

CHRISTIE'S

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CLASSIC WEEK

Art from antiquity to the 20th century
Christie's London and online auctions
30 June – 14 July



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London – Spanning art from antiquity to the 20th century, Christie's [Classic Week](#) in London returns this Summer with ten live auctions and one online sale. The series will run from 30 June to 14 July, with auction highlights on public view from 1 July.

This season's *Classic Week* sales are led by a remarkable panel *The Entombment of Christ* by [El Greco](#), the intimate size of a cabinet picture expressed with the grandeur and brilliant colouring for which the artist was renowned (estimate: £6,000,000-8,000,000); a landmark re-discovery of the last known pair of portraits by [Rembrandt](#) to remain in private hands, at auction 200 years after they were last seen at Christie's (estimate: £5,000,000-8,000,000); and a discovery: a pioneering early work by [Fra Angelico](#) (estimate: £4,000,000-6,000,000). Further highlights include [Jean-Léon Gérôme](#)'s *First Kiss of the Sun* (estimate: £250,000-£350,000), [J.M.W. Turner](#)'s *Sunrise over the Sea* (estimate: £600,000-800,000), and three drawings from [Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo](#)'s *Punchinello* series from the collection of Sir Brinsley Ford, which have not been on the market for almost a century (with estimates from £80,000 to £300,000). The star sculpture is a bust of Helen of Troy, a masterpiece in marble by [Antonio Canova](#), which was a personal gift from the artist himself over 200 years ago (estimate: £2,500,000-4,000,000).

Paintings and drawings by Old Masters, ancient and classical works of art, furniture, decorative objects and one-of-a-kind innovations feature throughout *Classic Week* in the [Old Masters](#), [Antiquities](#) and [Exceptional](#) sales. The [Valuable Books and Manuscripts](#) sale offers a captivating selection ranging from medieval manuscripts and autograph letters to first-edition books, with a particular focus on science and intellectual history represented by [Charles Darwin](#)'s corrected proofs for a work on insectivorous plants.

Classic Week also features the distinguished collections of [J.E. Safran in Remastered](#), with all lots offered without a reserve price; [Alice and Nikolaus Harnoncourt: Artists Collecting Art](#); [BAYREUTH: A Connoisseur's Collection of English Silver and Gold Boxes](#) and the [Magnificent Library of Norman Robins: Part II](#), presenting a remarkable collection of books with beautiful hand-coloured plates.



4 July at 2.30pm BST | Live Auction

[Old Master and British Drawings and Watercolours](#) is led by a luminous late 1820s watercolour of [Sunrise over the Sea by J.M.W. Turner](#); a wonderfully atmospheric drawing not seen on the market for over 50 years (estimate: £600,000-800,000). The British section of the sale presents 18th and 19th century drawings including a powerful Thomas Gainsborough, *A Young Man reclining on a Bank beneath a Tree, possibly a self-portrait* (estimate: £150,000-250,000), a remarkable early work by John Constable

(estimate: £70,000-100,000), and a charming group of George Romney drawings and sketchbooks (with estimates from £1,000 to £10,000), as well as several 18th century pastels. The Old Master Drawings section of the sale will present a curated selection of fine works on paper spanning the 16th to the 19th century from the Italian, Northern and French schools. Among the highlights are three sheets from [Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo's Punchinello](#) series from the collection of Sir Brinsley Ford, which have not been on the market for almost a century.



5 July at 1pm BST | Live Auction

[Antiquities](#) will showcase a selection of artifacts from past cultures in the Mediterranean region, ranging from Ancient Egypt to the Byzantine period. Among the sale highlights is an Attic red-figured kylix attributed to the painter Makron and signed by Hieron as the potter, dating back to *circa* 490-480 B.C (estimate: £150,000-250,000) and an Apulian red-

figured knob-handled patera in the manner of the Lycurgus painter, *circa* second half of the 4th century B.C. (estimate: £10,000-15,000). Also included in the sale is a rare Attic red-figured statuette-vase depicting an African man and a crocodile. This remarkable piece, attributed to the potter Sotades and the Sotades painter, offers a unique glimpse into the artistic experimentation that occurred within ancient Greek pottery workshops and is considered to be the earliest depiction of a crocodile in all Greek art (estimate: £30,000-50,000). Another highlight of the sale is an impressive Scythian electrum appliqué in the shape of a resting horse (estimate: £80,000-120,000). This exquisite piece demonstrates the exceptional goldsmithing skills of the Scythians, a nomadic people who inhabited the Steppes region during the 1st Millennium B.C. It reflects the importance they placed on equestrian prowess and serves as a testament to their craftsmanship.



6 July at 12pm BST | Live Auction

[The Exceptional Sale](#) showcases a selection of rare masterpieces with important provenances, many Royal and aristocratic, and ranging from Madame du Barry, Louis XVI and Augustus III to Thomas Hope and Alfred Morrison. All areas of Classic Arts are represented: silver, porcelain, gold boxes, French and English furniture, clocks,

antiquities and sculpture, alongside a rare manuscript and scientific and musical instruments. Highlights include the Roman figure of Mercury, 1st century AD (estimate: £650,000-850,000), in elegant contrapost position and true to life; a dramatic letter by [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#) immediately preceding his marriage to Constanze Weber (estimate: £300,000-500,000) and a group of extraordinary clocks including precious examples from China. The tripod tables from the Hope Collection (estimate: £50,000-80,000 and £30,000-50,000); the 'Burghley' toilet service (estimate: £100,000-150,000); the George III commode from the Portsmouth Collection, a masterpiece by Ince & Mayhew (estimate: £300,000-500,000); and the precious casket by Zuluoga (estimate: £150,000-250,000), are some of the extraordinary lots from the greatest English collections, which descended in families for centuries.

Royal furniture and works of art are represented by a vase from the fabled collections of the duc d'Aumont, acquired by Louis XVI in 1782 (estimate: £200,000-300,000); Meissen yellow-ground vases from Schloss Hubertusburg (estimate: £300,000-500,000); 'Hanover' gold travelling couverts (estimate: £30,000-50,000 and £20,000-30,000); a Gobelins tapestry given to Prince Heinrich of Prussia (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and a dressing-table from Windsor Castle (estimate: £30,000-50,000).



6 July at 2:30pm BST | Live Auction

[Old Masters Part I Sale](#) spans six centuries of European art, including a rich array of paintings, sculpture and illuminations across a multitude of themes. Highlights include a remarkable panel of *The Entombment of Christ* by [El Greco](#), the intimate size of a cabinet picture expressed with the grandeur and brilliant colouring for which the artist was renowned (estimate: £6,000,000-8,000,000); the landmark rediscovery of [Rembrandt's](#) *Portrait of Jan Willemsz. van der Pluym and Jaapgen Carels*, both rare and intimate portrayals of relatives of the artist and the last known pair of portraits by

Rembrandt to remain in private hands (estimate: £5,000,000-8,000,000); and a celebration of the iconic Greek mythological figure Helen of Troy, with *Bust of Helen*, a masterpiece in marble created between 1816 and 1817 by the Italian titan of neo-classical sculpture [Antonio Canova](#) (estimate: £2,500,000-4,000,000). It also features a masterpiece of Northern Mannerism in Cornelis van Haarlem's *The Raising of Lazarus* (estimate: £700,000-1,000,000); a phantasmagorical vision of Hell in one of Jan Breughel the Elder's finest examples of his famous Hell landscapes (estimate: £1,500,000-2,500,000); a beautifully elaborate market scene of bountiful produce by Joachim Beuckelaer (estimate: £400,000-600,000); and a completely unpublished and unknown canvas by Michael Sweerts, perhaps his greatest picture on the theme of the artist's studio (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000).



6 July at 4:30pm BST | Live Auction

[Remastered: Old Masters from the Collection of J.E. Safra](#) –

Selling Without Reserve, comprises works of European art from the 16th to the 19th century, with notable highlights including the exquisite *View of the Tiber, Rome*, painted in tempera by Gaspar Vanvitelli (estimate: £150,000-250,000), Laurent de La

Hyre's *Angelica and Medoro* (estimate: £200,000-300,000), and a view of the *Inner Harbour, Macau* by George Chinnery (estimate: £70,000-100,000). The sale also contains an exceptionally fine selection of British works on paper, led by four superb Turner watercolours (with estimates ranging from £50,000 to £250,000), including the artist's view of *Cassiobury Park, Hertfordshire* (estimate: £120,000-180,000), and *The Domleschg Valley, Switzerland* (estimate: £150,000-250,000).



7 July at 10:30am BST | Live Auction

[Old Masters Part II](#) sale returns to a live format this July, offering

a broad selection of paintings and sculpture across all European schools, dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries and at a wide range of estimates. The Italian School is led by a rediscovered painting by Jacopo Bassano, *The angel appearing to the shepherds* (estimate: £60,000-80,000) and a rare re-discovery by

Antonio Solario, called Lo Zingaro (estimate: £80,000-120,000). The Caravaggesque School is well-represented by two masterpieces of tenebrist narration: an enigmatic *Denial of Saint Peter* (estimate: £50,000-70,000) and a *David and Goliath* on an impressive scale (estimate: £20,000-30,000). British portraiture is represented by a strong group of works painted across several centuries, from the early 1600s to Thomas Gainsborough and George Romney, and an excellent group of sporting works by James Seymour, Francis Sartorius and John Frederick Herring, Sr.

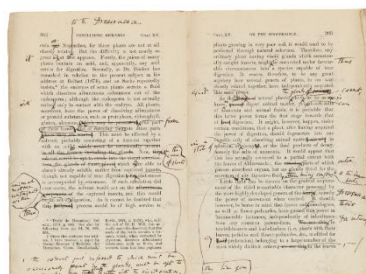


7 July at 11am BST | Live Auction

[BAYREUTH: A Connoisseur's Collection of English Silver and Gold Boxes](#) is a private collection sale comprising 201 lots,

with a further eight lots showcased in *The Exceptional Sale*. The collector's passion for over 40 years, the philosophy and rigour that has driven the creation of the [Bayreuth Collection](#) has been

one of quality, be it for condition, provenance, rarity or even novelty. This is illustrated by a captivating pendant incorporating a rare medallion commissioned by Queen Charlotte (1744-1818) as a gift to close friends who had remained loyal during King George III's illness, to celebrate the King's 'recovery' in 1789 (estimate: £3,000-5,000). Estimates range from £1,200 to £250,000.

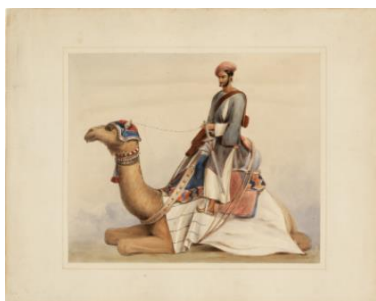


12 July at 10.30am BST | Live Auction

[Valuable Books and Manuscripts](#) will feature visual delights as

well as documents of turning points in human history. Science and intellectual history are represented by corrected proofs by Charles Darwin for a work on insectivorous plants (estimate: £150,000-200,000), an autograph letter by Karl Marx to his French publisher (estimate: £150,000-200,000), a 13th century manuscript of Thomas

Aquinas's *Summa Theologica* (estimate: £30,000-50,000), and books and autographs by Einstein, Descartes, Huygens, Galileo, Kepler and Brahe. Artistic highlights include a series of lavishly-illustrated *Books of Hours* (estimates between £25,000 and £100,000) alongside decorated codices from Ethiopia (estimate: £40,000-60,000), Armenia (estimate: £40,000-60,000) and Siam (estimate: £8,000-12,000), and illuminated leaves from the collection of Alfred and Felicie Scharf (estimates from £700 to £60,000). The illustrated printed books range from Pierre-Joseph Redouté's depictions of Empress Josephine's gardens at Malmaison, published by Étienne-Pierre Ventenat in 1803 (estimate: £40,000-60,000), to Marc Chagall's illustrations for Homer's *Odyssey*, printed in 1975 (estimate: £40,000-60,000). Crossing the boundary between science and visual appeal are a number of important lots of cartography, including atlases by Ortelius, Mercator, Janssonius and Braun and Hogenberg, as well as a fine example of an extremely rare Chinese wall-map of the world: *Complete Map of the Everlasting Great Qing with All under Heaven Unified*, published in Beijing in 1814 (estimate: £50,000-80,000).



13 July at 10am BST | Live Auction

[The Magnificent Library of Norman Bobins: Part Two, The Colourful World](#)

comprises over 300 lots and represents one the world's most comprehensive gatherings of books illustrated by fine hand-coloured and colour-printed plates. Mr. Bobins, of Chicago, began collecting colour-plate books over 40 years ago. Concentrating on the period spanning from the second-half of the

18th century and through the 19th century, the library reflects Mr Bobins' passions, namely history, art and travel, with sporting, satire and military subjects as dominant themes; estimates range from £1,000 to £150,000. The geographical scope of the collection is global, with works illustrating the Ottoman Empire, the Middle East, India and Australia. The publication of travel books with beautiful and enticing illustrations assisted the emergence of a tourism industry, and books can be found in the collection promoting the likes of the Swiss Alps. These in turn, stimulated a demand for books illustrating regional costume and local customs, and there are also many of these in the collection. Variations of topographical books in the form of panoramas of views and cityscapes are also represented, some of them even depicting horse races. This sporting theme forms a large part of the collection, some illustrated with fine original watercolours, and many with important provenances, such as purchases made at the H.R.H. Duke of Gloucester sale at Christie's in 2006.

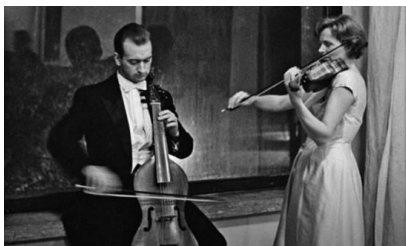


13 July 1pm BST | Live Auction

[British and European Art](#) features a curated selection of pictures and sculpture representing more than 150 years of art history from the heart of Europe. The auction encompasses a range of movements from 19th Century European, Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite & British Impressionist Art, with estimates ranging from

£1,200 to £350,000. Highlights include Jean-Léon Gérôme's finely detailed *The First Kiss of the Sun* (estimate: £250,000-£350,000), George Clausen's *Portrait of a girl* (estimate: £150,000-£250,000) and Arthur Rackham's *The Music of the Stream* (estimate: £25,000-£30,000) alongside a selection of Scandinavian works by Akseli Gallen-Kallela and Harald Slott-Møller, paintings from the Barbizon school, topographical views of Venice and St Ives along with several British

Impressionist pictures. Artists include Gustave Courbet, Sir Alfred Munnings, George Clausen, John Atkinson Grimshaw, Laura and Harold Knight and many more.



30 June 11am - 14 July 11am BST | Online

[Alice & Nikolaus Harnoncourt: Artists Collecting Art](#) is an online sale of 50 select works which opens for bidding on 30 June until 14 July, alongside a group of Old Master pictures and illuminated manuscripts that will be offered from their collection in the *Old Masters Part I Sale* on 6 July. A renowned classical violinist (Alice, 1930-2022) and a celebrated conductor and musicologist (Nikolaus, 1929-2016), the [Harnoncourts](#) were a remarkable artistic duo whose lives were dedicated to music and art. Intellectually curious, collecting was a shared passion that lasted the entirety of their sixty-three year marriage. Providing a window into the very private world of these celebrated public figures within Classical Music, the works being offered span fine and decorative European art from over five centuries, comprising Old Master paintings, early European furniture and sculpture, and ceramics. Notable provenances include the Rothschild family, Alfred Cortot, Yves Saint Laurent and J.P. Morgan.

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- Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator 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 [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.
- Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's Everydays](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. 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 by reducing our carbon emissions by 50% and pledging to be net zero 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.*

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