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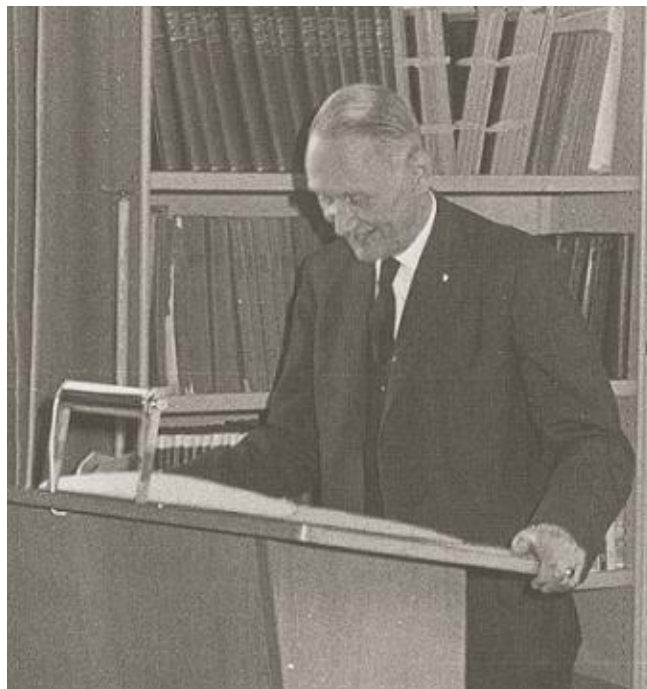


THE I.Q. VAN REGTEREN ALTENA COLLECTION

- The most extensive and important private collection of Old Master Drawings to come to the market in a generation
- A unique panorama of Dutch and Flemish draughtsmanship led by works by Rubens and Rembrandt



Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)
Samson and Delilah
Estimate £1.5 - 2.5 million



Professor I.Q. van Regteren Altena, 1969

London – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of *The I.Q. van Regteren Altena Collection* which will be offered over a series of sales in London, Amsterdam and Paris throughout 2014 and 2015. This extensive collection of Old Master drawings is the most important to come to auction in a generation and features works by the greatest masters such as Rubens, Rembrandt, Goltzius, and de Gheyn. Formed by Professor I.Q. van Regteren Altena (1899 – 1980), a distinguished art historian and former head of the Prints and Drawings Department at the Rijksmuseum, the collection will be offered in more than 800 lots and is expected to realise in the region of £10 million. It is very rare for the collection of a true connoisseur to appear on the market and *The I.Q. van Regteren Altena Collection* presents an incomparable panorama of mostly Dutch and Flemish draughtsmanship from 1550 to 1850, with illustrious provenances. In recent years several drawings from van Regteren Altena's collection have been transferred to the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The museum has just

announced that the Van Regteren Altena heirs have generously allowed the museum to make a selection of drawings from the collection for acquisition. The museum chose drawings with a special association with I.Q. van Regteren Altena: a landscape by J. de Gheyn and a group of 46 spectacular watercolours by Joseph Augustus Knip. These acquisitions were generously supported by the Vereniging Rembrandt, the Mondriaan Fonds, de BankGiroLoterij, the Rijkspatrons, the Gerhards Fonds/Rijksmuseum Fonds, the VSBfonds and an anonymous gift. Furthermore, the heirs have donated a group of 69 drawings by 19th-century Dutch contemporaries of Knip in Italy.

On 10 July 2014 Christie's London will present Part I of the collection including more than 70 lots of Dutch and Flemish drawings from the Renaissance to the Golden Age. Featuring a homogenous group of exceptional quality the sale offers a unique opportunity to acquire outstanding examples of drawings from the Low Countries. Leading the sale is *Samson and Delilah* by **Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640)**, the only known preparatory drawing for Rubens's masterpiece of 1609-10 in the National Gallery, London (estimate £1.5 - 2.5 million, *illustrated page 1 left*). This dynamic composition of twisting forms dates from shortly after the artist's return from Italy in 1608, and shows how he had begun to develop his distinctive style – blending the voluptuous sensuality of Venetian painting with the heroic musculature of classical sculpture. Commissioned by Nicolaas Rockox, Rubens's most significant early patron, it offers a fascinating insight into the young artist's preparatory processes.

A young man leaning on a stick by **Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn (1606-1669)** is a characteristic example of Rembrandt's figure drawings produced while he was working in Leiden (until ca. 1631) (estimate: £250,000 – 350,000, *illustrated right*). Depicting a beggar, it can be related to a series of etchings of the same subject dating from 1629 onwards. Loosely and sketchily executed without any continuous pen lines, the drawing conveys a remarkable plasticity and suggestion of form in a very natural and lively way.



Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn
(1606-1669)

A young man leaning on a stick
Estimate: £250,000 – 350,000



Hendrick Goltzius (1558-1617)

Study of a hand

Estimate: £300,000 – 500,000

Further highlights include *Study of a hand* by **Hendrick Goltzius (1558-1617)** (estimate: £300,000 – 500,000, *illustrated left*). Executed *circa* 1588 and imitating in pen and ink his style as an engraver, this drawing is a real *tour de force* in which Goltzius demonstrates his extraordinary skill. Showing the artist's own right hand which had been damaged in a fire while he was a child, the drawing was also used for the hand of St. Jude in an engraving of 1589. The combination of the mutilated hand and the technical perfection with which it is drawn makes this sheet one of Goltzius' most intriguing and striking works.

One of van Regteren Altena's greatest achievements as a scholar was the rediscovery of an extraordinary artist, **Jacques de Gheyn II (circa 1565-1629)**, on whom he published, posthumously, a catalogue raisonné. It is due to his remarkable effort that de Gheyn is today seen as one of the greatest draftsmen of his time. In total the collection includes 20 drawings by de Gheyn, an unsurpassed group displaying the unrivalled alchemy of his art. Leading the selection of works by de Gheyn is *A large beech tree* (estimate: £300,000 – 400,000, *illustrated right*).



Jacques de Gheyn II
(circa 1565-1629)
A large beech tree
Estimate: £300,000 – 400,000

Further highlights in the London sale include works by Jan Brueghel I, Jacob Jordaens, Roelandt Savery, Hendrick Avercamp, Nicolaes Berchem, Jacob van Ruisdael, Paulus Potter, Adriaen and Isaac van Ostade.

Three further auctions of drawings from *The I.Q. van Regteren Altena Collection* will follow the King Street sale. Parts II & IV, dedicated to the Dutch and Flemish schools, will take place in Amsterdam in December 2014 and May 2015. Part III, including French and Italian drawings, will be sold in Paris in March 2015.

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TOUR OF HIGHLIGHTS:

Amsterdam: 12–14 & 17-18 March 2014
Paris: 22–26 March 2014
Moscow: 11 – 14 April 2014
New York: 2 – 5 May 2014
Amsterdam: 9 –13 May 2014
Hong Kong: 22 –25 May 2014

AUCTION:

*The I.Q. van Regteren Altena Collection Part I
Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Renaissance to the
Golden Age*
London, King Street
Thursday, 10 July 2014

PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Saturday 5 July 2014: 10am – 5pm
Sunday 6 July 2014: 10am – 5pm
Monday 7 July 2014: 9am – 4.30pm
Tuesday 8 July 2014: 9am – 4.30pm
Wednesday 9 July 2014: 9am – 4.30pm

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.