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CHRISTIE'S EUROPEAN DECORATIVE ARTS MONTH TOTALS \$32 MILLION

Rich Variety of Rare Treasure & Exceptional Collections Underscore the Vibrancy of the Traditional Collecting Categories



New York – Christie's is pleased to announce that *European Decorative Arts Month*, a month-long celebration comprising sales, public exhibitions and special events, realized \$32 million. This season's series demonstrated the vibrancy of the traditional collecting categories, with buyers around the world responding enthusiastically to the range of treasures offered that together encapsulated the richness and extraordinary variety of nearly 500 years of design.

"With the market shifting towards modernism, interest in the traditional collecting areas of the decorative arts nevertheless remains remarkably strong. The lectures held during the month leading up to the sales, on Piranesi, Marie Antoinette, and Antique Silver, were standing room only. It was particularly gratifying to see that two of the strongest sales were in the traditional fields of English Furniture and Silver," said Will Strafford, Head of European Furniture & Decorative Arts in New York.



The highlight auction of the series was the first in a three-city series of sales of Important Furniture and Works of Art from Steinitz, the renowned Parisian antiques gallery. Opening in New York on October 19th, *Le Goût Steinitz I* presented a selection of the finest examples of French craftsmanship and provided a wonderful showcase for the elegant objects and theatrical richness that define Steinitz's legendary taste, while offering a selection carefully edited to appeal to the American collector.

Totaling \$5.5 million in just 79 lots, this first installment of the three-part series marked a strong opening, and continued success is expected in Paris on November 14 and London on December 6.

Each of the six *European Decorative Arts Months* sales witnessed exceptional results for exceptional works, with strong prices across collecting categories. The ***Important English Furniture & Ceramics*** sale on October 11 presented several significant and well-formed collections, including that of Neil and Sharon Phillips which offered perhaps the star lot of the sale: an elegant pair of early George III mahogany armchairs attributed to Thomas Chippendale, circa 1760. Identical in nearly every detail to the Dumfries House suite, these chairs were among the most sought after items in the sale and were sold to an American private collector for \$769,000.



Other important results in the series – which further demonstrate the breadth of items offered in these varied sales - include the spectacular pair of Russian ivory vases which led the October 19 sale of ***Important European Furniture, Works of Art, Ceramics & Carpets*** and more than doubled their high estimate to realize \$421,000. The October 25 sale of ***19th Century Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art & Ceramics*** saw strong response to the fresh selections offered, resulting in the several private collections offered selling well in excess of their high estimates. Noteworthy results from this sale include the pair of Louis XIV style ‘Boullé’ commodes by Blake of London which sold to an American private collector for \$577,000. The ***Collection of 19th century Meissen from Dr. W.A. Criswell***, also sold on October 25, incited enthusiastic bidding with its no reserve lots and tax-exempt status. The sale will benefit Criswell College and was 100% sold and exceeded its high estimate by over 25%.

And closing out the week with a bang was October 26 sale ***Important Silver & Objects of Vertu*** which with a total of over \$6 million marks the highest total ever achieved at Christie’s New York for a various owner silver sale. The sale struck a chord with the market and saw keen collector interest at all price levels and from all corners of the globe, reflecting the international market demand for the best quality silver, gold boxes, and other objects of vertu, material which is increasingly difficult to find.

Sept 27	<i>European Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art & Tapestries, Including a San Francisco Apartment Designed by Valerian Rybar & Jean-François Daigre</i>	sold: \$3,904,975	lots sold: 282
Oct 11	<i>Important English Furniture & Ceramics</i>	sold: \$6,428,200	lots sold: 193
Oct 19	<i>Le Goût Steinitz I</i>	sold: \$5,501,713	lots sold: 79
Oct 19	<i>Important European Furniture, Works of Art, Ceramics & Carpets</i>	sold: \$4,141,288	lots sold: 189
Oct 25	<i>19th Century Meissen: The Collection of Dr. W.A. Criswell</i>	sold: \$926,450	lots sold: 209
Oct 25	<i>19th Century Furniture, Sculpture, Works of Art & Ceramics</i>	sold: \$5,064,075	lots sold: 218
Oct 26	<i>Important Silver & Objects of Vertu</i>	sold: \$6,077,350	lots sold: 264