

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

April 3, 2012

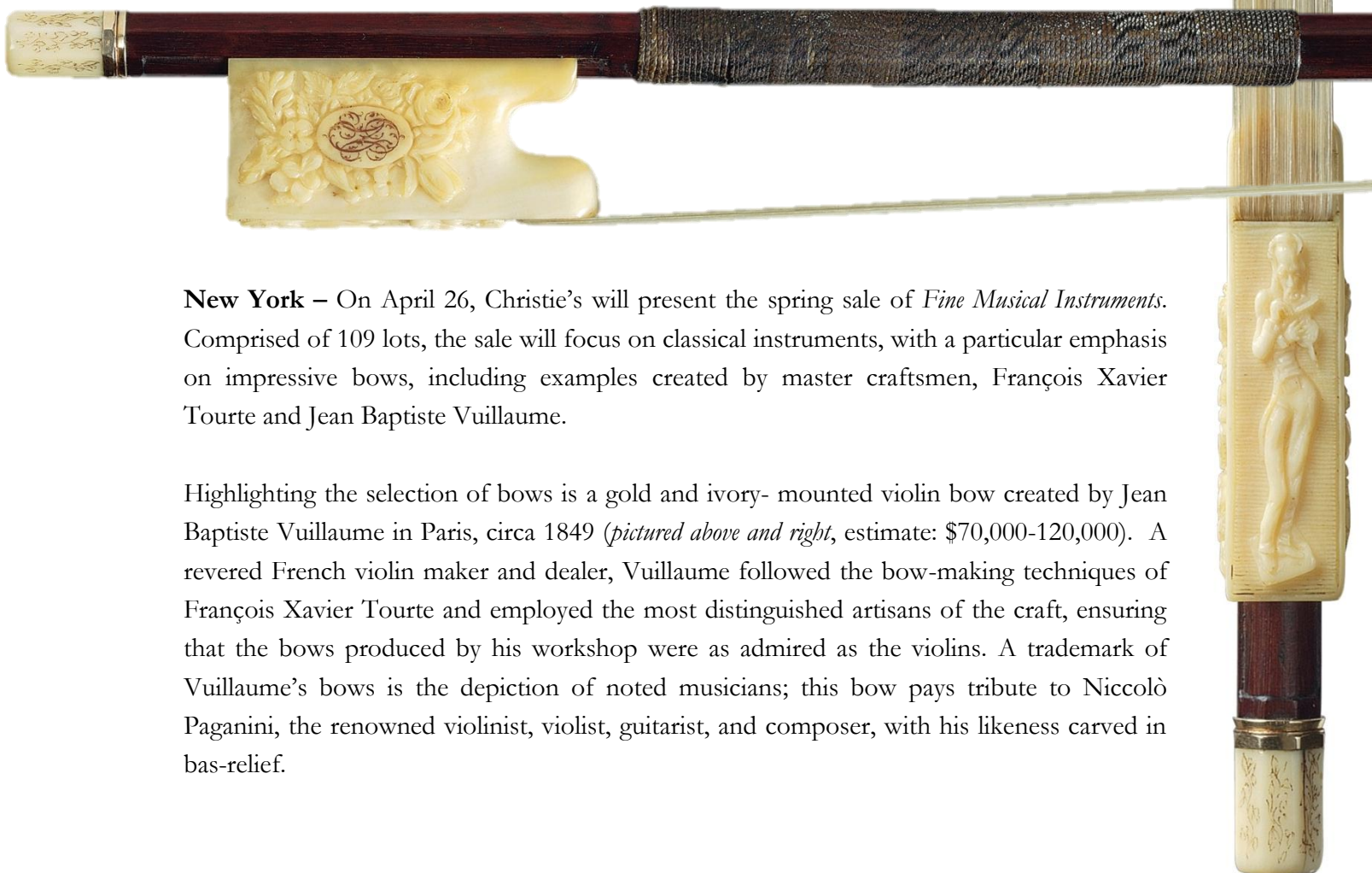
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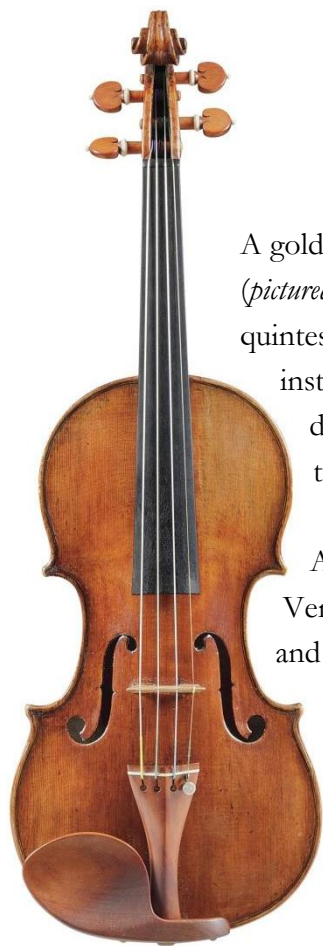
THE ARTISTRY OF THE BOW

CHRISTIE'S FINE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS SALE ON APRIL 26

New York – On April 26, Christie's will present the spring sale of *Fine Musical Instruments*. Comprised of 109 lots, the sale will focus on classical instruments, with a particular emphasis on impressive bows, including examples created by master craftsmen, François Xavier Tourte and Jean Baptiste Vuillaume.

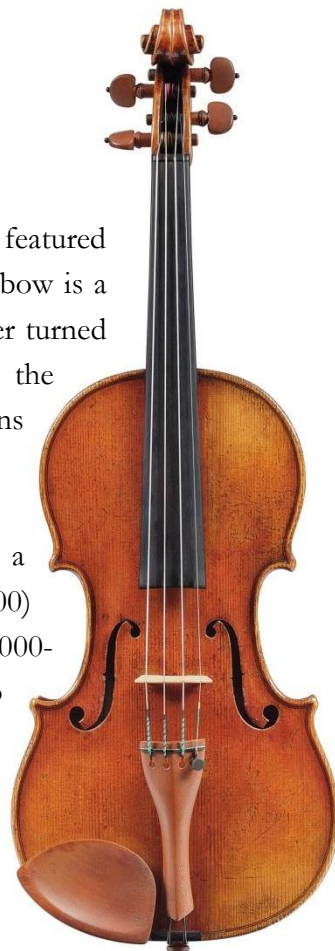
Highlighting the selection of bows is a gold and ivory- mounted violin bow created by Jean Baptiste Vuillaume in Paris, circa 1849 (*pictured above and right*, estimate: \$70,000-120,000). A revered French violin maker and dealer, Vuillaume followed the bow-making techniques of François Xavier Tourte and employed the most distinguished artisans of the craft, ensuring that the bows produced by his workshop were as admired as the violins. A trademark of Vuillaume's bows is the depiction of noted musicians; this bow pays tribute to Niccolò Paganini, the renowned violinist, violist, guitarist, and composer, with his likeness carved in bas-relief.





A gold and tortoiseshell-mounted violin bow by François Xavier Tourte will also be featured (*pictured below*, estimate: \$150,000-250,000). Created in Paris, circa 1820-1825, this bow is a quintessential example of the form revolutionized by Tourte. A French clockmaker turned instrument craftsman, Tourte modernized the structure of the bow to meet the demands of the changing musical styles of the 19th century, allowing musicians to play more varied repertoires in larger venues.

A varied selection of stringed instruments will also be presented, including a Venetian violin by Domenico Montagnana, circa 1740 (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) and a Mantuan violin by Pietro Giovanni Guarneri (*pictured left*, estimate: \$250,000-350,000). A French violin by Nicolas Lupot, known as the *ex-spohr*, is also featured (*pictured right*, estimate: \$60,000-80,000). An instrument with noteworthy provenance, the *ex-Spohr* is traditionally believed to have once been the primary instrument of German violinist, composer, and conductor Ludwig Spohr.



An exceptional woodwind instrument offered in the sale is a five-keyed boxwood clarinet by Carl Augustin Grenser, one of the greatest woodwind makers of the 18th century German School (*pictured page 3*, estimate: \$10,000-15,000). In addition to being a talented craftsman, Grenser was also an accomplished musician. His surviving instruments are revered for their exceptional workmanship as well as their intonation and splendid tone.

Additional highlights include a classical guitar by Antonio Emilio Pascual Viudes from Buenos Aires, 1924 (estimate: \$15,000-25,000), a flamenco guitar by Domingo Estesos from Madrid, 1925 (estimate: \$3,000-5,000), and another classical guitar by Manuel Velazquez from New York, 1966 (estimate: \$5,000-7,000).





Auction: Fine Musical Instruments

Thursday, 26 April 2012

Viewing: Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza

21-25 April 2012

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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Images available on request

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