

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CHRISTIE'S CELEBRATES THE LEGACY OF SAN FRANCISCO DESIGN:

*The Collection of Anthony Hail and Charles Posey*

*Michael Taylor and the Alchemy of Design: The Diana Dollar Knowles Collection*



LEFT: The Collection of Anthony Hail and Charles Posey, RIGHT: Michael Taylor and the Alchemy of Design: The Diana Dollar Knowles Collection

**New York** – This October, Christie's is honored to celebrate the legacy of San Francisco design with two exquisitely assembled collections, kicking off with **The Collection of Anthony Hail and Charles Posey** on October 8, and followed by **Michael Taylor and the Alchemy of Design: The Diana Dollar Knowles Collection** on October 22. The first collection was cultivated by Anthony Hail for the Pacific Heights apartment he shared with his partner, Charles Posey. The second was the result of a longtime collaboration between Michael Taylor and Diana Dollar Knowles, a central figure of San Francisco society.

Both collections present an assemblage of furniture, fine art and decorative objects that embody the spirit of San Francisco's "Golden Age of Design," which was defined by Hail and Taylor with their landmark aesthetics. Although they were quite varied in style, Hail reimagining patrician traditionalism for the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Taylor developing the airy "California look," both designers were enormously influential in the establishment of San Francisco as the design community that it is today. Their legacy lives on through the legions of contemporary designers that are inspired by Hail and Taylor, counting among them Steven Volpe and Suzanne Tucker, Tucker having written the introduction to the Diana Dollar Knowles Collection catalogue. The auctions being presented this October are a testament to the extraordinary tastes of these remarkable designers and their talent for artfully envisioning interiors. Both sales offer a wide range of objects and estimates, and all lots with estimates under \$5,000 will be sold without reserve.

**Ellanor Notides, Managing Director, San Francisco, remarked:** "We are incredibly excited to revisit a golden age in San Francisco design, and the remarkable impact that Hail and Taylor had on our City, with these two superb collections. These sales are an homage to the evolution of the San Francisco aesthetic, and the people and collaborations that have informed the way we think about design today."

## ***Arbiters of Style: The Collection of Anthony Hail and Charles Posey***

**The Collection of Anthony Hail and Charles Posey** encompasses 234 lots with an eclectic and seamless mix of objects, furniture and works of art, the collection comprises European furniture, spectacular Russian chandeliers, Chinese works of art, Lamps from Billy Baldwin and Old Master paintings among other things. Each lot within the sale was meticulously chosen by Posey and Hail to fill and form their home, demonstrating the timeless aesthetic of a well-informed combination of styles and time periods. Hail effectively rose to icon status within the design world in the 1960's, when he spent much of his time with Andy Warhol, Truman Capote and David Hicks, whom he often entertained at home. The apartment was absolutely representative of a life well lived, demonstrating Hail's renowned sensibility, which was formal yet tremendously livable.

### **DAVID HICKS, On ANTHONY HAIL:**

*"One of the most enchanting small apartments I know was created by Anthony Hail ten years ago in San Francisco....What was so special about this room was the utter simplicity of no color, the quality of the few pieces of furniture, and the total lack of pretentiousness. The rarity of the few decorative objects gave this an almost sanctuary-like atmosphere, particularly rare at that time. It was in strict contrast to all other decoration in America then."*

## ***Michael Taylor and the Alchemy of Design: The Diana Dollar Knowles Collection***

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Christie's will present the **Michael Taylor and the Alchemy of Design: The Diana Dollar Knowles Collection**. The strength of the collaboration between Diana Dollar Knowles and Michael Taylor is evident in the Knowles residences, each of which possesses timeless details that stem from Mrs. Knowles' impeccable personal style and Taylor's visionary talent. The collection contains approximately 300 works, which encompass European furniture, Asian works of art, fine porcelain and silver, ceramics by Pablo Picasso, contemporary art and botanical prints.

Few San Franciscans so fully embodied the inherent beauty and charm of their city as Diana Dollar Knowles. An icon of American chic for more than ninety years, she epitomized the refined, intellectual style that earned San Francisco the distinction as a "Paris of the West." Mrs. Knowles was widely recognized as an arbiter of style, "one of the grandest dames in San Francisco Society," according to the San Francisco Chronicle. Michael Taylor's chief mission was to create interiors best suited for each individual client. Among his most loyal San Francisco clients were Gorham and Diana Knowles. Taylor collaborated closely with Knowles on each commission, resulting in an especially close design partnership. The results of this collaboration were some of the Bay Area's most stylish interiors.

## ***Highlights from the Collection of Anthony Hail and Charles Posey:***



A Louis Vuitton Leather Picnic Set Suitcase  
Second Quarter 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
With Applied Plate Engraved Anthony Hail  
Estimate: \$2,000 - 3,000



A Set of Twelve Hermes Silver Place Card Holders  
20<sup>th</sup> Century  
In the Form of Entwined Hunting Horns, In a Fitted Case  
Estimate: \$1,000 - 1,500



Russian Ormolu-Mounted Malachite,  
Cobalt And Colorless Glass Six-Light  
Chandelier circa 1800  
Estimate: \$30,000-50,000



**A gift from Billy Baldwin, 1963**  
 A Pair of Chinese Black Glazed And Gilt-Decorated Faceted Vases 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Mounted As Lamps  
 Estimate: \$3,000 – \$5,000



A Danish Cherry, Mahogany And Marquetry Architect's Desk  
 Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
 Estimate: \$7,000-10,000



Three Chinese Scarlet Leather-Bound Trunks  
 Estimate: \$1,000-1,500



A Pair Of Danish Walnut Klismos Chairs, First Half 19<sup>th</sup> Century, With later close-nailed red leather upholstery  
 Estimate: \$3,000 - 5,000



A Large Louis Vuitton Travelling Trunk 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
 With painted monogram and HAIL to each side  
 Estimate: 2,000-3,000



David Hockney, *Gregory, Arizona Biltmore*  
 ink on paper, Drawn in 1976  
 Estimate: \$30,000 – 50,000

**Highlights from Michael Taylor and the Alchemy of Design: The Diana Dollar Knowles Collection:**



A Pair Of Venetian Clear, Engraved And Reverse Blue-Painted Glass Mirrors  
 Estimate: \$50,000- 100,000



Barnett Newman, *Untitled Etching 2*  
 etching and aquatint, 1969, on J. Green paper  
 Estimate: \$60,000 - 90,000



A Chinese Export Black And Gilt Lacquer Bureau Bookcase, Circa 1740  
 Estimate: \$150,000-250,000



A Fine And Rare Chinese Brown And Polychrome Coromandel Lacquer Twelve-Panel Screen  
 Kangxi Period (1662-1722), Inscribed 20<sup>th</sup> Year Of The Kangxi Reign (1681)  
 Estimate: \$200,000 - 300,000



A Royal Copenhagen 'Flora Danica' Porcelain Dinner Service  
 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Blue Wave And Green Printed Marks, Pattern No. 20  
 Estimate: \$80,000 - 120,000



A Twelve-Light Antler Chandelier  
Supplied By Michael Taylor, 20th Century  
Estimate: \$3,000 - 5,000



Pablo Picasso, *Jacqueline's Profile*  
White earthenware dish, 1956  
Estimate: \$5,000 - 8,000



A Pair Of George III Green And Cream-Painted  
Jardinieres, Circa 1770, Possibly By Thomas Chippendale  
Estimate: \$100,000-150,000

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PRESS CONTACT: REBECCA RIEGELHAUPT | +1 212 636 2680 | [RRiegelhaupt@christies.com](mailto:RRiegelhaupt@christies.com)

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### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2013 that totaled £2.4 billion/ \$3.68 billion. In 2012, Christie's had global auction and private sales that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 billion making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 £465.2 million (\$711.8 million) in the first half of 2013, an increase of 13% on the previous year, and for the third successive year represents the highest total for the period in both company and art market history.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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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