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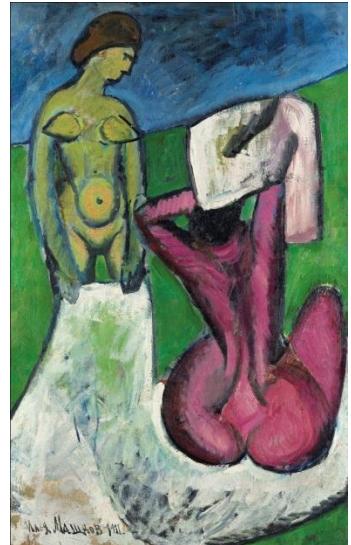
AN AVANT-GARDE MASTERPIECE BY ARISTARKH LENTULOV & RARE FABERGÉ[®] WITH ROYAL & IMPERIAL PROVENANCE

LEAD THE SALE OF **IMPORTANT RUSSIAN ART** ON 25 NOVEMBER

London – Christie's is pleased to announce its sale of Important Russian Art, taking place on 25 November, which will feature 424 impressive works of art. The sale is led by important pictures ranging from monumental views of the Russian landscape to exquisite early 20th century works on paper by artists such as Zinaida Serebriakova, Alexandre Benois and Sergei Chekhonin. It is further highlighted by over 45 works by Fabergé, including important pieces from the Estate of His Royal Highness the Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester KG., KT., KP.; pieces of significant 18th century Russian silver, and a rare selection of porcelain, including exceptional military plaques.

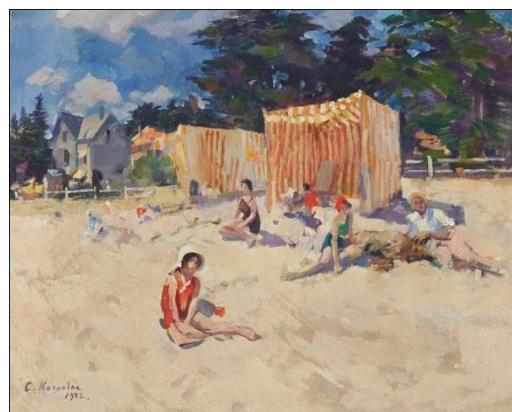
Appearing on the open market for the first time in history, Aristarkh Lentulov's vibrant and compelling 1916 canvas is one of the most important paintings by this Avant-Garde master ever to appear at auction. Exhibited with the Jack of Diamonds the year of its creation, *Church in Alupka* was formerly held in the eminent collection of Vladimir Semenov (estimate £1,800,000-2,200,000, *illustrated above*). *Church in Alupka*, which depicts the Church of the Holy Archangel Michael in the Crimea, is a strikingly modern interpretation of a traditional architectural form, reflecting Avant-Garde European painting while maintaining its distinctly Russian identity.

The November sale will also include Ilya Mashkov's rare and important composition from 1911, *The bathers* (estimate: £600,000 - 800,000, *illustrated right*). Offered in the wake of the sale led by his pioneering 1910 *Still life with fruit*, which was sold at Christie's on 3 June 2013 for £4.8 million and established a new world record for the artist, the appearance at auction of two major canvases by this rare artist within such a short period is an extraordinary event in itself. Executed in the Neo-Primitive style that characterised and united the works included in the inaugural Jack of Diamonds exhibition, *The bathers* is a crucial example of the group's bold canvases that reference Russian folk-art and ancient stone sculptures.



Christie's is also pleased to offer Apollinarii Vasnetsov's impressive *Village in the Ural mountains* (estimate: £600,000-800,000, *illustrated left*), the most significant painting by the renowned landscape artist to appear at auction. Measuring 143 x 208 cm., this monumental landscape was exhibited at the 1914 Baltic Exhibition in Malmö and acquired directly from this exhibition by the grandfather of the present owner. As one of Russia's great landscape artists, nowhere is Vasnetsov's understanding of and affection for the Motherland

more evident than in his epic depictions of the Urals and Siberia, the terrain of which recall his native village Ryabovka. Discerning collectors will not want to miss the opportunity to acquire such a spectacular painting with excellent provenance.



Further highlights of the paintings section of the sale include eleven paintings from the collection of the Russian émigré Léon Garganoff, including two captivating seaside scenes by Konstantin Korovin (estimates: £120,000-180,000; *Bathers on the beach*, *illustrated above centre*) and an important early work by Abram Arkhipov *To Vespers* (£300,000-500,00). The auction also features Alexei Harlamoff's exquisite *Two girls arranging flowers* (estimate: £400,000-600,000), pre and post-emigration works by the brilliant master of portraiture Nicolai Fechin: *Little Shepherd Boy* (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated above left*) and *Portrait of Marucia, a Russian singer* (estimate: £200,000-300,000) and Natalia Goncharova's *Magnolias* offered from the collection of Raymond Cogniat, the esteemed French critic and a great friend of the artist (estimate: £180,000-220,000; *illustrated right*).

ROYAL AND IMPERIAL TREASURES: FABERGÉ AND RUSSIAN WORKS OF ART



Christie's is delighted to offer a range of truly rare and exceptional Russian works of art from distinguished private collections, many of which have never appeared at auction before. With an emphasis on important and royal provenance, the sale includes an exceptional, whimsical and rare group of Fabergé from the estate of His Royal Highness the Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester K.G., K.T., K.P (lots 216-232). Carrying both Imperial and Royal provenance, this group embodies the close dynastic ties that characterised the twilight years of the glittering world of the European Ancien Régime. At the heart of this royal collection lie eight hardstone elephants, of particular note are two models of an elephant and castle, which directly relate to the Order of the Elephant, the highest order of chivalry in Denmark (estimate: £25,000-35,000 each). Rarely seen on the market, works of this quality and pedigree by Fabergé are only seen in related collections, such as that of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.

In addition to a strong selection of works with Royal provenance, the sale also features works with notable Imperial history. Under the reign of Nicholas II, the Imperial Russian court was particularly renowned for awarding lavish gifts to Russian and foreign dignitaries, such as this presentation cigarette case, which was awarded to Captain John Nicholas, M.V.O., R.H.A. (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated right*). Appointed Superintendent of the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace in 1901, Captain Nicholas was most likely presented this cigarette case on the occasion of a State visit by Emperor Nicholas II; this vibrantly enamelled piece is an exciting Imperial presentation piece that has been in the family's collection ever since.



The sale's emphasis on rare and exceptional quality works by Fabergé is further highlighted by the present hardstone study of hawthorn, that traces its provenance to both American and European private collections (estimate: £150,000-250,000, *illustrated left*). Fabergé's flower and fruit studies, of which there are approximately only eighty known surviving examples, were inspired by the opulent flowers integral to court culture and favoured by the Imperial family. Rarely seen at auction, this hawthorn study presents an exciting opportunity to acquire one of Fabergé's important works with corollaries in the Geddings Gray Foundation and Pratt Collection bequest.



The Auction of Important Russian Art will also include a rare bronze depicting Count Sergei Iulievich Witte (1849-1915), a highly influential Russian statesman, who served under Emperors Alexander III and Nicholas II (estimate: £50,000-70,000, *illustrated left*). In 1892, Witte was appointed as Minister of Finance, an office in which he was responsible for numerous important accomplishments. The present bronze, cast in 1901, coincides with Sergei Witte's tenure as Minister of Finance. Casts of this model are exceedingly rare and, consequently, seldom appear on the market. Christie's are pleased to offer such a remarkable and historic piece, which has descended directly through the Troubetzkoy family.

The sale also includes a selection of the most important works executed by the Imperial Porcelain Factory and other major private porcelain factories from the period of Empress Catherine II to the Soviet Era (lots 280-331, 333-334). Highlighting the group is a comprehensive and rare group of porcelain depicting Russian regiments and military scenes, including extraordinarily rare porcelain plaques (estimate: £40,000-50,000 each, *one illustrated right*). Executed during the reign of Nicholas I and included in the seminal *Exposition de Céramiques Russes Anciennes* in 1929, these plaques are Imperial works of the highest quality. Alongside military porcelain, the group includes rare figures and eggs, making it the most significant selection of Russian porcelain to be seen on the market in years.



AUCTION:

Russian Art - Monday, 25 November 2013 at 10:30am & 2:30pm
Christie's 8, King Street, St James's SW1Y 6QT

VIEWING:

Friday 22 NOV 9-4.30pm.
Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 NOV 12pm-5pm.

Notes to editors – highlights of the Russian and Old Master sales will be on display at the Muraviev-Apostol House Museum in Moscow from 7-10 November.

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2012 that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 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 £631.3 million/\$1 billion in 2012, an increase of 26% on the same period last 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 in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the Middle East, with successful sales, exhibitions and initiatives in Moscow, Baku, Beijing, Mumbai, Delhi, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Doha 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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