

CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT – PARIS – WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2022 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

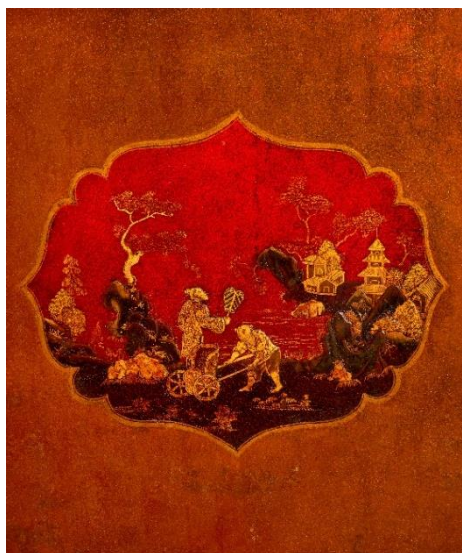
presents

THE EXCEPTIONAL SALE

starring

MARIE-ANTOINETTE

On 22 November, the headline event of Classic Week celebrates
a Queen of France, feminist figure and global pop culture icon



Paris – One year after the auction of her spectacular diamond bracelets at Christie's in Geneva, Marie-Antoinette is set to reign over the Paris *Classic Week* and its four sales devoted to classical arts. On 22 November, *The Exceptional Sale* – the highlight of this series of auctions – will offer two remarkable lots that come directly from the collections of the last Queen of France. The sophistication of a chest of drawers with Chinese-inspired red and gold decoration showcases the young Austrian archduchess' enduring fascination with the Far East. An extremely rare armchair by Georges Jacob – a neoclassical masterpiece – comes directly from the royal bedchamber in Versailles where the other three chairs in the series are now preserved; two lots whose qualities and origins celebrate the fascination that Marie-Antoinette has inspired for over two centuries. The star of Cannes and Hollywood is now returning to our screens in a new series on TV, Canal+... This historical figure with an extraordinary destiny inspires writers and directors, influencers and Instagrammers alike. She is the perfect embodiment of the unique genius of the classical arts, which, far from being forgotten, are constantly coming back into fashion in a process of reinterpretation passed on from generation to generation.

“She wanders the corridors of Versailles in search of a story that escapes her, always mysterious but ultimately living the questions she asks us unanswered.”

Antoine de Baecque, historian

MARIE-ANTOINETTE'S LOVE OF ALL THINGS CHINESE

This chest of drawers, a remarkable example of Marie-Antoinette's furnishings, is both a **technical and artistic triumph**. Unusually, we have evidence of the considerable interest this piece of furniture aroused at the time of its production, thanks to a publication dated 24 July 1770 in the *Gazette du Commerce*. The chest of drawers was **delivered to Marie-Antoinette at the Château de Compiègne in 1770 together with its twin, now at Versailles**. With its gold and vermillion lacquered decoration, this extremely rare chest of drawers, standing on elegant curved legs, is one of the most accomplished examples of the frantic race to master the technique of "Chinese-style" lacquer, known as *vernis Martin*, among the **great Parisian lacquerers**. It was acquired by her private Garde-Meuble from the **famous cabinetmaker Pierre Macret** (estimate: €800,000 – €1,200,000).



A MASTERPIECE OF FRENCH NEOCLASSICAL CARPENTRY



This intricately carved armchair is decorated in the Etruscan style, which was particularly favoured by Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette. It is part of the last order delivered by **Georges Jacob** for the **Queen's bedchamber in Versailles**. In 1788, Marie-Antoinette moved into her new, more private apartments on the ground floor of the Château de Versailles in order to be closer to her children. The Queen wished it to be refurbished in a more modern style for the occasion. She instructed her intendant of the Garde-Meuble to order the chairs from her favourite carpenter, Georges Jacob. During the French Revolution, all the royal furniture was abandoned at the palace and was later sold by the National Convention. In 1793 over 17,000 lots were auctioned off, including this armchair. Three of this series of four chairs have found their way back to Versailles, where they are on public display. The piece offered for sale is the last to remain under private ownership (estimate: €100,000 – €200,000).

CLASSIC WEEK

Art from antiquity to the 20th century

The Exceptional Sale live sale on 22/11 at 4pm

Livres rares et manuscrits [online](#) sale from 9 to 21/11

The Collector: Le Goût Français [online](#) sale from 10 to 23/11

Maîtres Anciens - Peintures, Sculptures, Dessins [online](#) sale from 17 to 28/11

Viewing: from 16 to 21/11/2022

Opening Hours: Every day from 10am to 6pm, except Sunday 20th from 2pm to 6pm
9, Avenue Matignon, 75008 Paris

PRESS CONTACT

pressparis@christies.com

01 40 76 84 08 / 72 73

Transition period royal chest of drawers, bearing the maker's mark of Pierre Macret, circa 1770

Estimate: €800,000 – €1,200,000

Etruscan-style Louis XVI period armchair, bearing the maker's mark of Georges Jacob, supplied for the Queen's small apartment at Versailles, circa 1788

Estimate: €100,000 – €200,000

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About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvador Mundi*](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's *Shot Sage Blue Marilyn*](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*](#), 2019). Christie's is also recognised as a reference for prestigious single owner collections, having auctioned 8 of the 10 most important collections in history.

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Recent innovations at Christie's include groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house ([Beeple's *Everydays, March 2021*](#)), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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