

CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK | 27 JANUARY 2023 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCEPTIONAL SALE TOTALS \$5,589,240

Sold 133% hammer above low estimate; bidders in North America, the U.K., Europe, and Asia



A STEEL RAILROAD SPIKE CLAD IN GOLD AND SILVER USED IN THE CEREMONY MARKING
THE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

10 MAY 1869

Unknown, but possibly G.W. Laird, San Francisco, 1869.

Price realized: \$2,220,000

NEW YORK – The Exceptional Sale – Christie's global auction of the best of the best in decorative and applied arts, singular works of historic importance, and iconic objects of pop culture – totaled \$5,589,240, selling 133% hammer above low estimate, with bidding from around the globe. The top lot was **'The Arizona Spike,'** of steel clad in gold and silver, made in 1869 to commemorate the completion of the world's first Transcontinental Railroad, which went 740% of its estimate to bring \$2,200,000. Other highlights included: a **Louis XVI parcel-gilt and gray-painted canape**, circa 1785, which realized: \$529,2000; a **German royal silver-gilt tea and coffee service** made for the wedding of Prince Wilhelm I of Prussia, which brought \$441,000; a **Roman cameo** dating to 41-54 BC, formerly in the collection of the 4th Duke of Marlborough, which made \$352,800; **an important Ascot trophy** sponsored by Tsar Nicholas II, which brought \$302,400; and original 16mm **reels from Andy Warhol's 1968 film Lonesome Cowboys**, a screening of which sparked the Atlanta raid known as the "Stonewall of the South," which made \$25,200.

Christie's International Specialist Head European Furniture and Works of Art, Casey Rogers, said, *"We are thrilled with the overwhelming response and depth of bidding in the Exceptional Sale, which demonstrate the market's robust appetite for masterpiece-level decorative arts and historically significant objects with storied provenance. Look no further than the thrilling results for the Transcontinental Railroad spike, which Christie's was honored to offer on behalf the Museum of the City of New York."*

Christie's Senior Specialist, Americana, Peter Klarnet, said, *"The spike was a one-of-a-kind piece of historic importance and we knew it would be the subject of intense competition among collectors. In the end, the value soared past our expectations. I think the spike captured the imagination of collectors, in part, because it is a potent symbol of national unity. That sense of unity means as much today as it did when the transcontinental railroad was finished less than four years after the Civil War."*



IMPORTANT PARCEL-GILT SILVER AND ENAMEL SIX-PIECE TEA SERVICE ON FITTED STAND FOR THE ROYAL WEDDING OF PRINCE WILHELM I OF PRUSSIA AND PRINCESS AUGUSTE VICTORIA OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN:
Made by Robert Maierheim for Gebreder Friedlander, Berlin, 1881,
Designed by Hermann Ende
Price realized: \$441,000



A ROMAN ONYX CAMEO PORTRAIT OF THE EMPEROR CLAUDIUS
REIGN 41-54 A.D.
3 in. (7.6 cm.) long
Price realized: \$352,000



LONESOME COWBOYS
ANDY WARHOL, 1968
Six 35mm film reels two metal flight cases
Price realized: \$25,200



A LOUIS XVI PARCEL-GILT AND GRAY-PAINTED CANAPE
BY GEORGES JACOB, CIRCA 1785
Price realized: \$529,200

- Browse full sale results here: [The Exceptional Sale](#)
- Press images available on request.

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About Christie's

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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. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the Paul G. Allen Collection—the most valuable collection, ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator 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 [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.
- Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's Everydays](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including a new venture capital investment fund, the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.
- Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability through net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.

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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.*

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