

# CHRISTIE'S

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## A Celebration of Craftsmanship

Christie's Announces

### The Spring Series of *The Collector Sales X Lulu Lytle of Soane Britain* & *Reshaped: Ceramics Through Time*



**The Collector Sales X Lulu Lytle of Soane Britain:** A pair of Louis XIV patinated bronze and marble medallions, late 17<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £30,000–40,000); A French Renaissance white and green painted deer trophy, mid-16<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £30,000–40,000); A set of four Louis XVI giltwood fauteuils à la reine, circa 1780 (estimate: £15,000–25,000), all offered in *The Collector: European Furniture, Works of Art & Ceramics*; Giraffe Diamond Indigo fabric by Soane Britain, with hand plaited rush matting by Rush Matters



**Reshaped: Ceramics Through Time** (left to right): Bouke De Vries (b. 1960), *Deconstructed teapot with butterflies*, 2017 (estimate: £4,000-6,000); A Chelsea porcelain octagonal teapot and cover (estimate: £15,000-20,000)

**London** – Christie's Spring edition of *The Collector* sales in London will collaborate with Lulu Lytle of [Soane Britain](#) on 22 and 23 May, following a dynamic stand-alone sale *Reshaped: Ceramics Through Time* on 21 May, the first auction of its kind to bring together ceramic artworks from a broad span of cultures and time. Together, the week of auctions provides a rich celebration of craftsmanship across media and periods.

The series of three **Collector** sales comprises an array of 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century decorative arts and furniture spanning: [English Furniture, Clocks & Works of Art & Portrait Miniatures](#) (22 May); [European Furniture, Works of Art & Ceramics](#) (22 May), and [Silver & 19<sup>th</sup> Century Furniture, Sculpture & Works of Art](#) (23 May). **Reshaped: Ceramics Through Time** celebrates the versatility of ceramics as a medium for creative artworks from Ancient times to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

#### THE COLLECTOR X LULU LYTLE OF SOANE BRITAIN

**Giles Forster, Decorative Arts, Christie's London:** "Christie's specialists' expertise enables them to identify the qualities that makes an object special - 'The Collector' sales have been created to bring together such discoveries - every lot exhibits brilliant design realised by exceptional craftsmanship. Each lot retains a certain 'something' which distinguished it as special when it was made one or two hundred years ago – highlighting why it is still treasured and transcends time to be desirable and relevant today. I admire Lulu Lytle's design ethos at Soane Britain because she acknowledges

*Illustrated right:*  
**The Collector: European Furniture, Works of Art & Ceramics:** A Nevers faience two-handed jardinière, circa 1680 (estimate: £5,000–8,000); A Louis XV ormolu-mounted parcel-gilt and Chinese red lacquer commode by François Garnier, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £50,000–80,000); Damascus Stripe fabric by Soane Britain, with hand plaited rush matting by Rush Matters, both made in England.



good design always stands the test of time – looking back as well as forward, she creates entirely new designs often inspired by the best antiques, and always of timeless elegance. It was great fun putting together these photoshoot images as a foretaste of the room Lulu is designing for *The Collector* auction preview – identifying not just how one object is special, but how it compliments another is the true test of a beautiful interior.”

**Lulu Lytle, Founder & Creative Director of Soane Britain:** “Celebrating fine craftsmanship is at the heart of Soane Britain’s ethos, so we are delighted to collaborate with Christie’s to create an atmospheric and inspiring setting for this season’s *Collectors Sales in King Street*. Drawing on such a rich mix of furniture and objects from 17<sup>th</sup> century German silver and French faience to 18<sup>th</sup> century Beauvais tapestries and Chinese lacquer commodes, enabled me to choose some extraordinary pieces, characterised by a shared artistry, quality and elegance.”



**The Collector:**  
**Silver and 19th Century Furniture, Sculpture**

A Moser Maharani pattern part table-service, 20<sup>th</sup> century, acid etched factory marks  
Estimate: £2,000–3,000

A pair of Victorian silver wine-coolers and liners, two wine-coolers and one liner mark of Benjamin Smith II, London, 1837, one liner unmarked, probably later  
Estimate: £25,000–35,000

A set of four George IV silver-gilt mounted cut-glass condiment-vases, mark of John Bridge, London, 1823, retailed by Rundell, Bridge and Rundell  
Estimate: £12,000–18,000

Giraffe Diamond Indigo fabric and The Nureyev Trolley in Antique Brass by Soane Britain, both made in England



**The Collector: English Furniture, Works of Art & Portrait Miniatures**

A George I walnut and needlework wing armchair  
Estimate: £25,000–40,000

A rare pair of champlévé enamel baluster vases Qianlong Period (1736–95)  
Estimate: £5,000–8,000

A George III mahogany silver table, circa 1760  
Estimate: £7,000–10,000

Old Flax Check Lagoon fabric by Soane Britain, with hand plaited rush matting by Rush Matters, both made in England



**The Collector:**  
**European Furniture, Works of Art & Ceramics**

A pair of Charles X ormolu-mounted ebony bibliothèques, circa 1830  
Estimate: £25,000–40,000

A pair of Louis XVI ormolu candlesticks, last quarter 18<sup>th</sup> century, probably North European  
Estimate: £3,000–5,000

**The Collector:**  
**English Furniture, Works of Art & Portrait Miniatures**

A matched pair of late regency mahogany bergères attributed to Gillows, circa 1820  
Estimate: £10,000–15,000

Carafe Table in Polished Brass by Soane Britain, with hand plaited rush matting by Rush Matters, both made in England

In addition to lots that were part of a separate [pre-sale shoot at the newly opened Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery](#) – designed and built between 1800 and 1804 by Sir John Soane, one of Britain’s most influential architects – further highlights from across *The Collector Sales* include:

***The Collector: English Furniture, Works of Art & Portrait Miniatures – 22 May***



A remarkable George III mahogany architect’s desk by Gillows, 1778, is an early documented piece of furniture by this important firm (estimate: £6,000-10,000, *illustrated left*). Having been delivered to Colonel John Myddelton of Gwaynynog Hall, Denbighshire in 1778, it continued to have an interesting life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with Beatrix Potter (1866-1943), one of the world’s best-loved children’s

authors and illustrators, a frequent visitor to Gwaynynog Hall. While there she made numerous sketches and watercolours of the rooms at Gwaynynog. It is tempting to imagine Beatrix Potter sitting and writing at this desk on one of her many visits to the house. An elegant pair of George III grey-painted and parcel gilt armchairs were made by the greatest English furniture designer Thomas Chippendale, circa 1775(estimate: £30,000-50,000, *illustrated right*).



Chippendale's unsurpassed mastery of material, technique and restrained design is highly admired and sought after today.

A portrait miniature of Admiral Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald (1775-1860) by George Engleheart (1750/52-1829), signed and dated 1812, has an estimate of £7,000-10,000 (*illustrated right*). The Admiral, nicknamed *Le Loup des Mers* by Napoleon, was a swashbuckling officer in the British Navy and a radical politician who strove for an end to government corruption and better pay for members of the British Navy, especially those wounded in conflict. Disillusioned, and disgraced from being implicated in a fraud on the Stock Exchange, Cochrane became a mercenary freedom fighter and successfully led the rebel navies of Brazil and Chile in their battle for independence. Seen as the founder of the Chilean Navy, Cochrane is celebrated every year on Independence Day. He was the inspiration behind C.S. Forester's Horatio Hornblower and the Hollywood film *Master and Commander* starring Russell Crowe.



### **The Collector: European Furniture, Works of Art & Ceramics – 22 May**



A pair of Louis XVI ormolu-mounted *bleu du roi* Sèvres porcelain three-light candelabra, the design by Simon-Philippe Poirier, probably modelled by Philibert Choulet, the ormolu probably by Jean-Claude-Thomas Duplessis, *circa* 1770-80 (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*). These superb candelabra are rare and elegant examples of *bronzes d'ameublements* produced in the late 1770s to the specifications of the foremost Parisian dealer in luxury goods of the time, the *marchand-mercier* Simon-Philippe Poirier (c. 1720-1785). With the use of rare Sèvres porcelain bodies, the design and its execution, they exemplify Poirier's incessant quest for innovative inventions and superlative luxury. Only two other examples of the model are recorded.

A Louis XV ormolu-mounted parcel-gilt and Chinese red lacquer bombe commode by Francois Garnier, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £50,000-80,000, *illustrated right*). This commode with its striking red Chinese lacquer, which depicts occidental courtiers on a horse-drawn carriage, typifies the fashion for furniture mounted with exotic and rare lacquer which was controlled by the *marchand-merciers* in France in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



A Louis XVI ormolu-mounted Chinese crackle-glaze celadon porcelain vase, the mounts attributed to Jean-Claude-Thomas Duplessis, *circa* 1775, the porcelain Kangxi Period (1662-1722) (estimate: £30,000-40,000, *illustrated left*). The bold and beautifully chased mounts of the present vase are closely related to those of the celebrated Saxe-Teschen celadon vase and cover with mounts attributed to the *maître fondeur* Jean-Claude-Thomas Duplessis (d. 1783). With its Guan-type celadon glaze it is demonstrative of the highly successful marriage between East and West seen through the combination of the Chinese porcelain and finely chased Parisian mounts.



### **The Collector: Silver and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Furniture, Sculpture – 23 May**

Furniture highlights within the sale include a French 'Japonisme' ormolu-mounted rosewood vitrine-cabinet by Édouard Lièvre, *circa* 1880, embellished with his signature dragon mounts and a pagoda-inspired crest (estimate: £200,000- £300,000, *illustrated right*). Sculpture highlights include an ethereal marble of Cléopâtre, *circa* 1890, by the Art Nouveau sculptor Francois-Raoul Larche, believed to be a portrait of the celebrated





actress and artist's muse Sarah Bernhardt (estimate: £15,000-£25,000, *illustrated left*). Silver highlights feature a German silver-gilt cup, with the mark of Melchior Bair, Augsburg, 1602-1606 which is part of a large collection of German and Swiss silver offered in this sale (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated right*). It is chased with



cartouches featuring a camel, a lion and a wolf symbolising the three continents, Africa, Asia and Europe, inspired by the Southern German engraver Paul Flindt. A set of six William and Mary silver-gilt stands, London, *circa* 168, is the work of a yet unidentified silversmith whose work is of high quality and is typified by the inventiveness of the engraved ornament of foliage, often inhabited by animals, figures, cherubs and grotesques (£40,000-60,000, *illustrated left*).

### RESHAPED: CERAMICS THROUGH TIME – 21 May

**Reshaped** celebrates the versatility of ceramics as a medium for creative artworks from Ancient times to the 21st Century. Sparking new visual 'conversations' between works that were produced in very different contexts and eras, the sale will illustrate how ideas can weave through time, being reshaped and remodelled into different artworks along the way. Works by artists such as Kees van Dongen, Pablo Picasso, Fernand Léger, André Derain and Maurice de Vlaminck and by living Contemporary artists such as Felicity Aylieff, Bouke de Vries, Enrique Perezalba, Hitomi Hosono, Michelle Ericksson and Kate Malone sit alongside beautiful pieces from Antiquity to the Italian Renaissance, from medieval Arabic cultures to 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe, from Japan and China. The sale comprises 69 lots with estimates ranging from £1,500 to £100,000.

**Dominic Simpson, Head of Ceramics Department, Christie's London:** *"This sale presents a fascinating opportunity to consider how works relate to each other, even if they were made in completely different eras and in different places. Ideas run like threads through time, weaving their way through the centuries, emerging in different ways, reshaped into different works. The sale highlights how related ideas run through what are usually seen as different and unconnected pieces from different cultures. There are a great many connections and putting pieces opposite each other has demonstrated these connections in such a powerful and enlightening way."*



*From left to right:* Enrique Perezalba Red (b. 1972), *Weeping Deity* (estimate: £8,000-10,000); A *dehua blanc-de-chine* figure of Guanyin, Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) (estimate: £15,000-25,000); Michelle Erickson (b. 1960), *Potter's Field*, *circa* 2011 (estimate: £8,000-12,000); An English earthenware slipware baking or loaf-dish, early 19<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £2,000-3,000); Fernand Léger (1881-1955), *Nature morte du vase bleu* (estimate: £12,000-18,000); Felicity Aylieff (b. 1954), *Monumental Vase; New Pots on Pots*, *circa* 2016 (estimate: £35,000-50,000).

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#### Notes to Editors

##### Soane Britain:

[Soane Britain](http://www.soanebritain.com) designs and makes furniture, upholstery, lighting, fabrics, wallpapers and interior necessities with the aim of contributing to the joyful atmosphere of any interior. The evolving collections include entirely new designs as well as pieces inspired by the best antiques. Co-founder Lulu

Lytle started with a road trip around Britain to find craftsmen practising traditional skills: blacksmiths, cabinet makers, saddlers, upholsterers and stone carvers with whom she could work. Over two decades later, Soane has retained close working relationships with a network of talented craftsmen across the country, as well as investing in its own workshops and apprenticeship schemes.

**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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