

For Immediate Release
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Press Release

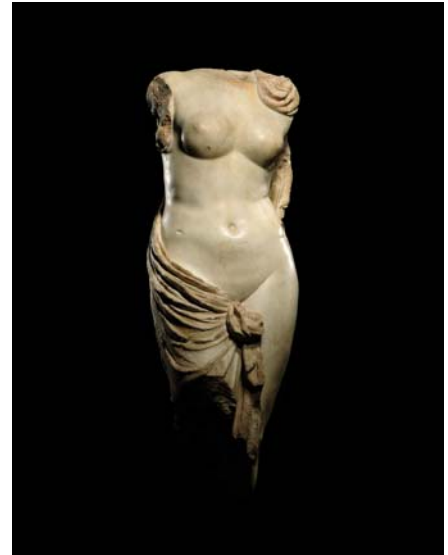
CHRISTIE'S

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IMPORTANT ANTIQUITIES SALE TO BE HELD AT CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON IN APRIL



South Kensington –As part of the specialised sales on offer in South Kensington, Christie's is proud to announce the upcoming *Antiquities* sale, to be held on 29 April 2010. The first Christie's sale composed by Georgiana Aitken since her appointment as head of the Antiquities department in November 2009 is set to excite international collectors and connoisseurs as well as institutions with many important, rare and museum quality pieces. The sale will comprise approximately 350 lots, including sculpture, vases and bronzes as well as a selection of ancient jewellery. Estimates range from £500 to £400,000 and the sale is expected to realize in the region of £2.5-3.5 million.

Leading the sale is an important Roman marble statue of a young satyr with a panther from the late 2nd-early 3rd century A.D. (estimate: £400,000-600,000) *illustrated above left*, formerly in the collection of the celebrated and controversial French novelist, diplomat and defender of gay rights Roger Peyrefitte (1907-2000). An outspoken and flamboyant character, Peyrefitte courted scandal, and in his book *Les Clés de Saint Pierre*, openly attacked the Vatican and Pope Pius XII. Acquired by Peyrefitte in the 1960s and published in his collection catalogue, *Un Musée de l'amour*, this statue is one of a handful of known examples after the 4th century B.C. original by Praxiteles, the most famous example of which is the 'leaning satyr' in the Museo Capitolino, Rome.

Another sculpture featured in the sale which shows influences from the work of Praxiteles is a beautifully sculpted Roman marble torso of Aphrodite, *circa* 1st century A.D., formerly in a 19th Century Swiss private collection (estimate: £180,000-220,000) *illustrated above right* – the goddess was adapted from the semi-draped 'Arles' Aphrodite of the 4th century B.C. The depression on her left hip suggests the presence of a strut to hold her left arm which would have come across the front of her body - a similar pose to that of the Townley Aphrodite now on display in the British Museum, London.

Christie's is also delighted to be auctioning The Gil and Myrna Goldfine Collection of 4th Century B.C. South Italian vases. Formed over the last thirty years, the fifty-eight lots included in the sale are noteworthy for their uniqueness and charm. One example from the collection, the fish plate (estimate: £4,000-5,000) *illustrated above centre*, is so named because of the usual decoration of this type of vessel which includes various fish and marine creatures. The small depression in the centre of the plate is designed to hold oil or sauce.

Further important works featured in the sale include a Roman marble bust of a satyr, *circa* 1st-2nd century A.D. which was previously part of the famed Castellani Collection (estimate: £80,000-120,000); a Roman marble portrait bust of a boy, *circa* A.D. 100-130 (estimate: £80,000-120,000); an Attic red-figure vase by the Berlin Painter, *circa* 470 B.C. (estimate £70,000-90,000); an Achaemenid rod-formed glass kohl vessel, *circa* 5th-4th century B.C. (estimate: £8,000-10,000); a Roman snake-thread green glass beaker from the Rhineland (estimate: £60,000-80,000), a Greek agate ram's head (estimate: £40,000-60,000) and a private European collection of Mycenaean pottery and Greek bronzes.

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High resolution images, further information and interviews available upon request

<http://www.christies.com/departments/antiquities/>

Notes to Editors:

Public Viewing: Saturday 24 April: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 25 April: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Monday 26 April: 9.00am - 7.30pm
Tuesday 27 April: 9.00am – 5.00pm
Wednesday 28 April: 9.00am – 5.00pm

Auction: Thursday, 29 April at 10.30am

Ecatalogue: Available online from 1 April 2010 at www.christies.com/calendar (Sale 5487)

Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is the busiest saleroom in the UK, annually holding over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots. The recently refurbished saleroom facilities and exhibition spaces provide one of the most accessible, well lit and welcoming sales arenas in the world, consistently attracting over 200,000 visitors a year. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside monthly Sunday sales of single-owner collections, and specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category. Every lot is beautifully illustrated in a large scale magazine-style catalogue and in an online e-catalogue. Christie's South Kensington appeals to a worldwide audience – in 2009 bidders originated from over 50 countries, with around 20% of bidders taking part in auctions from the comfort of their own home or office, using Christie's unique online bidding facility, Christie's LIVE™.

CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON
85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD
OPENING SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
Monday: 9.00am – 7.30pm
Tuesday – Friday: 9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10.00am - 4.00pm

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Prices do not include buyers' premium