandish designs of the 16th century.

Further highlights of the furniture section include a Louis XIV cabinet made in Paris *circa* 1675-90 *illustrated above*. A rare example of marquetry furniture from this period, the cabinet is decorated in the style of Pierre Gole (1620-1685) and Andre-Charles Boulle (1642-1732) and is

expected to realise £150,000-250,000. A Roman pietra dura table top executed *circa* 1580 is offered with an estimate of £100,000-200,000, an exemplary cylinder-bureau executed *circa* 1770



by the celebrated Neuwied cabinet maker David Roentgen (1743-1809) and decorated with chinoiserie marquetry carries an estimate of £120,000-180,000 and a set of late Louis XV ormolu-mounted and Chinese lacquer furniture, comprising a commode and a pair of encoignures by Pierre Garnier *circa* 1770 are expected to realise £200,000-300,000. Another French highlight of the sale is a late Louis XV giltwood side table with a scagliola top by Mansiou Chevalier *circa* 1765-70 (estimate: £40,000-60,000), while a South German or Bohemian

marquetry, ebonised cabinet with scagliola panels by Carlos Jacobs *circa* 1720-30 is expected to realise £100,000-150,000 *illustrated left*.

The auction will also offer approximately 130 works of sculpture from the 15th through to the 19th century. Leading this section is *The Beit Collection of Early Italian Bronzes*, a group of 62 works assembled by renowned philanthropist and Golden Age collector Alfred Beit (1853-1906) and his brother Sir Otto Beit, 1st Bt. (1865-1930). This group of 62 bronzes offers a unique glimpse into one of the most exceptional collections of the 19th and early 20th centuries and is led by a bronze figure of a gladiator by one of the leading sculptors of the Renaissance, Andrea del Briosco, called Riccio (1470-1532) (estimate: £700,000-1,000,000) *see separate release*. The sale will also offer a bronze model of Christ crucified alive, 30cm in height, attributed to Giambologna (1529-1608) (estimate: £70,000-100,000). One the greatest sculptors of the Renaissance, Giambologna was appointed to the Medici, the ruling house of Florence who patronised many of the most renowned Western artists including Botticelli, Michelangelo and Raphael. A further highlight is a bronze portraying the infant Christ standing, 15cm high, which is attributed to Antonio Susini (*circa* 1585-1653), the principle assistant of Giambologna, which carries an estimate of £80,000-120,000.



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Images available on request

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Notes to editors:

- Highlights from the sale of *Important European Furniture and Sculpture including the Beit Collection of Early Italian Bronzes* on 7 December will be on view at Christie's Headquarters at 8 King Street, London, SW1Y 6QT from 3 to 6 December. See www.christies.com for further details.

- Christie's Furniture and Sculpture Sales in London realised a total of £37,200,488 million (\$65,993,666/€54,870,720) in 2005 establishing a 70% market share over the nearest rivals.