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WORKS OF ART FROM:

THE FORMER JAMES HOOPER COLLECTION
ROGER BEDIAT COLLECTION
THE FORMER PAUL GUILLAUME COLLECTION
LEONHARD ADAM COLLECTION
'LA KORRIGANE' EXPEDITION

Art Africain et Océanien
15 juin 2010

Paris – Christie's is pleased to announce its 15 June 2010 sale of African and Oceanic art. The African Art section includes an important Kongo/Yombe figure from the former James Hooper collection, also a rare Baule figure from the Ivory Coast, a selection of gold from the Roger Bédiat Collection and a group of works from the former Paul Guillaume Collection. The Oceanic Art section features items from the Collection of Leonhard Adam (1891-1960) and a selection of works from 'La Korrigane' expedition in the late 1930's.

African Art Section



Leading our highlights is a magnificent Kongo/Yombe power figure. The figure represents one of the most important Kongo power figures to come to auction in recent years and is remarkable for its scale and stance, for the exceptionally beautiful and supple treatment of the facial features. Formerly part of the James Hooper collection, he was one of the most important collectors of African, Oceanic and Native American art in the 20th century. Among the many iconic works that herald from his collection, this is certainly one of the most important African works of art. It was acquired by the present owner in 1976 from one of the series of Christie's legendary sales of Hooper's collection which took place from 1976 through 1990. The piece is estimated between 400,000 and 600,000 euros.

An overall very strong offering, our African section is characterized by the particular breadth and overall quality of works from the Ivory Coast.

This is lead by one of the most important Baule figures to come to the market, a rare and important Baule seated male figure (estimate: €350,000-450,000). There is only one other of related quality by the same master carver which was formerly in the Pierre Vérité Collection sold in 2006. Figures of this considerable age and overall quality are extremely rare. The figure exerts all of the most highly regarded attributes among the Baule – beautiful lines, grace and define the facial features coupled with a noble posture and muscular definition of the body.



A selection of Baule gold from the Roger Bédiat is part of this fine selection, amongst them a golden mask pendent (estimate: €3.000-5.000). Bédiat was a collector who lived and worked in the Ivory Coast in the 1920's and 1930's.

A group of works from the famous collection of Paul Guillaume are also part of this offering from the Ivory Coast. The famous modern art dealer, who was a champion of Modigliani, for example, is largely credited with creating the language of African art as 'art' today. The masks and heddle pulleys were all acquired at the 1965 sale of the Guillaume collection in Paris and remained in the family of the current owner.

The Oceanic Art Section



The sale also offers a fine selection of Oceanic works of art from the Collection of Leonhard Adam (1891- 1960). Included is a fine and rare Vanuatu, possibly Pentecost Islands, mask. This expressive and volumetric mask is an example of a small corpus of masks, whose precise function is unknown, from Vanuatu all dating to the 19th century and earlier (estimate: €60,000-90,000). Adam was a renowned anthropologist who was trained in law as well. He fled from his native Berlin, Germany to escape the Nazis in 1936 only to then be deported from England to Australia in 1940 where he was interned along with other German academics and artists. Upon his release, he remained in Australia and taught at the University of Melbourne.

From the overall very strong selection of Oceanic works of art, we will be presenting two works of art collected on the famous 'La Korrigane' expedition which took place from 1934-36. Organized by a group of young French adventurers, they set out on what was one of the last private expeditions of its type and acquired some 2,800 works of art, many of which were subsequently accessioned to the Musée de L'Homme, Paris. This expedition was documented as part of an important exhibition on 'La Korrigane' organized by the Musée de L'Homme under the direction of Christian Coiffier (2001). The present piece shows a lower Sepik River, Singrin village, twin figure - estimated €80,000 to €120,000.



Sale : 15 June 2010 at 3 pm

Viewing : 11, 12 and 14 June (10 am to 6pm) 13 June (2pm to 6pm), 15 June (10am to 12am)

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