

CHRISTIE'S

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THE DESMARAIS COLLECTION: A PIED-À-TERRE IN NEW YORK



New York – Christie's is honored to present *The Desmarais Collection: A pied-à-terre in New York*, which encompasses a remarkable selection of furniture, paintings and porcelain that will be offered in a dedicated sale on April 30 in New York, during the Classic Week series of sales. The collection is from the New York pied-à-terre of the distinguished Canadian couple Paul and Jacqueline Desmarais, which was decorated by the internationally acclaimed interior designer Juan Pablo Molyneux. Comprised of more than 150 lots, the collection features a sumptuous and sophisticated group of French 18th and 19th century furniture by many of the best makers such as Riesener and Weisweiler, Sèvres porcelain, silver and paintings including works by the artists Francois Boucher and Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun. The also features a selection of deluxe upholstered custom furniture and accessories specially ordered by J.P. Molyneux Studio, with luxurious fabrics by makers such as Prella and Antico Setificio.

Paul Desmarais Sr. (1927-2013) was the former CEO of Power Corporation of Canada, and Jacqueline (1928-2018) was a philanthropist who was recognized as one of the most important patrons of Quebec's arts scene. Jacqueline sat on the board of directors at the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and in honor of her philanthropic contributions she was named an officer of the Order of Canada, to the National Order of Quebec and to France's Legion of Honour.

Will Strafford, Senior International Specialist, European Furniture & Decorative Arts, comments: "*Christie's is proud to offer this superb collection of French furniture, paintings and Sèvres porcelain on behalf of the Desmarais family, one of Canada's leading families, noted as much for their acumen in the business world as for their generous philanthropy. The collection furnished their New York pied-à-terre in the Pierre hotel, and was the result of their long and fruitful collaboration with the noted interior designer Juan Pablo Molyneux.*"

Juan Pablo Molyneux, adds: “It was a great pleasure working with Monsieur and Madame Desmarais on their New York home. Jacqueline Desmarais reflected a very strong personality in her taste, and had a very sophisticated approach when selecting styles, colors and objets d’art. We worked side-by-side to produce the correct environment for this exceptional collection of 18th and 19th century period furnishings.”

Among the collection highlights the Riesener commode is a spectacular work: a Louis XVI masterpiece in ormolu and lush naturalistic marquetry that Jean-Henri Riesener made for the hôtel du Garde-Meuble (the administration in charge of furnishing royal residences) in 1774, the year he was appointed cabinetmaker for the King. Other highlights include an elegant early 19th century vase from Russia’s imperial stone-cutting workshops and one of the most complete 18th century Sèvres porcelain services still in private hands, decorated with images from the Comte de Buffon’s *Natural History of Birds*. Eighteenth-century paintings include a beautiful *Portrait of a young girl* by Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, and *Vénus et les amours* by François Boucher, First Painter to the King under Louis XV.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS | THE DESMARAIS COLLECTION | APRIL 30



A SEVRES PORCELAIN BLEU CELESTE ‘OEIL DE PERDRIX’ ORNITHOLOGICAL PART DESSERT SERVICE
 Circa 1782-1786
 \$120,000 –180,000



A LOUIS XVI ORMOLU-MOUNTED BOIS SATINE, AMARANTH, SYCAMORE AND MARQUETRY COMMODE
Jean-Henri Riesener, 1774
 Ordered in 1774 for the bedroom of Madame Randon de Pommery, wife of the Garde-Général of the Garde Meuble de la Couronne, in the Hôtel du Garde Meuble, Place de la Concorde, Paris
 \$700,000–1,000,000



FRANÇOIS BOUCHER (Paris 1703-1770)
Vénus et les Amours
 oil on canvas
 \$150,000-200,000



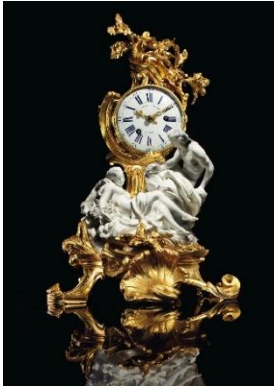
A PAIR OF ORMOLU-MOUNTED SEVRES PORCELAIN GREEN-GROUND VASES AND COVERS (VASE ‘BOUC A RAISINS’)
The Porcelain circa 1770, the figure painting almost certainly by Nicolas Dodin, the ormolu bases circa 1820
 \$80,000-120,000



A WOVEN SILK BROCADE UPHOLSTERED SOFA
 Modern, The Fabric by Prella, Supplied by J.P. Molyneux Studio
 \$3,000–5,000



ÉLISABETH-LOUISE VIGÉE LE BRUN (Paris 1755-1842)
Portrait of a young girl, half-length
 last quarter 18th century
 \$50,000-70,000



A LOUIS XV ORMOLU AND VINCENNES PORCELAIN MANTEL CLOCK

The Ormolu attributed to Jean-Claude Chambellan Duplessis, Circa 1749
Supplied in 1749 to Jean-Baptiste de Machault d'Arnouville (1701-94), who as *Contrôleur Général des Finances* was in charge of Vincennes and would receive an annual New Year's Day present from the factory
\$70,000–100,000



A LOUIS XVI ORMOLU-MOUNTED BURR YEW MAHOGANY AND WEDGWOOD JASPERWARE GUERIDON

Adam Weisweiler and almost certainly supplied by Dominique Daguerre, Circa 1785
The circular top inset with a central roundel depicting the Altar of Love surrounded by the signs of the Zodiac, the underside with chalk 93, paper label with ink 93 and painted inventory, 1991.91.1, the plaques stamped WEDGWOOD to the reverse
\$70,000–100,000



A MONUMENTAL RUSSIAN ORMOLU-MOUNTED VEINED GRAY HARDSTONE VASE

Circa 1810-1830, attributed to the Imperial stonecutting workshops, St. Petersburg
\$100,000-200,000

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About Christie's

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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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