

# CHRISTIE'S

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◆  
THE  
ERIC ALBADA JELGERSMA  
COLLECTION  
◆

CHRISTIE'S LONDON, 6 & 7 DECEMBER 2018



"Eric is a great collector of paintings [and] museum-quality art..." Axel Vervoordt  
Quoted by Jean Bond Rafferty In "Well-Lived: Axel Vervoordt's Chateau De Tertre", *Veranda*, 15 October 2012

**London** – A focal point within *Classic Week*, Christie's will offer a landmark, two-part sale of *The Eric Albada Jelgersma Collection* in London on 6 & 7 December. This collection is testament to a lifelong passion for superlative works of art, and above all for Old Master paintings of the highest calibre. This is one of the most important private collections of Golden Age Dutch and Flemish pictures to have been formed in living memory, revealing the unerring eye of Eric Albada Jelgersma and his wife Marie-Louise Albada Jelgersma for outstanding quality.



Christie's will devote a special, stand-alone Old Masters Evening Sale to *The Eric Albada Jelgersma Collection* comprising over 40 paintings, including works by the greatest artists from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, notably Frans Hals, Anthony van Dyck, Jan Breughel the Elder, Judith Leyster and Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder. This sale is led by the finest pair of portraits by Frans Hals to remain together in private hands: *Portrait of a gentleman, aged 37* and *Portrait of a lady, aged 36* (estimate: £8-12 million, *illustrated above*) and includes arguably the most important Golden Age painting by a female artist left in private ownership, *Merry Company* by Judith Leyster (estimate: £1.5-2.5 million, *illustrated above centre*). The *Collection Sale* will take place the following day and will comprise over 350 lots of furniture, decorative objects, sculpture, antiquities, silver, Asian works of art and a selection of the Old Master

paintings. The quality and range of the Old Master paintings and works of art within the collection is extraordinary, and their appearance together at auction will constitute an historic pair of sales and a seminal moment for the Old Master market. Highlights will be on public view at Christie's New York from 26 to 30 October and in Hong Kong from 23 to 26 November, ahead of the pre-sale exhibition opening in London on 30 November.

**Jussi Pykkänen, Christie's Global President:** *"It is a great honour for Christie's to be chosen to handle the sale of The Eric Albada Jelgersma Collection which was put together so carefully over a lifetime by a collector with not only a discerning eye for great Old Master Pictures but also for Decorative Arts of the finest quality. He was a tastemaker of his generation and the exhibitions at Christie's will recreate his extraordinary view of how classic and modern can be shown together to brilliant effect and how they can complement each other so perfectly, when they are of the highest calibre."*

**Henry Pettifer, Christie's Head of Old Masters Department:** *"This is one of the most important private collections of 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch and Flemish Old Master Paintings to come to the market in living memory. Astonishing for its overarching quality and its scope across all the different genres – portraiture, landscape, genre, and still-life painting – this sale will offer a fantastic opportunity for a generation of new collectors in the field."*

**Dennis, Derk and Valerie Albada Jelgersma:** *"Our father, Eric Albada Jelgersma, had given much thought to the future of his Old Master Picture Collection, which he – together with our mother Marie-Louise Albada Jelgersma – formed over many decades with love, knowledge and passion. During lengthy discussions with us in 2017, he made the decision to sell parts of the collection at auction, enabling these splendid works to pass on to a new generation of collectors. Earlier this year, our father chose to entrust Christie's with these sales and, following his very sad passing last June, we are honouring our father's wishes."*

## OLD MASTER PAINTINGS

**All the different genres of Golden Age Dutch and Flemish painting are represented with masterpieces in every field.** Taken as a whole, these works show the full breadth of painting in Holland and Flanders during the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Evening Sale is led by a remarkable pair of portraits by **Frans Hals** (estimate: £8-12 million, *illustrated page 1*) dating to 1637, when the artist was at the height of his powers and his work was in huge demand. They are described by the renowned scholar of Hals, Seymour Slive, as: *'outstanding, superlative works by Hals, in a nearly miraculous state of preservation.'* Their exceptional condition allows a full appreciation of Hals' revolutionary technique and the amazingly subtle range of his limited palette. They are the finest pair of portraits by the artist to remain together in private hands.

A further highlight is a monumental painting of *Venus and Adonis* by **Van Dyck**, which is an intriguing and rare disguised double portrait of the infamous George Villiers, Marquess and later 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Buckingham and his wife, Katherine Manners, probably painted to celebrate their marriage in 1620 (estimate: £2.5-3.5 million, *illustrated right*). The picture is one of only three works dateable to van Dyck's first visit to England, in the winter of 1620-1621, and is the only painting from this key period to remain in private hands. It has been widely published since its sensational rediscovery in 1990 and has not appeared at auction in over a century.







The collection contains several **landscapes**, the most important of which is *An extensive wooded landscape* by **Jan Breughel the Elder**, one of the largest landscapes he painted on copper. Executed while the artist was court painter to the Governors of the Southern Netherlands, Archduke Albert and his wife Isabella, it is widely regarded as one of the most significant landscapes by the artist to come to the market in recent decades (estimate: £3-5 million, *illustrated left*).

**Genre paintings** are wonderfully represented by **Gerard Ter Borch**, **Michiel van Musscher**, **Dirck Hals** and **Willem van Mieris**, among others. **Judith Leyster's** witty and engaging scene of three young revellers, *Merry Company*, is a rare work by the greatest female artist of the Dutch Golden Age (estimate: £1.5-2.5 million, *illustrated right and page 1 in-situ*). Painted *circa* 1629, when Leyster was just twenty years old, it demonstrates both her precocious talent and her ambitions as a painter of modern genre subjects, a field pioneered and dominated by her male contemporaries, notably Frans Hals. This painting has been included in all the key Leyster exhibitions and was most recently selected for the 2009 exhibition at the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem and the National Gallery of Art in Washington to mark the four hundredth anniversary of Leyster's birth.



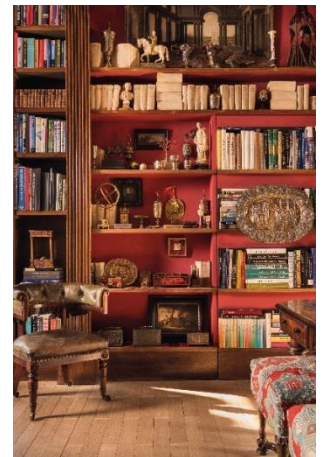
**Still lifes** also feature strongly in the collection with a small-scale masterpiece by **Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder**, as well as a large, exuberant canvas by **Frans Snyders**.

## THE COLLECTION SALE

Eric Albada Jelgersma's wider collection of sculpture, antiquities, English furniture, *kunstkamer* objects, silver, Chinese bronzes and ceramics was assembled with the same impeccable taste and is no less expansive in its nature. The unique interiors in Brussels and Amsterdam provided the *mise en scène* for the impressive group of Old Masters. The interiors were assembled with the same impeccable taste, under the guidance of the renowned interior designer Axel Vervoordt.

## BRUSSELS

**Highlights in The Library (right) include:** A George IV mahogany desk chair, *circa* 1825 (estimate: £1,200-1,800); a German *Kunstkamer* collection including a group of German parcel-gilt silver cups and dishes, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century with estimates ranging from £500 up to £15,000.



**The Cabinet of Curiosities (left)** shown in one of a pair of white-painted 'Kentian' cabinets (estimate: £30,000-50,000) in the Garden Room, displayed a selection of the *Kunstkamer* objects in the collection including: three Greek brass and enamelled icons, 19<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £600-1000); a group of Hellenistic and Egyptian antiquities; Valdivian stone effigy figures from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millenium B.C., Ecuador; eight Chinese Archaistic hardtone bi-discs (estimate: £3,000-5,000); and a group of parchment-bound volumes of Dutch yearbooks, 18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £3,000-5,000).

**Highlights in the Dining Room include:** A George III-style cut and moulded glass eighteen-light chandelier, 20<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £15,000-25,000); a Victorian mahogany extending dining-table, by Gillows, *circa* 1870 (estimate: £20,000-40,000); a set of sixteen English mahogany dining-chairs (estimate: £10,000-15,000).

## AMSTERDAM



**The Living Room (left) included:** a George III mahogany rusticated cabinet (estimate: £30,000-50,000); a group of turned tobacco-jars, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £2,500-4,000); a George III yew 'cockpen' open armchair, 2<sup>nd</sup> half 18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £1,500-2,500) and a matched pair of American terrestrial and celestial table globes, *circa* 1880 (estimate: £4,000-6,000).



**The Kitchen (right) included:** a George II oak dresser, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £3,000-5,000); a collection of pewter vessels and dishes, 19<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £2,000-4,000); an English yew and elm Windsor armchair, 19<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £1,200-1,800 for two pairs).

## PRESS CONTACTS

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### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2018 that totalled £2.97 billion / \$4.04 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. 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.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

*\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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Images available on request

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