

# CHRISTIE'S

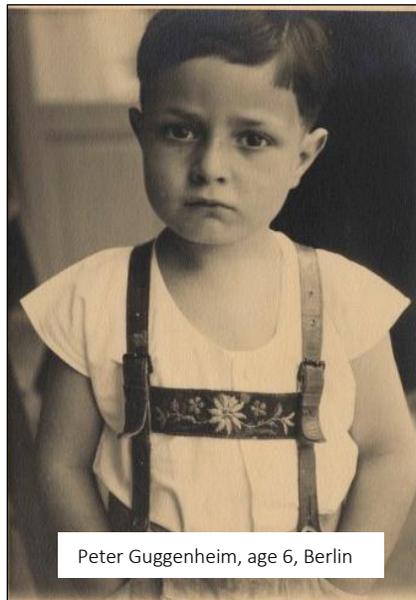
PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | 8 DECEMBER 2014

CHRISTIE'S PRESENTS

## ABBOTT-GUGGENHEIM: A NEW YORK KUNSTKAMMER

COLLECTION OF RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE SCULPTURES, CLOCKS AND WORKS OF ART

- Collection Featured in Multiple Museum Exhibitions
- To Be Sold During Christie's 'Old Masters Week' Series of Sales in January 2015



**New York** – Christie's announces the sale of the highly esteemed *Abbott-Guggenheim Collection*, comprised of Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, clocks and works of art, on **January 27, 2015**. Dr. Peter Guggenheim (1927-2012) began a lifetime of collecting when he acquired a cuckoo clock as a gift from his grandfather, Daniel, at the age of six years old. Peter continued the Guggenheim family's great legacy of collecting in the traditional *Kunstkammer* manner and for more than 60 years, together with Dr. John Abbott (b. 1925), they cultivated a renowned collection and generously loaned works to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, the Smithsonian, the Louvre, and the Royal Academy, among others. Spread over three centuries, the artists included in this collection are among the best of their generations. With approximately 120 lots, the sale is expected to exceed \$11 million.

*"Christie's is honored to have been entrusted by Dr. John Abbott with the sale of this prestigious collection. The extraordinary provenances of many pieces are equally as impressive as their makers, with links to the collections of J.P. Morgan, Robert von Hirsch, William Randolph Hearst, as well as Queen Marie and Prince Nicholas of Romania and the Berwinds. The sale will celebrate John Abbott and Peter Guggenheim as true connoisseurs of their field, with their names now added to the illustrious provenance of these exquisite works. In the 'New World' of New York, where collections come and go with bewildering speed, The Abbott-Guggenheim Collection has remained a remarkable constant,"* remarked Will Russell, VP, Senior Specialist of European Sculpture and Furniture.

Both leaders in the field of Psychiatry, Drs. John Abbott and Peter Guggenheim were true connoisseurs and assembled their collection in the old-world tradition, without using advisors and by relying on their instincts. The Abbott-Guggenheim Collection has been displayed for decades at their horse farm in New York's Hudson River Valley and includes such luminaries as Severo, Tetrode, Prieur, Tacca, Maderno, Fanelli and Houdon. Celebrated clock makers Schmidt the Younger, Miller and Kreitmeir are also included.



#### **A BRONZE ECORCHE OF A MAN**

By WILLEM DANIELSZ. VAN TETRODE (circa 1525-1580)

The model Roman or Florentine, late 1560's

19 in. high

Estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000

One of the most spectacular examples of Northern Mannerism – dramatic, elegant, courtly, but brutal.



#### **A BRONZE FIGURE OF HERCULES POMARIUS**

By WILLEM DANIELSZ. VAN TETRODE (circa 1525-1580)

Third quarter 16th century

21 ¼ in. high

Estimate: \$1,500,000-2,500,000

An icon of the collection, this bronze is considered to be the finest of the 4 examples made; one is in the Robert Smith collection promised to the National Gallery; one is in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam and another is in a private collection.



#### **A BRONZE FIGURE OF NEPTUNE (FORMERLY A TABLE FOUNTAIN)**

ATTRIBUTED TO BENEDIKT WURZELBAUER (1548-1620)

Nuremburg, circa 1600

26 in. high

Estimate: \$250,000-400,000

Built as a table fountain – wine would have flowed out of both the urn on Neptune's shoulder and the dolphin's mouth at his feet. An impressive size, this piece would have been commissioned for a princely *Kunstammer*, as bronze casting on this scale in late 16th century Germany was both incredibly expensive and difficult.



### A BRONZE OIL LAMP

CIRCLE OF CORNELIS FLORIS (1514-1575)

circa 1570

8 7/8 in. high

Estimate: \$200,000 – 300,000

This oil lamp is an extremely rare and courageous example of political and artistic expression of the Dutch anti-Papist sentiments. It was made at the height of anti-Hapsburg feelings just at the outbreak of the Eighty Years War – as the Protestant Netherlands was fighting for their freedom from the Catholic Spaniards under Philip II. The crushing brutalities of the Spanish attempts to control the Dutch rebellion are well-known. Mocking a Bishop, turning him into a humorous, but also a monstrous beast, would have been reason enough for the Spanish Inquisition to descend.



### A GERMAN GILT-METAL ASTRONOMICAL AND QUARTER-STRIKING ASTROLABIC CLOCK

By DAVID BUSHMANN, Augsburg, 1625

23 ½ in. high

Estimate: \$200,000-300,000

A Baroque *tour-de force*. Its spectacular size and architectural complexity clearly identify it as a masterpiece clock.



### A GERMAN GILT AND PAINTED-METAL AND EBONY STRIKING AND AUTOMATON BACCHUS CLOCK

By CHRISTOPH OR KONRAD KREITZER, Augsburg, first quarter 17th century

12 in. high

Estimate: \$120,000-180,000

A typical Germanic blend of humor and technology. This clock, like many of the clocks in the collection, illustrates the collaboration between sculpture and clocks. Peter Guggenheim was first a clock collector – and then starting collecting sculptural clocks, and then eventually just sculpture.



### A GERMAN GILT-METAL AND SILVER-MOUNTED STRIKING AND AUTOMATON CLOCK

By PAZZIO, dated 1689

7 ½ in. high

Estimate: \$25,000 – 40,000

This clock was made for Jan III Sobieski (1629-1696) King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.

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PRESS CONTACT: Sara Fox | +1 212 636 2680 | sfox@christies.com

**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2014 that totaled £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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*Images available on request*

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