



CHRISTIE'S

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DISCOVERIES IN THE COLLECTION OF BRIAN SEWELL

**Attributions include works now confirmed as
Agostino Ciampelli, Daniele da Volterra and
Jusepe de Ribera**

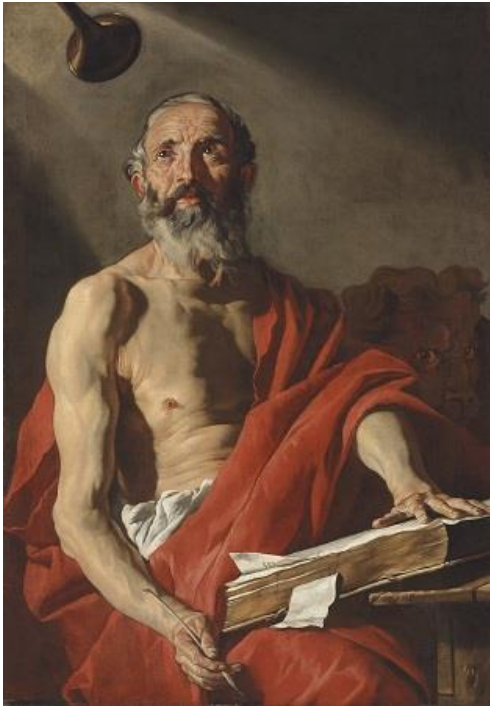


Joseph Anton Koch (estimate: £20,000-30,000); Baldassare Peruzzi (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and
Agostino Ciampelli (estimate: £20,000-30,000)

London – Discoveries made at Christie's have led to new attributions in the collection of Brian Sewell and an oil on paper study has now been associated with a group of pictures hanging in the Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari in Venice. A drawing formerly thought to have been by a follower of Michelangelo, and two other long-unattributed works have now been identified. The auction, [*Brian Sewell: Critic & Collector*](#), to be held on 27 September, will include 248 lots, ranging from Old Master Paintings and Drawings to 19th and 20th century British art.

A long-standing mystery, a study on blue paper of a soldier carrying a ladder towards a besieged town, has been deftly solved by a museum curator in the United States. The Florentine artist Agostino Ciampelli (1565-1630) made this in connection with a Medici marriage in 1589. The technique used in this sketch, one of Ciampelli's most accomplished and striking sheets, is characteristic in its use of black chalk heightened with white on blue paper (estimate: £20,000-30,000). As significant is *Dido reclining, asleep* by Daniele da Volterra (1509-66), only recently identified through extensive research undertaken at Christie's (estimate: £100,000-150,000). It was acquired in the early 1960s as a work by an accomplished follower of Michelangelo and Brian Sewell would have undoubtedly relished its identification as one of Daniele's most exquisite drawings. A profile study has been found to be typical of the technique of Jusepe de Ribera (1591-

1652) when using red chalk (estimate: £6,000-8,000). The two-sided study in oil on paper by Domenico Tintoretto (1560-1635) has just been associated with a series of pictures in the Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, one of Venice's greatest churches. One of the collector's notable finds, which demonstrates his flair at spotting rarities, is a meticulously drawn view, from 1794, of the Schmadribach Waterfall near Lauterbrunnen, a favourite subject of the celebrated German Romantic Joseph Anton Koch (1768-1839) (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Estimates in the auction range from £600 to £600,000 providing opportunities for buyers at all levels.



Matthias Stomer, *Saint Jerome*
(estimate: £100,000-150,000)

Highlights of old master paintings in the collection include three paintings by Matthias Stomer (*circa* 1600 – after 1652?); *Saint Jerome*, (estimate: £100,000-150,000), *The Adoration of the Magi* (estimate: £150,000-250,000) and *Blowing Hot, Blowing Cold* (estimate: £400,000-600,000), which were key elements of the collection. Typified by Leonard J. Slatkes as the 'quintessential Caravaggist', Stomer was one of the most eminently recognisable and prolific artists of the 17th century who painted glowing candlelit compositions of religious subjects. Further centrepieces include a grey wash study of *A girl with her dead fawn* by George Romney (1734-1802) (estimate: £15,000-20,000) and a great rarity, the earliest drawing in the collection, *Design for a bench: the five niches above containing figures of ancient heroes* by the distinguished artist and architect Baldassare Peruzzi (1481-1536) (estimate: £100,000-150,000). In 1527 Peruzzi was appointed Architetto della Repubblica in Siena and it was no doubt in that capacity that he executed this presentation drawing of a ceremonial bench, intended for the Palazzo Pubblico in the centre of the city.

Another feature of the collection is the number of Modern British artists which testifies to the empathy that he felt with this period. There is a group of twelve paintings, predominantly still lifes in tempera, by his friend and loyal supporter Eliot Hodgkin (1905-87), such as *Twelve Pheasant Eggs* (1959, estimate: £20,000-30,000). *Bomb-damaged buildings, Poplar*, (1941, estimate: £7,000-10,000) by John Minton (1917-57) evokes the urban decay and destruction of the war years. *Lucian Freud* by John Craxton (1922-2009) (1946, estimate: £50,000-80,000) and a double-sided painting by Duncan Grant (1885-1978), *Chrysanthemums in a Jar, Charleston (recto)* and *Reclining Male Nude (verso)* (1935, estimate: £20,000-30,000) are further highlights.



Eliot Hodgkin, *Twelve Pheasant Eggs*, 1959
(estimate: £20,000-30,000)

Orlando Rock, Christie's UK Chairman: *"Brian Sewell's collection was founded on his love of great art and this is strongly represented in the selection of pieces in the auction. The power of art to move and*

inspire motivated our esteemed former colleague and this is an opportunity to obtain examples from British and European masters that he built up over decades.”

Noël Annesley, Honorary Chairman, Christie’s UK: *“The variety of material in this sale will surely attract and delight Brian’s many friends and admirers as well as dedicated collectors, and serve as a demonstration of his special gifts as a collector as well as a critic.”*

Please click [here](#) for the previous announcement regarding *Brian Sewell: Critic & Collector*.

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About Christie’s

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2016 marks Christie’s 250th anniversary. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie’s has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Click [HERE](#) to view a short film about Christie’s and the 250th anniversary.

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**Estimates do not include buyer’s premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer’s premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer’s or seller’s credits.*

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