

For Immediate Release
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FIGHTING HIV AND AIDS WITH AWARD WINNING CERAMICS AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON



Lot 84

Two pairs of Bird salt and pepper pots
Estimate: £200-300

Lot 54

A Giraffe vase
Estimate: £300-500

Lot 79

Six Zebra egg cups and a bowl
Estimate: £300-400

Ardmore Ceramic Art
Sunday 14 January 2007, 12.30pm
Christie's South Kensington

South Kensington – Christie's will be brightening up the January gloom with its second sale devoted exclusively to the work of South Africa's award-winning *Ardmore Ceramics Studio* on Sunday 14 January 2007. Consisting of 169 lots of exuberant and quirky ceramics, the proceeds from the sale will go towards paying the studio's artists, many of whom are affected by HIV and AIDS. So with a weekend sale and estimates starting from as little as £200, this is the ideal opportunity for a spot of guilt-free retail therapy.

A dazzling array of ceramics feature in the sale, including candlesticks, tureens, teapots, bowls, plates, vases and urns in a variety of shapes and sizes. Each is modeled on an engaging animal, from laid back zebras, agile leopards and graceful birds to reclining hippos, noble elephants and cheeky monkeys! All the pieces are guaranteed to enrich any room or interior style with a splash of colour and a touch of humour.

Ardmore Ceramics Studio was founded by artist Fèe Halsted-Berning in 1985 who named the pottery after her home in the Champagne Valley at the heart of the breathtaking Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa. After studying art and ceramics at the University of Natal, the distinctive Ardmore style was conceived by Fèe who started out by creating tiles, disguising any cracks with an applied bird or animal. Inspired by the spectacular natural landscapes and wildlife around her, Fèe began creating increasingly ambitious ceramic works, which in turn lead her to training and employing an assistant from the local community. The fantasy of Ardmore and the sheer fun of the finished pieces not only attracted the international art world but also drew numerous local Zulu people, many of whom Fèe discovered to be creative geniuses.

During the early 1990s, South Africa was feeling the force of not only a poor economy and education system, but also the beginnings of an AIDS pandemic; and the Ardmore Ceramics Studio found itself to be in the most highly affected region of the country. To counteract this, Fèe began training local Zulu people, providing them with materials and equipment, a place in which to work and a guaranteed market. They were then able to use their income to support their families, pay for medical treatments and take on responsibilities for the well-being of their relatives.

The flamboyant ceramics created by these gifted Zulu artists have captured the attention of collectors worldwide. Many awards have been won by the Ardmore Ceramics Studio's artists, particularly as a result of Christie's South Kensington's 2003 exhibition and inaugural Ardmore Ceramics Studio sale in January 2004.

For further information please visit
www.christies.com or www.ardmoreceramics.co.za
Images available on request

CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3LD
Nearest Underground: South Kensington

Public Enquiries:

020 7930 6074 / www.christies.com

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9am – 7.30pm, Tuesday – Friday: 9am – 5pm
Weekends: 10am – 4pm

Christie's 20th-century Decorative Art & Design department at South Kensington retains a proud tradition of pioneering new sale categories such as Aesthetic Movement, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Moorcroft and Liberty & Co. and has held specialist Arts & Crafts sales since 2000. Christie's is the only auction house to hold specialist Clarice Cliff sales and holds the world record auction price for an item of Clarice Cliff at auction - £40,000 in May 2003. However, the top price achieved by Christie's South Kensington Decorative Arts Department was £94,850 for a Christopher Dresser teapot in July 2004. Christie's 20th-century Decorative Art & Design department has eighteen sales this year, including Modern Design and Vintage Posters.