

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 27 August 2014

## THE OPULENT EYE

IMPORTANT 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DECORATIVE ARTS  
AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2014



**London** – On 18 September 2014 Christie's sale of *The Opulent Eye* will offer furniture, sculpture and works of art from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Representing many of the best makers and sculptors of the period, the sale presents palatial furnishings drawn from an eclectic mixture of styles and countries, united by their opulence, fine craftsmanship and use of precious materials. The sale is led by an exceptional *coffre à bijoux*, jewellery cabinet-on-stand, by Henri Fourdinois (estimate: £70,000-100,000, *illustrated above*). Recently rediscovered by Christie's in a private Portuguese collection, this unique cabinet captures the grand ambition and subtle sophistication of the great exhibitions of 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe. The mahogany veneers are finely inlaid with silvered-bronze mounts, and the angles cornered by lapis lazuli veneered columns supporting ivory angels by the sculptor Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse. Featuring furniture, lighting, marble and bronze sculpture, garden statuary, clocks, carpets and porcelain, the sale totals 328 lots and is expected to realise in the region of £3.5 million.



*Crédence en noyer enrichie de bronzes* (estimate: £150,000-250,000, *illustrated left*), is Lièvre's defining piece in the Renaissance style. The portrait plaques depict Charles VII and his favourite mistress Agnès Sorel, chosen to represent love. Its importance is underlined by the fact that it was retained in Lièvre's own collection, only being sold after his death. Lièvre appreciated that Western European art could not be understood in isolation of Chinese and Japanese elements and towards the late 1870s, Lièvre started to create furniture in 'le style japonais et chinois'. A *table de milieu* (estimate: £70,000-100,000, *illustrated right*), is exemplary of this style. A small number of tables of the model are known, another is in the collection of the Musée d'Orsay, Paris.



The sale also offers a group of Danish Royal furniture dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the Danish Royal Court was at the centre of European nobility and played host to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, and her husband the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and Princess Dagmar of Denmark, Empress Consort to Tsar Alexander III. A highlight from this Royal Collection is a Danish Royal giltwood eleven-piece salon suite, (estimate: £12,000-18,000, *illustrated left*).

Continuing the theme of grand entertaining, a sumptuous *piano à queue* is a unique creation by François Linke, the most important *ébéniste* of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This magnificent and unique piano is exemplary of a small group of 'Art-Case' pianos by Linke, and is lavishly adorned with gilt-bronze mounts which fuse the *Art Nouveau* of Belle Époque Paris with the Rococo (estimate: £100,000-200,000, *illustrated right*).



The selection of fine 19<sup>th</sup> century bronze and marble sculpture offered within the sale is led by these bigger than lifesize models of a lion and tiger (estimate: £70,000-100,000, *illustrated right*). They were cast in *circa* 1880 by the Val d'Osne foundry in Paris after models by the *animalier* sculptor Henri Jacquemart. They are made from cast-iron and durable for outside display as garden statuary.



**PUBLIC EXHIBITION:**

Saturday, 13 September: 12.00 pm – 5.00 pm  
 Sunday, 14 September: 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm  
 Monday, 15 September: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm  
 Tuesday, 16 September: 9.00 am – 8.00 pm  
 Wednesday, 17 September: 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

**AUCTION:**

*The Opulent Eye*  
 Thursday, 18 September 2014  
 10:30 am

**UPCOMING FURNITURE AUCTIONS AT CHRISTIE'S, LONDON, KING STREET*****European Noble & Private Collections Part I***

Tuesday, 30 September 2014  
 10.30am

***Château: A Distinguished American Collection of Important 19th Century Furniture & Works of Art***

Tuesday, 28 October 2014

**Sale highlights include:**

'Pendule à la Gloire du Roi' a French Ormolu Mantel Clock, circa 1890 (estimate: £25,000-40,000, *illustrated right*)

François Linke

After the Model by Antoine-Robert Gaudreaux

Paris, circa 1909

A French Ormolu-Mounted Kingwood Commode à Vantaux (estimate: £150,000-250,000, *illustrated right*)

***The English Collector***

Thursday, 13 November 2014

10.30am



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**Please click [here](#) to view the e-catalogue for The Opulent Eye Sale**

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totalled £2.69 / \$4.47 billion, making it the highest half year 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 in the first half of 2014 totalled £498.9 million (\$828.2 million).

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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