

CHRISTIE'S

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OLD MASTER & BRITISH DRAWINGS INCLUDING PROPERTY FROM THE CORNELIA BESSIE ESTATE ONLINE SALE 14-28 JANUARY



[JEAN-ÉTIENNE LIOTARD](#) (Geneva 1702–1789)
Portrait of Philibert Cramer
with period frame and glass
pastel on blue paper, mounted on canvas
25 x 21¼ in. (63.5 x 53.8 cm)
\$400,000-600,000

New York – Christie's online auction [Old Master & British Drawings including property from The Cornelia Bessie Estate](#) will be offered for sale 14-28 January and will feature works from the 15th to the 19th centuries, with a particular focus on drawings by some of the greatest 18th century French artists.

A rare highlight of the auction appearing on the market for the first time is **Jean-Étienne Liotard's** pastel *Portrait of Philibert Cramer*, one of Voltaire's publishers, which is offered by his descendants (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). The dashing sitter is identified on a label on the back of the canvas as Philibert Cramer (1727-1779), who together with his brother Gabriel, were the principal publishers of Voltaire and responsible for the first editions of major works such as the novel *Candide*. Liotard is closely associated with the medium of pastel and the portrait is a striking demonstration of his art, characterized by originality and a sense of realism.

The estate of Cornelia Bessie features a strong group of 18th century works including an important wash drawing of *The Flight into Egypt* by **Giovanni Battista Tiepolo** which exhibits incredible freshness and was once owned by Prince Alexis Orlov (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Another highlight of the Cornelia Bessie collection is an enchanting red-chalk figure study *Young woman dozing* by **Jean-Honoré Fragonard** (estimate: \$300,000-500,000).

The sale features thirteen sheets from **Fragonard's** illustrations for Ludovico Ariosto's *Orlando furioso*, the popular sixteenth-century epic poem, which is offered from the Collection of Nina R. and Arthur A. Houghton, Jr (estimates range from \$15,000-30,000). The thirteen examples have been kept together since Fragonard's death and are likely the largest group available in private hands. A red-chalk *Study of the head of a woman* by **Jean-Baptiste Greuze** highlights the group from The Collection of Nina Griscom (estimate: \$70,000-100,000). Rounding out the selection by French artists is a large drawing by **Laurent de La Hyre** related to his *Binding of Isaac* in Reims (estimate: \$80,000-120,000).

Among the Italian drawings are rare works such as a sketch for a painting by the 15th century Roman artist **Antoniazio Romano**, an architectural drawing by architect **Vincenzo Scamozzi**, the pupil of Palladio, and a drawing of *The Nativity* by **Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione**. Northern drawings include **Jan Siberecht's** *Study of an old gnarled tree*, a selection of works from the **Rembrandt School**, a pastel family portrait by **Cornelis Troost**, as well as one of the finest early copies after Dürer's *Hare*.



LOT 30

JEAN-BAPTISTE GREUZE
(Tournus 1725–1825 Paris)

*Study of the head of a woman looking to the right,
her hair in a cap*
red chalk
145 x 11 in. (38 x 28 cm)
\$70,000-100,000



LOT 39

JEAN-HONORÉ FRAGONARD
(Grasse 1732–1806 Paris)

A young woman dozing
traces of blackchalk, red chalk
9½ x 7½ in. (24 x 19 cm)
\$300,000-500,000



LOT 17

GIOVANNI BATTISTA TIEPOLO (Venice 1696-
1770 Madrid)

The Flight into Egypt
blackchalk, pen and brown ink, brown wash
16¾ x 11⅞ in. (42.5 x 30 cm)
\$200,000-300,000



LOT 34

LAURENT DE LA HYRE (Paris 1606-1656)

The Binding of Isaac
with inscription 'La Hire' (on the mount)
black and white chalk on light brown paper
12 x 15⅜ in. (30.5 x 39.1 cm)
\$80,000-120,000



LOT 4

ANTONIO DI BENEDETTO AQUILIO DEGLI
AQUILI, CALLED ANTONIAZZO ROMANO
(Rome circa 1435/1440-1508)

The Nativity of Christ with Saint Lawrence
with inscription 'D'Alessio Baldovinetti'
pen and brown ink, brown wash
10 x 8 in. (25.3 x 20.2 cm)
\$80,000-120,000



LOT 23

MUNICH SCHOOL, EARLY 17TH CENTURY

The hare
with Dürer's monogram and date 'AD 1502'
watercolor and bodycolor, on paper laid down on
panel
5⅞ x 7¼ in. (15 x 18.1 cm)
\$40,000-60,000

Viewing is by appointment only, January 20–28 2021
20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

Hours

Monday–Saturday 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Sunday 1:00 PM–5:00 PM

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**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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