

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Wednesday, 26 November 2014

Un Moment de Perfection

**AN IMPORTANT PRIVATE COLLECTION OF FRENCH
18TH CENTURY FURNITURE AND OLD MASTER PAINTINGS
AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN DECEMBER**



London – Christie's will present a superb collection of French paintings and decorative arts in *Un Moment de Perfection: An Important Private Collection of French 18th Century Furniture and Old Master Paintings* on 3 December 2014. Formed by an erudite and sophisticated collector of both French and Spanish origins, the quality and breadth of this collection demonstrate the distinguished gentleman's deep understanding of art and history, which developed and matured through endless curiosity, extensive travels and friendships formed in the art world. Comprising 83 lots, the wide array of important treasures include a pair of Italian walnut commodes designed and mounted by Luigi Valadier (estimate: £600,000-1 million); a pair of impressive ormolu candelabra attributed to the *ciseleur-doreur* Pierre Gouthière (estimate: £350,000-500,000, *one of pair illustrated above*); and a

pair of *capricci* of Rome by Hubert Robert depicting the Forum with the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina and the Temple of Saturn (estimate: £200,000-400,000). The sale offers new and established collectors the opportunity to acquire works of exceptional quality from this magnificent group. The collection will be available to view from Friday 28 November at Christie's King Street.

EUROPEAN FURNITURE



The sale is led by an elegant pair of Italian walnut commodes, *circa* 1784-85, designed and mounted by Luigi Valadier (estimate: £600,000-1 million, *illustrated left*) which corresponds almost exactly to a pair of commodes in a drawing from the workshop of Luigi Valadier which, along with other papers, is now in the Pinacoteca

Civica. Other notable pieces of European furniture include a late Louis XV ormolu-mounted tulipwood, amaranth and fruitwood marquetry commode by Pierre-Antoine Foullet, *circa* 1770-75, which belongs to a group of case furniture stamped or attributed to Pierre-Antoine Foullet, all of which share the distinctive neo-classical oval frame mounts and Transitional form of this commode (estimate: £70,000-100,000); a French pale-grey painted and parcel-gilt cast-iron centre table from the second quarter of the 19th century (estimate: £15,000-25,000); and a French ormolu and gilt-varnished metal *guéridon*, attributed to Maison Jansen, late 19th century, in the manner of Adam Weisweiler (estimate: £6,000-9,000). Regarded as one of the most prominent interior decorating companies of the 20th century, Maison Jansen, founded in 1880 also designed and made furnishings for the interiors they conceived, the designs for which ranged from a revival of Louis XV, XVI and Empire styles to modern taste, creating a dialogue between the historical and the contemporary. Some of the firm's most important commissions were for the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's residence in Paris, the White House for Jacqueline and John F. Kennedy and the March family residences in Spain.

EUROPEAN OBJECTS

Formerly in the collection of Archibald Philip Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery (1847-1929) at Mentmore Towers, a magnificent pair of candelabra attributed to the celebrated *ciseleur-doreur* Pierre Gouthière, may be regarded as one of the most accomplished models executed in the 'goût à l'Etrusque' (estimate: £350,000-500,000, *one of pair illustrated on page 1*). They are thought to be after a design by Jean-Demosthène Dugourc, made by Gouthière and supplied by the celebrated *marchand-mercier* Dominique Daguerre who collaborated



closely with Gouthière on various important commissions. Further highlights range from a pair of Louis XVI ormolu-mounted Sèvres 'beau bleu' porcelain vases, the mounts attributed to Pierre-Philippe Thomire, *circa* 1785, which were also almost certainly supplied by Dominique Daguerre (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated left*); to a pair of restoration ormolu-mounted porphyry and blued-steel brûle parfums, *circa* 1820-30, after the model by Mathew Boulton (estimate: £30,000-50,000); a Louis XVI oval marble bas-relief of a vestal virgin, attributed to Louis-Simon Boizot, *circa* 1777, which is almost certainly the marble bas-relief depicting *Une Vestale* that Boizot exhibited in the Paris Salon of 1777 (estimate: £8,000-12,000).

OLD MASTER PAINTINGS

Leading the offering of Old Master paintings is one of the top lots of the sale, a pair of *capricci* of Rome by Hubert Robert depicting the Forum with the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina and the Temple of Saturn (estimate: £200,000-400,000, *illustrated right*). In the collection of HRH



The Duchess of Kent at Derby House between 1940 and 1947, this pair of views are a vibrant demonstration of Robert's fascination with the ancient world and of the palpable influence of Giovanni Paolo Panini. Other key works include a striking portrait of Don Lourenço José Xavier de Lima, 1st Count of Mafra by Louis Gauffier's a beautifully preserved example of the artist's small full-length portraiture, the genre that dominated his *oeuvre* until his death in 1801 and for which he would ultimately be most celebrated (estimate: £150,000 - 250,000).

19TH CENTURY PAINTINGS



A three-quarter length *Portrait of Empress Alexandra Feodorovna of Russia, née Princess Charlotte of Prussia* by Scottish born Christina Robertson is likely to be of particular Russian interest (estimate: £ 30,000 - 50,000, *illustrated left*). Robertson travelled to St Petersburg in 1839 to paint the Empress and the Imperial Court, and became her favoured court artist, painting a number of portraits of her. She returned again in 1849 where she remained until her death in 1854. The largest concentration of her work is in the collection of the Hermitage Museum. Amongst her distinguished patrons were the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, Lord Powerscourt, and influential European families including the Rothschilds and Pototskis. *Lady with a fan* by Roberto Bompiani was exhibited at the Esposizione di Belle Arti in

Turin in 1880 where it was highly praised (estimate: £30,000-50,000). Nicknamed “the Italian Bouguereau”, for his pictures of religious and mythological subjects which were evocative of the great French Academic artist, Bompiani was also known as a history and portrait painter who frequently represented members of the Italian aristocracy, such as the Borghese family.

Please click [here](#) to view the e-catalogue

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