

CHRISTIE'S

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WILTON CRESCENT: A ROBERT KIME INTERIOR 23 JULY 2020



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Illustrated above
The Music Room and Drawing Room at
Wilton Crescent: A Robert Kime Interior
Selected lots from the interiors shots are being offered

London – Christie's presents *Wilton Crescent: A Robert Kime Interior*, a striking private collection sale of approximately 230 lots spanning English and European furniture, tapestries, bold Eastern textiles, Chinese works of art and export furniture, Old Master paintings and drawings, prints and decorative furnishings. These fascinating objects, owned by a private family, formed a stunning *mise en scène* in an early 19th century townhouse on Wilton Crescent in London's Belgravia. The crescent has been home to many prominent British and foreign politicians and retains a coveted reputation as being one of the best examples of a late Georgian London terrace. The interiors of the home were styled by the influential British interior designer, Robert Kime. Robert has an unparalleled international reputation and this collection is testament to his eponymous and unique style and approach. Today, his three strands of expertise as an antiques dealer, a textile and fabric collector/designer and an interior designer co-exist, and are very much illustrated by this sale.

Robert Kime, Robert Kime Ltd. comments, “I first saw the house on Wilton Crescent in 2007, an example of possibly London’s best late Georgian houses. It is a marvellous place, with Georgian properties sweeping gracefully around the Crescent. The house lent itself very well to the furniture and art we acquired and used in the project to complement the existing collection. The high ceilings were perfect for using tapestries, such as Lot 43, the Flemish Game-Park Tapestry. My favourite room in the house was the dining room. It was filled with lovely items, including Lot 101, a set of nine Italian Girandoles. It is rare to find so many in a set, so I was very excited to use them in this quite dark room, which only has one window. These were used against the hand-painted Italian wallpaper with Lot 99, a set of Chinese Small



Cargo Dishes acquired in Australia (illustrated above). Both helped to brighten the setting and make a beautifully smart dining room, finished with the George III Mahogany Cumberland Action Dining Table, Lot 89 and George III Mahogany Dining Chairs, Lot 90.

Robert continues, “ A favourite picture from this sale is Lot 52 (illustrated left), *The Madonna and Child with Saints Francis of Assisi and John the Baptist*. I purchased this piece specifically for the project in the Roger Warner Sale at Christie’s in 2009”.

Highlights include:



A Flemish ebony, ivory and pietra dura cabinet-on-stand. The pietra dura panels were made in Florence, second half of the 17th Century, the George III ebonised stand is third quarter 18th Century. This extraordinary cabinet-on-stand was specifically made to display the collection of costly and jewel-like coloured 17th-century *pietre dure* panels, and would have been the *pièce de résistance* of the principal room in which it was placed. Such pictorial panels were created by the *Galleria de' Lavori*, the Medici grand-ducal workshop in Florence, and were almost certainly collected on the Grand Tour by the wealthy patron who commissioned the cabinet. The theme of the central panel of this cabinet is the legendary Thracian poet Orpheus charming the animals with his *lira da braccio* and it reflects the high technical standards of the workshop (estimate £80,000-120,000).

FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART



Lot 151
A George II calamander and
ebony serpentine commode
Estimate £30,000-50,000



Lot 121
A pair of Chinese export black and
gilt-lacquer demi-lune games tables
Estimate £20,000-40,000



Lot 127
A George II parcel-gilt and brown
painted pier table
Estimate £25,000-40,000



Lot 70
A pair of Chinese
export reverse-glass
paintings
Estimate £6,000-10,000



Lot 97
A pair of Italian parcel-gilt and polychrome-
painted pricket candlesticks, converted to
lamps, the shades by Robert Kime Ltd.
Estimate £1,200-1,800



Lot 16
A 'Savernake' Daybed
by Robert Kime Ltd.
Estimate: £3,000-5,000



Lot 43
A Flemish game-park tapestry
Estimate £10,000-15,000



Lot 158
A pair of George I walnut and
marquetry side chairs
Estimate £12,000-18,000



Lot 41
An Italian giltwood
overmantel mirror
Estimate £4,000-6,000

PICTURES



Highlights from the collection of Old Master and English pictures include Lot 28, James Digman Wingfield (1800-1872), *The Cartoon Gallery, Hampton Court*, signed and dated 'J.D./ Wingfield/ 1844', oil on canvas (estimate £10,000-15,000), (illustrated left).

Lot 31, Samuel Woodforde R.A. (Castle Cary 1763-1817 Bologna), *Stonehenge*, oil on canvas (estimate £8,000-12,000, illustrated right) and Lot 143, Abraham Pietersz. van Calraet (Dordrecht 1642-1722), *A river landscape at sunset, with a cowherd and his cows*, with signature 'A cüyp', oil on canvas (estimate £15,000-25,000), (illustrated below).



CARPETS



Each room at Wilton Crescent was expertly layered by Kime using a rich display of Oriental rugs and carpets which added texture, warmth and pattern. Like pages from a traveller's notebook, they capture the colours and designs used by weavers along the silk route.

Lot 174, An Agra Rug, North India, circa 1880 (estimate £7,000-10,000, illustrated left).

From the bold, geometric-patterned rugs of the nomadic tribes and small village settlements in the mountainous regions of the Caucasus and Azerbaijan, to the larger floral decorative carpets woven during the golden age of carpet weaving in Persia, India and Anatolia in the 19th century, this group of carpets displays a kaleidoscopic array of colour, style and technique to excite both collectors and decorators.



Lot 66, A Karatchopf Kazak rug, South Caucasus, *circa* 1870, together with another Karatchopf Kazak Rug, South Caucasus, mid-19th century (estimate £8,000-12,000, *part illustrated above left*). Lot 113, A Sultanabad carpet, West Persia, *circa* 1890 (estimate £8,000-12,000, *illustrated above right*).

To view the e catalogue please click [here](#)

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Notes to Editors:

About Robert Kime

In May 2020, Robert Kime and Tory Burch launch *The Nara Collection* at Robert Kime. This collection is a group of furnishings, fabrics and wallpapers inspired by a journey the pair took together to Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan in 2019. The collection, comprised of ten digitally printed fabrics, one weave and two wallpapers, marks a collaboration and friendship with solidified one Robert's recently completed interior design project at Tory and husband Pierre-Yves Roussel's house in Normandy, France.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in 2019 that totalled £4.5 billion / \$5.8 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.

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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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