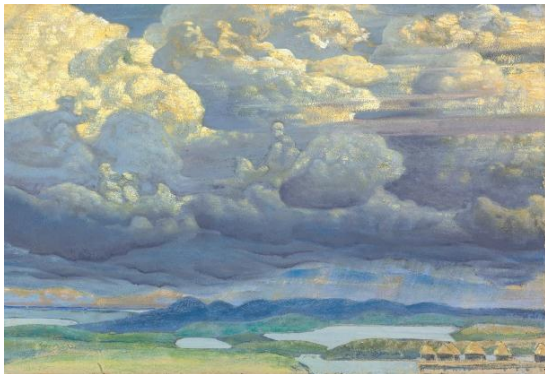


CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6 May 2014

RUSSIAN ART SALE

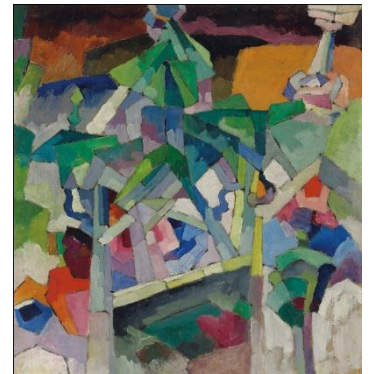
Including Important Works from Fifteen Private Collections
Christie's London, 2 June 2014



Nicholas Roerich (1874-1947)
The heavenly battle, 1909
tempera and pastel on board, 50 x 74 cm
Estimate: £500,000-700,000



A Pair of Rare and Large Two-Handled Porcelain Vases
by The Imperial Porcelain Factory, St Petersburg,
Period of Nicholas I, 1840, 67 cm high
Estimate: £250,000-350,000



Aristarkh Lentulov (1882-1943)
Landscape with bridge, Kislovodsk, 1913
oil on canvas, 63.5 x 60 cm
Estimate: £1,500,000-2,500,000

London – This summer, Christie's will offer a spectacular selection of paintings and works of art in its *Russian Art* sale, which will be held in London on 2 June 2014. Synonymous with exceptional quality and rarity, the auction will present a rich array of paintings, ranging from Avant-Garde masterpieces to magnificent Imperial porcelain, designed to appeal to the most discerning of collectors. This auction features a notably strong selection of Russian works of art from private collections, including Aristarkh **Lentulov's** vibrant Cubo-Futurist *Landscape with bridge, Kislovodsk* (*illustrated above right*) and a rare and important pair of porcelain vases by the **Imperial Porcelain Factory**, Period of Nicholas I (*illustrated above centre*); never before seen at auction, these masterpieces in porcelain painted after pictures in the State Hermitage are offered directly by the descendants of the Prussian diplomat Albert Graf von Pourtalès. The sale also includes major paintings from Russian masters such as **Roerich, Vereshchagin, Gorbatov, Golovin** and **Burliuk** in addition to significant pieces by **Fabergé** and an important group of rare **Russian Silver**. With over 300 lots ranging from £1,000 to £1,500,000, this sale presents one of the finest assemblages of Russian Art at auction in recent history.

PAINTINGS

Leading the sale is Aristarkh Lentulov's dynamic masterwork *Landscape with Bridge, Kislovodsk*. A fearless innovator and one of the greatest colourists of his time, this painting from 1913 represents the critical point of the artist's career, during which he created a synthesis of Western Cubo-Futurist technique with a native Russian theme. The appearance on the art market of this oil from the acclaimed 'Kislovodsk' series provides collectors with a rare opportunity to acquire a unique piece from the most significant period of this Russian master.



The paintings section of the sale includes a stellar selection of six paintings by Nicholas Roerich from the estate of Margaret Janice Vann. Ranging in value from £40,000 to £250,000, the works illustrated above represent various mountain vantage points. Formerly held in the collection of Roerich's great American patrons, Louis and Nettie Horch, these paintings are appearing at auction for the first time. Nicholas Roerich was an extremely important figure in the life of Margaret Janice Vann. Part of the proceeds from the sale of this collection will benefit two not-for-profit organisations selected by Ms Vann that continue to promote the legacy of Nicholas Roerich's teachings; Higher Self Yoga and the Center for Peace through Culture.



Alongside the Roerichs, Christie's will offer Ivan Aivazovsky's beautiful and rare *Alexander II on the frozen Neva*, painted in 1890 (estimate: £300,000-500,000, *illustrated left*). An internationally celebrated maritime artist, the works of Aivazovsky continue to enrich the collections of numerous renowned collections, including that of the Topkapi Palace, Istanbul, the State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

One of eight historical portraits offered from the collection of Prince Ivan Obolensky (lot 10-17), including the most important group of works by Vladimir Borovikovsky ever to appear at auction, this exquisite portrait depicts Admiral Count Grigorii Grigorievich Kushelev with his sons (estimate: £50,000-70,000, *illustrated right*). Borovikovsky was one of the greatest Russian portrait painters of the late 18th/early 19th century. He moved to St Petersburg in 1788 at the request of Empress Catherine the Great and enjoyed tremendous success painting the capital's most distinguished figures.



The auction is further highlighted by two exceptional paintings by the most important Russian Orientalist of the 19th century, Vasily Vereshchagin, from The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College. Please click [here](#) for a dedicated press release.

WORKS OF ART



The works of art section of the sale will present three important porcelain military plaques by the Imperial Porcelain Factory, painted by the leading porcelain artists working during the period of Nicholas I (estimates: £40,000-50,000, *one illustrated left*). Depicting Russian regiments and military scenes, these exquisitely painted plaques highlights Part II of an important collection of porcelain, which includes some of the most significant works executed by the Imperial Porcelain Factory and other major Russian private porcelain factories. Rarely seen

outside of museum collections, these plaques were painted after Adolphe Ladurner's celebrated designs for military paintings and were included in the seminal *Exposition de Céramiques Russes Anciennes* at the Musée Céramique de Sèvres in 1929.

A jewelled silver and platinum-mounted nephrite pendant by Fabergé, St Petersburg, *circa* 1914, gives unique insight into Fabergé's creative process (estimate: £30,000–40,000, *illustrated right*). The original design for the piece by Fabergé was known, but the actual piece untraced, making this an exciting rediscovery. The stylised howdah-mount of this pendant relates it to other works by Fabergé inspired by the Order of the Elephant, the highest order of chivalry in Denmark.



Christie's is pleased to offer an impressive selection of enamel and silver from an Important Swiss Collector, including a pair of cloisonné and en plein enamel salt thrones by Feodor Rückert, formerly in the Greenfield Collection (estimate: £25,000-35,000, *illustrated left*). Unseen on the market since the 1980s, this carefully curated collection of salt thrones and spoons epitomises the art of fashionable table decoration in noble and wealthy Russian homes from 1870 to 1917.

Offered for the first time at auction, from an Important Private Collection from France, two Imperial Presentation kovshi, one *circa* 1705 and the other *circa* 1820, highlight twenty-five lots of rare Russian silver and niello from the 17th through 19th centuries (estimates ranging from £2,000 to £25,000, *some illustrated right*). The kovsh presented in 1705 by Emperor Peter I was dedicated to Sava Kochet, an Ataman of the Don Voisko. The kovsh from 1820, was presented by Emperor Alexander I to Andrey Mizinov, Ataman of the Uralskii Voisko.



RUSSIAN SALE

Christie's London, 2 June 2014

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

PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Friday, May 30 May, 9am-4:30pm

Saturday May 31, 12pm-5pm

Sunday June 1, 12pm-5pm

AUCTION:

#1528, Russian Art

Monday 2 June, 2014

10:30am, Lots 1-118

2:00pm, Lots 201-387

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2013 that totaled £4.5 billion/ \$7.1 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 around 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £760.5 million (\$1.19 billion) in 2013, an increase of 20% on the previous year.

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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