

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S**

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# ITALIAN VILLAS

## THE COLLECTION OF SANDRO AND LIDIA ORSI

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### PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF AN ARISTOCRATIC LOMBARD FAMILY



THE COLLECTION OF SANDRO AND LIDIA ORSI, CA' MERA, VARESE



PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF AN ARISTOCRATIC LOMBARD FAMILY  
Christie's South Kensington, 19 July 2012

**South Kensington** – Christie's is delighted to announce the sale of the *Collection of Sandro and Lidia Orsi, Ca' Mera, Varese* and of the *Property from the Collection of an Aristocratic Lombard Family*, to be offered at auction together in the London, South Kensington saleroom on 19 July.

Both collections comprise a wide range of decorative and fine arts representing their respective owners' eclectic taste. The works of art offered are characterized by a dash of dramatic fantasy, with the homes they adorned having been decorated to exude a certain theatrical flavour. Highlights include an 18<sup>th</sup> century North Italian giltwood and silvered overmantel mirror (estimate: £30,000-40,000), and a George III ormolu-mounted tortoiseshell veneered striking and musical eight-day table clock (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Further lots spanning several centuries are offered with estimates ranging from £400 to £40,000.

## THE COLLECTION OF SANDRO AND LIDIA ORSI, CA' MERA, VARESE

Regarded as one of the most beautiful homes in Lombardy, Ca' Mera, the country house of Sandro and Lidia Orsi was filled with beautiful objects from many different epochs. A renowned antiquarian and tastemaker from Milan, over his lifetime Sandro Orsi collected a very selective group of furniture, paintings, works of art and natural history specimens. Sandro and his wife Lidia revived the Renaissance and Baroque character of the house and instilled their own unique vision into the interiors, which culminated with the creation of a *Kunst* – or *Wunderkammer*.

*“I have never seen such an example of poetical taste”*, Sir John Pope-Hennessy said after visiting the Orsi house.







### HIGHLIGHTS:

	<p><i>A North Italian giltwood and silvered overmantel mirror</i> Lombardy, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Estimate: £30,000-40,000</p>
	<p><b>Andrea Domenico Remps</b> (active in Venice and Verona, second half 17<sup>th</sup> century) <i>A trompe l'oeil of a picture frame</i>, a painting, the neck of a viol, with a book, a drawing, a bow and musical scores on a ledge; and <i>A trompe l'oeil of a painting</i> partly covered by a red curtain, with books and letters on a ledge, and a drawing of an old man Estimate: £15,000-20,000</p>
	<p><i>A north Italian red-painted and ebonised table</i> First half 17<sup>th</sup> century Estimate £ 12,000-15,000</p>
	<p>Attributed to <b>Antonio Montauti</b> <i>A circular marble portrait relief of Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499)</i> circa 1720 Estimate: £15,000-25,000</p>
	<p><b>Circle of Romolo Di Francesco Ferrucci</b> <i>An Italian sandstone figure of a seated bound</i> Florence, 1<sup>st</sup> half 17<sup>th</sup> century Estimate: £15,000-20,000</p>
	<p><i>A set of six North Italian walnut dining chairs</i> Lombardy, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Estimate £ 15,000-25,000</p>

## THE PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF AN ARISTOCRATIC LOMBARD FAMILY

A further collection will be offered from an aristocratic Italian family. Located in the Brianza countryside and occupied by ancestors of the present owners since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, their magnificent house witnessed gatherings of artists and intellectuals throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The current occupants have modernized and embellished the interiors to their taste, whilst also respecting the history that surrounds them. Featuring a wide range of works of art spanning from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, this private collection will delight connoisseurs with its character, quality and variety.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

	<p><i>A George III ormolu-mounted tortoiseshell veneered striking clock and musical eight-day table clock of small size</i> Marwick Markham, London, circa 1765 Estimate: £20,000-30,000</p>
	<p>Attributed to <b>Ludovico Mazzanti</b> <i>The Madonna with the Instruments of the Passion</i> Estimate: £12,000-18,000</p>
	<p><i>A South Italian giltwood console table</i> 17<sup>th</sup> century, probably Sicily Estimate: £10,000-15,000</p>
	<p><b>Veronese School, 17<sup>th</sup> Century</b> <i>The Holy Trinity adored by angels</i> Estimate: £6,000-8,000</p>
	<p><i>A Venetian latticinio tazza or drinking vessel</i> circa 1580-1600 Estimate: £6,000-8,000</p>
	<p><i>A South Arabian alabaster male head</i> 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. / 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. Estimate: £4,000-6,000</p>



*High resolution images and further information available upon request  
Complete catalogue available online at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) or via the Christie's iPhone app*

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**THE COLLECTION OF SANDRO AND LIDIA ORSI, CA' MERA, VARESE**



**PROPERTY FROM THE COLLECTION OF AN ARISTOCRATIC LOMBARD FAMILY**

**Auction:**

19 July 2012, 10.30am

**Viewings:**

14 July, 11am - 5pm

15 July, 11am - 5pm

16 July, 9am - 7.30pm

17 July, 9am - 5pm

18 July, 9am - 5pm

**Ecatalogue:** The full catalogue will be available to view online from Saturday 16 of June at [www.christies.com/calendar](http://www.christies.com/calendar)

**Christie's South Kensington**

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from £300. Interiors sales dedicated to home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Film Posters, Pop Memorabilia, Antiquities, Jewellery, 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, among others. In 2011 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million.

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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