

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | PARIS | 15 MAY 2023 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## *Maîtres anciens : Paintings - Sculptures*

*- Major rediscoveries*

*- Renowned 18<sup>th</sup>-century women painters*

*- Iconic works*



Anne Vallayer-Coster (1744-1818), *Nature morte au vase de fleurs et ananas*, oil on canvas, 1783, estimate: €600,000 - €1,000,000

### **Sale on 15 June at 3pm, viewing from 10 to 14 June**

Paris — Christie's presents the [Maîtres anciens : Peintures - sculptures](#) sale in Paris on 15 June, featuring a curated selection of around fifty works with a global estimate of between 4 and 6 million euros. **Some significant rediscoveries will be showcased during this auction**, Christie's experts regularly shining a light on — sometimes vanished — artworks from little-known collections all across France and Europe. One such work is the sale highlight, *La Nature morte au vase de fleurs*, a masterpiece by Anne Vallayer-Coster (1744-1818) much admired at the 1783 Salon (The Académie des Beaux-Arts' annual exhibition) (Estimate: €600,000 -1,000,000). The 15 June sale will include paintings — many new to the market — by Jusepe de Ribera, Pierre Patel the Elder, and Jan Brueghel the Younger. The sale is rounded out with a section devoted to sculptures — such as a Pietà restituted to its rightful owners by the Louvre on 18 April of this year — and an [Online Sale will be organised from 1 to 16 June](#).

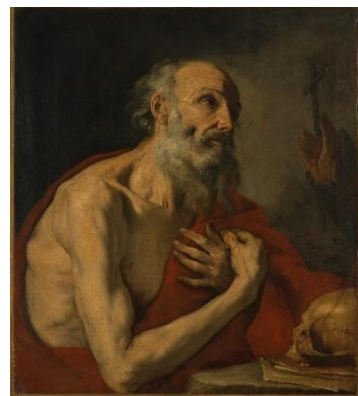
## RENOWNED WOMEN ARTISTS

**Anne Vallayer-Coster (1744-1818)**, a defining figure in 18<sup>th</sup>-century art world, was often compared to Chardin— a major source of inspiration. Defending her own work, she managed to get all the attention and recognition she deserved during her lifetime. She was even allowed to enter the very male-dominated Paris art academy, the *Académie royale de peinture et de sculpture*. ***Nature morte au vase de fleurs et ananas***, painted by the artist in 1783, was considered a crowning achievement by Vallayer-Coster herself and her peers. This is why she never parted from this masterpiece. The exceptionally well-preserved painting, close to its original state, is making its first market appearance in almost two hundred years. It is estimated at **€600,000 - 1,000,000**.

A set of **four never seen paintings** by **Angelica Kauffmann (1741-1807)**, all from the same British collection, will also celebrate the role of women artists during the Enlightenment. Whether allegorical or literary, the works for sale epitomise Kauffmann's skill in compositions with romantic tones, such as *Virtue triumphing over vice*, estimated at **€30,000 - 50,000**.

## MAJOR REDISCOVERIES

Another significant rediscovery is a powerful Saint Jerome by **Jusepe de Ribera (1591-1652)**, one of the great Spanish masters displayed in major museums worldwide. Ribera's pared-back approach in this remarkably well-preserved 1648 painting reveals sculptural shading, demonstrating his widely-acknowledged mastery of chiaroscuro. It is estimated at **€500,000 - 800,000**.



The sale will also showcase **Pierre Patel the Elder (1604-1676)**, one of the most gifted landscape artists during the French golden period referred to as the *Grand Siècle*. His painting, *Paysage idéal avec monuments antiques animé de personnages*, has **never been seen on the market before**. It is datable to the 1650s, when the artist was working for Paris' celebrated Hôtel Lambert. Its composition is reminiscent of a drawing in the Fondation Custodia's collection. It is estimated at **€400,000 - €600,000**.

## ICONIC WORKS

Another highlight of the sale is *Allégorie de la vue* by **Jan Brueghel the Younger**, a rare piece depicting the great intellectual breadth and ongoing quest for discovery of an era where the passion for collecting led to a surge in cabinets of curiosities. The painting's appealing, almost playful collection of objects contrasts with the peaceful vista over Antwerp on the right-hand side (**Estimate: €300,000 - €500,000**).





A life-size *Saint John the Baptist* by **Jacopo di Antonio Negretti**, also known as **Palma Giovane**, will also be offered for sale. The work, with very prestigious provenance, was owned by Diego Felipez de Guzmán (1580-1655) for many years. The marquess of Leganés was one of the most significant Spanish collectors of his time, remembered for having brought together an astounding collection of over 1,700 paintings. **(Estimate: €100,000 - €150,000)**. Finally, the auction will feature two beautiful compositions by

**Jean-Baptiste Vanmour**, a French painter who spent almost his entire life in the Ottoman Empire in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Collectors have always been fascinated by Vanmour's detailed observations on the Levant's *art de vivre*.

### A SECTION DEVOTED TO SCULPTURE

The Sculpture Department will present an impressive Pietà, created in **Gil de Siloé's circle**, circa 1500 **(Estimate: €80,000 - €120,000)**. The sculpture belonged to Harry Fuld's private collection but was looted by Nazis during the Second World War. It was on display at the Louvre in recent years and was restituted this past 18 April. The sale proceeds will benefit the Magen David Adom UK organisation and its efforts in Israel. A rare reliquary cross with enamel plaques is also offered for sale. This fine example of Mosan art from the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century was drawn from an aristocratic Belgian collection (Estimate: **€35,000 - €45,000**). Additional highlight: an extremely fine alabaster sculpture, possibly depicting King Charles II of Spain, made by a sculptor in **Giovanni Travaglia's circle** in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century **(Estimate: €25,000 - €35,000)**. The one-metre-tall sculpture's movement, coat folds, and hair curls are all hallmarks of Sicilian baroque art.



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**Jusepe de Ribera** (1591-1652), *Saint Jerome*, oil on canvas, estimate: €500,000 - €800,000

**Pierre Patel the Elder** (1604-1676) *Paysage idéal avec monuments antiques animé de personnages*, oil on canvas, estimate: €400,000 - €600,000

**Jan Brueghel the Younger** (1601-1678), *Allégorie de la vue*, oil on panel, estimate: €300,000 - €500,000

**Jacopo di Antonio Negretti** or **Palma Giovane** (1544-1628), *Saint John the Baptist*, oil on canvas, estimate: €100,000 - €150,000

**Gil de Siloé's circle**, circa 1500, *Pietà*, painted and parcel-gilt walnut, estimate: €80,000 - €120,000

Reliquary cross, partly late 12th-century and later, gilt copper and champlevé enamel, estimate: €35,000 - €45,000

Figure possibly representing King Charles II of Spain (1661-1700), circa 1675, alabaster, red marble base of a later date, estimate: €25,000 - €35,000

PRACTICAL INFO:  
SALE ON 15 JUNE AT 3PM  
VIEWING 9, Avenue Matignon 75008 PARIS, from 10 to 14 June

IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST  
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Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's Salvador Mundi](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's Shot Sage Blue Marilyn](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' Rabbit](#), 2019). Christie's is also recognised as a reference for prestigious single owner collections, having auctioned 8 of the 10 most important collections in history.

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*\*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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