



CHRISTIE'S

MEDIA ALERT | LONDON
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'FLAIR' THE COLLECTION OF FLEUR COWLES AT CHRISTIE'S THIS NOVEMBER



Fleur Cowles' study at her home in Albany, London

London, South Kensington – On the evening of 23 November Christie's will present [the collection of Fleur Cowles](#), the creative force behind *Flair* magazine. Fleur Cowles was a renowned publisher, journalist, author, artist, patron and fashionista who also maintained a position as a doyenne of both New York and London society for the better part of a century. She counted amongst her circle General Eisenhower, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Cary Grant, HSH Princess Grace of Monaco and the Reagans to name but a few. The collection to be offered at Christie's South Kensington offers a rare glimpse into the private world she created. Fleur Cowles and her last husband, Thomas Montague-Meyer, together occupied two adjoining 'sets' at one of London's most renowned addresses – Albany, Piccadilly – for more than 50 years. Her striking interiors remained unchanged during these decades and the auction this November will capture the magic of a time-capsule broken open for the first time. The auction includes everything from her 1950's Dior hats and designs for famed *Flair* magazine, to her prized collection of naïf art, furniture, sculpture and works of art, as well as some of her own paintings and photographs dedicated from many of her famous friends, such as Vivien Leigh, Lady Bird Johnson and the Duchess of Windsor. The collection illustrates not only the amazing interiors Cowles created in her secluded London home, but also the colour of the amazing life she lived.

Estimates range from just £500 up to £30,000, and a star lot of the auction is a pen-and-ink drawing, *Taureau*, by Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated page 2*). Further highlights include a portrait of Fleur

Cowles by René Gruau (1909-2004) who produced much of the original artwork for *Flair* (estimate: £10,000-15,000, *illustrated below*); and paintings and wall panels by Frederico Pallavicini, whom worked alongside her at *Flair*. The magazine was renowned for its striking design and lavish production as for its editorial content, and it is for the former which it is best known today. Despite strong circulation, the colossal costs for special features, such as embossed cover cut-outs and unfolding pages that revealed hidden pictures, caused the magazine to run for only a year. *Flair* remains a much respected publication and copies are still highly sought after almost 70 years after the last issue went to press.



Photographs from Fleur Cowles' home in Albany, London

HIGHLIGHTS OF *FLAIR*, THE COLLECTION OF FLEUR COWLES



Fleur Cowles (American, 1908-2009)
Lion amongst poppies and butterflies
Oil on board
Estimate: £800-1,200



René Gruau (French, 1909-2004)
Portrait of Fleur Cowles
Oil on canvas
Estimate: £10,000-15,000



Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)
Taureau
India ink on paper
Estimate: £20,000-30,000



A collection of various dresses, coats and outfits
Including a black Chanel two piece skirt suit, with label and serial number '64702', four Philippe Lempière dresses, three Elio Berhanyer coats, a black stained fox-fur trimmed cape, possibly by Yves Saint Laurent and black sheepskin cloak embroidered with 'Fleur Cowles Meyer' signature to red silk lining
Estimate: £1,000-1,500



Of Ronald and Nancy Reagan interest; Two photographs and an American silvered metal compact
Late 20th century
The compact: 2.7/8 x 2.1/2 in. (7.3 x 6.5 cm.)
Estimate: £1,000-1,500

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Public Exhibition:

Friday 18 November, 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Saturday 19 November, 11.00 am – 5.00 pm
Sunday 20 November, 11.00 am – 5.00 pm
Monday 21 November, 9.00 am – 7.30 pm
Tuesday 22 November, 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Wednesday 23 November, 9.00 am – 6.00 pm

Auction:

Christie's Interiors including *Flair*, The Fleur Cowles Collection
Wednesday 23 November 2016
at 6.00 pm
85 Old Brompton Road
London SW7 3LD

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2016 that totalled £2.1 billion / \$3 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 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.

2016 marks Christie's 250th anniversary. 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. Click [here](#) to view a short film about Christie's and the 250th anniversary.

Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. 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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