

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER 100 YEARS OF GEORG JENSEN

Magnificent Silver from the Rowler Collection January 19

New York, NY – Christie's will offer the first auction exclusively devoted to Georg Jensen silver, on January 19 at Christie's Rockefeller Center. The collection, previously housed in a country estate in Northamptonshire, England, is the largest and most comprehensive collection of Jensen silver known. The auction celebrates the firm's 100th anniversary and will offer an exceptional selection of groundbreaking designs from 1904 to the present. Collectors will be presented with a rare opportunity to view the full range of Jensen's work and the unique chance to acquire both popular designs and one-of-a-kind objects that have made Jensen silver so revered for a century.

From ornamentally embellished pieces to sleek modern designs, approximately 800 objects will be on the auction block and will include a selection of his finest centerpieces, candelabra, candlesticks, chandeliers, electric lamps, plates, wine-related items, soup tureens and flatware. The collection, which represents styles from the Arts & Crafts, Art Deco and Modernist periods, illustrates Jensen's ability to remain at the forefront of 20th century design.

Georg Jensen (1866-1935), known for his superior craftsmanship, was trained as a sculptor and silversmith and was deeply influenced by the Art Nouveau and Arts & Crafts traditions. Inspired by nature, he incorporated many floral motifs into his work. His early and beloved blossom and grape patterns have become icons of 20th century design and best represent his excellence in sculptural decoration. This ornamentation is seen on a silver centerpiece compote of 1919 (estimate: \$10,000-15,000) and a silver flatware service in the blossom pattern (estimate: \$20,000-30,000). A pair of covered wine coolers with pinecones and berries also of 1919 (estimate: \$50,000-70,000) reflects his

love of nature. The grape motif is used abundantly in a pair of silver five-light candelabra, 1945-1977 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000), creating an effect of great richness. A rarely seen form in silver is a staggering seven-light chandelier with berries and leaf-scrolled branches, dated 1920 (estimate: \$150,000-250,000).

Jensen Designers

Not only was Georg Jensen a genius of silver design in his own right but also he employed designers whose avant-garde approaches ensured the firm's legendary status as the leader of 20th century silver design. Jensen was committed to supporting and respecting his designers' artistic motivation and inspiration, and credited them by allowing them to mark their initials on the bases of the silver pieces.

One of the major creators who was key to the firm's continued success was the artist Johan Rohde (1866-1935). His most famous design and the most successful of all Jensen flatware, the acorn pattern, is included in the sale with an extensive silver table service for eighteen (estimate: \$25,000-35,000). Contrasting Jensen's work, Rohde was more restrained and sparse in his use of ornament. Representative of Rohde's more "clean" design is the iconic silver water pitcher of an elongated baluster form, designed in 1920 (estimate: \$5,000-8,000).

Jensen's brother-in-law, Harald Nielsen (1892-1977), joined the firm as an apprentice in 1909 and remained until the 1960s. An accomplished draftsman, he bridged Jensen and Rohde's style and often provided finished drawings for the silversmiths. His design philosophy relied on clarity and simplicity as seen by the striking pair of tubular six-light candelabra, 1933-1944 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) and pair of rare and dazzling standing five-light candelabra, circa 1940 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Nielsen was also known for his stylized and modern pyramid pattern flatware (estimate: \$20,000-30,000), with its geometric and stepped motifs.

Sigvard Bernadotte (1907-2002), the son of the King of Sweden and brother to Queen Ingrid of Denmark, joined the firm in 1930 and was the first designer to work completely in the modernist style. Exceptionally crafted and characteristic of Bernadotte's taste for geometric shapes is a silver cocktail shaker, 1945-1977 (estimate: \$4,000-6,000) cleverly presented as a flat-iron form with an ebony handle and a pair of caviar canisters, 1931 (estimate: \$1,000-1,500), one of his earliest designs for the firm.

Henning Koppel (1918-1981), a trained sculptor, took the firm in a new direction designing in the Scandinavian modern style during the post-war period, an especially creative time for the firm. His belief that silver should have rhythm and movement resulted in his well-known fish-dish centerpieces. The sale offers an incredibly sleek silver centerpiece eel-form platter and cover, 2000

(estimate: \$50,000-80,000), and another, with fish-lip like handles, 1990 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000). Devoid of all surface decoration, these examples are purely sculptural, in effect.

More contemporary designs are offered by Vernor Panton (1926-1999), a well-known modernist, architect and designer. His innovative silver centerpiece, 1999 (estimate: \$8,000-12,000) resembles a crumpled piece of paper. Another Jensen contributor is Allan Scharf (b.1945) who trained in Jensen's apprenticeship program and carefully studied the works of Koppel. His sense of balance is captured in an asymmetrical silver centerpiece of 1993 (estimate: \$10,000-15,000).

Auction: 100 Years of Georg Jensen
Magnificent Silver from The Rowler Collection January 19 at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza January 14 -18

Christies.com: *The sale of 100 Years of Georg Jensen: Magnificent Silver from the Rowler Collection will be featured on www.christies.com. All lots in the sale can be viewed online, along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®.*

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Images available upon request

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