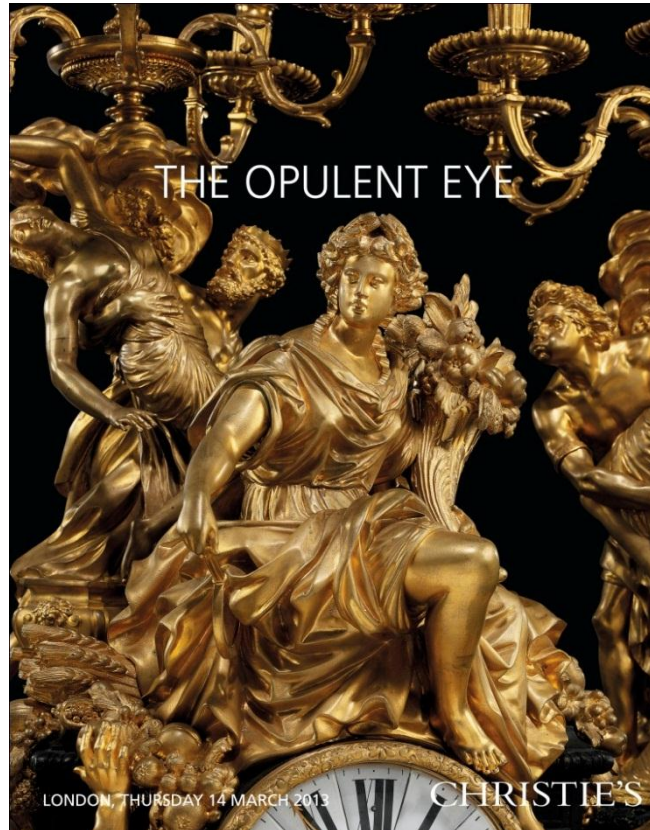


CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 19 FEBRUARY 2013

THE OPULENT EYE at Christie's London in March



London – Christie's is pleased to announce details of *The Opulent Eye – 500 Years: Decorative Arts Europe* which will take place on 14 March 2013. Featuring 248 lots, the sale offers sumptuous furniture and works of art from the 19th century including tables, suites of chairs, marble and bronze statuary, clocks, and lighting from international collections; they are distinguished by their exuberant decoration and extravagant materials.

The sale is led by a recently rediscovered life-size marble group of *The Three Graces* after Antoine Canova's original made for Empress Josephine and today in the Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg (estimate: £150,000 – 250,000, *illustrated right*). It dates from the mid-19th century and is copied from Canova's second version of the group commissioned in 1815 by John Russell, 6th Duke of Bedford which is now displayed at the Scottish National Gallery.



FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS



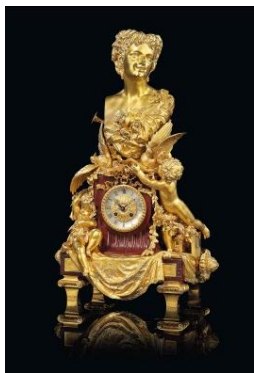
The sale will feature a selection of pieces from the Collection of the late Sir Arthur and Rosalinde Gilbert, including various hardstone, or *pietre dure*, tables and plaques. Highlights include a German ormolu and hardstone-mounted, tortoiseshell marquetry table, formerly in the collection of Alfred de Rothschild (d.1918) where it was listed and illustrated in an 1884 inventory (estimate: £25,000 – 40,000, *illustrated left*).

Examples of the most sumptuous furniture of the period include a magnificent ormolu and Japanese lacquer cabinet, made by one of the most prestigious furniture makers of the second half of the 19th century, Maison Kreger (estimate: £80,000 – 120,000, *illustrated right*). This cabinet is inspired by the *oeuvre* of Adam Weisweiler (d.1820) and is modelled on a *secrétaire en cabinet* in the *style arabesque* supplied by Weisweiler for Louis XVI's Cabinet Intérieur at Versailles.



Elsewhere in the sale an important French ormolu-mounted tulipwood, kingwood, bois satiné and marquetry grand piano is estimated at £100,000 – 200,000, *illustrated left*. This piano is in the distinctive *fin de siècle* style of high-rococo fused with Art Nouveau and was completed in April 1905 and sold for Fr11,400 on 5 October 1908. A pair of Napoleon III ormolu-mounted patinated bronze ten-light floor-standing torchère-candelabra will also be offered (estimate: £60,000 – 80,000, *illustrated right*).

Candelabras such as these were fully integrated into the palatial décor of their 19th century surroundings, standing at the entrance to *grand salons*, in great halls or at the base of monumental staircases.



A strong selection of 19th century clocks is led by a fine Napoleon III ormolu and *rosso antico* mantle clock (estimate: £30,000 – 50,000, *illustrated left*). The composition of this mantel clock includes Jean-Baptiste Clesinger's renowned *La Dame aux roses*, modelled from an original marble dating from 1867. The bust, cast by Maison Marnyhac, is flanked by doves, flowers, musical attributes, and an arrow and quiver. The Louvre acquired a bronze example of this bust from Clesinger's *atelier* sale in 1923, which is now in the Musée D'Orsay.

Further highlights include a large Napoleon III ormolu and patinated bronze three-piece clock garniture by Lerolle Frères (estimate: £50,000 – 80,000, *illustrated page 1 as a detail & right*). This superbly crafted garniture was created by the renowned Parisian fondeur, Lerolle Frères, at no. 1 rue du Foin et Chaussées-Minimies who produced all types of bronzes in the Renaissance, Louis XIII and Louis XIV styles.



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Please click [here](#) for the complete eCatalogue

PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Sunday, 10 March: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Monday, 11 March: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, 12 March: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm
Wednesday 13 March: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

AUCTION:

The Opulent Eye
Thursday, 14 March 2013
11:00 am

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 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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