

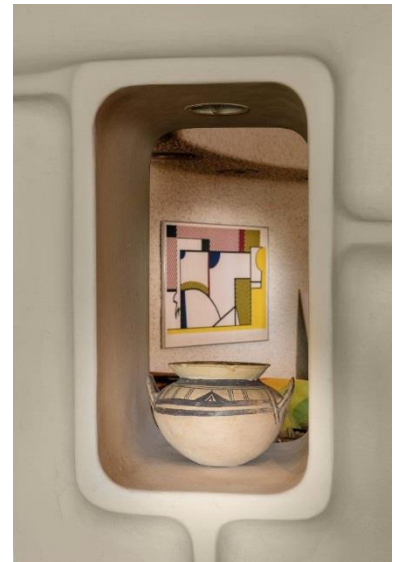
# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON | 16 SEPTEMBER, 2019



## ROYAL HOUSE of SAVOY

Christie's London 15 October



**London** – *The Royal House of Savoy* will be offered for auction on 15 October, the latest chapter in Christie's long held tradition of hosting Royal collection sales. This follows the highly successful auctions from *The Collection of S.A.R. La Principessa Reale Maria Beatrice di Savoia* in 2005 and *S.A.R. La Principessa Reale Maria Gabriella di Savoia* in 2007; Christie's also offered the collections of *H.R.H. The Princess Margaret* in 2006 and the *Kings of Greece* in 2007. Comprising approximately 150 lots, this eclectic Royal collection presents a wealth of opportunities for collectors spanning some twenty-four centuries of artistic achievement: from Daunian pottery, circa 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century B.C., 16<sup>th</sup> century family portraits and rare manuscripts, to Chinese porcelain, cars and post-war works by artists such as Lichtenstein and Pomodoro, which were set against the striking architectural form and interior of a 1970s lake-side house. *The Royal House of Savoy* is expected to realise in excess of £1 million.

**Adrian Hume-Sayer, Director, Head of Sale, Private Collections, Christie's London:** "*It is a great honour to have been entrusted with this fascinating Royal collection, The Royal House of Savoy. The breadth of this collection is astonishing. Ancient Daunian pottery sits alongside family paintings boldly juxtaposed with Lichtenstein prints and Pomodoro sculpture. This sale gives a unique glimpse of Royal collecting in our own time.*"

## POST WAR & CONTEMPORARY



The top lot of the sale is *Rotante Massimo, III*, 1967/68, by Arnaldo Pomodoro, one of the leading Italian Post War artists (estimate: £180,000-250,000, *illustrated left*). Alongside works by César, Victor Vasarely and Jim Dine, is *Bull V*, 1973, a lithograph, screen-print and line-cut in colours numbered 55/100 from *Bull Head Series* by Roy Lichtenstein (estimate: £4,000-6,000, *illustrated right*). Please see the Notes to Editors for dates when this Pomodoro will be on view in Italy.



## OLD MASTER PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE



The **11<sup>th</sup> Duke of Savoy**, Carlo Emanuele (1562-1630), is captured in a bronze after Pietro Tacca, German, early 20<sup>th</sup> century (estimate: £15,000-25,000, *illustrated left*). A full-length portrait of a noblewoman is thought to be of **Maria Giovanna Battista of Savoy-Nemours** (1644-1724), circle of Charles Dauphin (estimate: £5,000-8,000, *illustrated top right*), whilst a 17<sup>th</sup> century half-length Portrait of **Vittorio Amedeo I, Duke of Savoy** (1587-1637) shows the sitter wearing the collar of the Order of the Most Holy Annunciation, Piedmontese School (estimate: £1,000-1,500, *illustrated bottom right*). A half-length *Portrait of Carlo Emanuele III, King of Sardinia* (1701-1773), wearing the Chain of the Order of the Annunciation, is attributed to Maria Giovanna Clementi, la Clementina (estimate: £3,000-4,000, *illustrated page 1*).



## BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS

The two most valuable books offered are a splendid Neapolitan humanist manuscript of the essential medieval treatise on kingship, signed and dated by Giovanni Marco Cinico and illuminated by Cola Rapicano, 1470 (estimate: £70,000-100,000, *illustrated right*) and *Les dits notables de Monsieur Philippe de France, Duc d'Anjou, frere unique du Roi*, Paris, 1655, by Reverend Jean Aumônier, which is one of only five copies, printed on vellum and illuminated in gold, red and blue throughout, with a unique dedication to the Duke of Savoy (estimate: £70,000-100,000). It has a distinguished provenance, having been in two of the greatest French book collections of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Elsewhere in the sale, bearing the Savoy family crest, is Statutes of the royal chivalric order of St Michel, thought to be one of the deluxe manuscripts ordered by François I, King of France (1494-1547) from the Parisian court painter Étienne Colaud in 1523 for presentation to his loyal knights, this example intended for his uncle, René of Savoy (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated left*).





## DECORATIVE ARTS

Evocative of Royal grandeur is a pair of Charles X ormolu and patinated bronze figural ten-light candelabra, *circa* 1820-30 (estimate: £20,000-30,000, *illustrated right and on page 1*); a Meissen porcelain purple 'Indianische Blumen' pattern part table-service, late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the borders embellished with the crown of Savoy (estimate:



£6,000-10,000, *illustrated left*) and a Vinovo porcelain portrait coffee-cup and saucer, 1776 (estimate: £1,500-2,500). The saucer is painted with a portrait of **King Carlo**

**Emanuele IV, King of Sardinia** (1751-1819), the cup with his consort, **Queen Marie-Clotilde of France** (1759-1802).



## ANTIQUITIES



Exemplifying the antiquities featured, lots include a Campanian Red-Figured Bell-Krater, attributed to the Caivano painter, *circa* 350-330 B.C. (estimate: £10,000-15,000, *illustrated left*) and two Daunian Pottery Vessels, *circa* 6<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., both decorated with geometric patterns (estimate: £1,000-1,500, *illustrated right*). Daunian

pottery was produced in the Daunia, the modern-day region of Apulia (Puglia) in Southern Italy, beginning as early as 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The vessels were formed by hand, rather than thrown on a potter's wheel and are characterised by buff coloured clay decorated with geometric patterns.



## CARS



The collection presents three cars. A rare **Asa 1000GT coupe, 1965**, smartly finished in classic rosso and presented with factory original Borrani wheels (estimate: £50,000-80,000, *illustrated left*). A **Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith, 1955**, the exclusive 1950s transport of royalty, and dignitaries, with orders ranging from the

House of Windsor to Italian film producer Roberto Rossellini (estimate: £40,000-60,000, *illustrated page 1*). The ultimate young car enthusiast's 'play-car', a classic Ferrari style miniature a Sbarro 'Ferrari' children's car, 1981 (estimate: £15,000-25,000, *illustrated right*).



### PRESS CONTACTS:

Hannah Schweiger | 020 7389 2964 | [hschweiger@christies.com](mailto:hschweiger@christies.com)

### Notes to Editors

#### Tour dates when the Pomodoro will be on view:

**19-20<sup>th</sup> Rome:** Maxxi Museum, Via Guido Reni 4 / **23-24<sup>th</sup> Turin:** Spazio Ersel, Piazza Solferino 11

The **2005 and 2007 Savoy sales** comprised historic works of art from the collection of His Majesty King Umberto II and Queen Marie José of Italy (and their ancestors) representing Royal collecting on the grandest scale. One of the major highlights from those collections being Queen Maria José's exquisite Fabergé tiara, which realised in excess of £1,000,000.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF SAVOY

The Royal House of Savoy can be traced to Umberto 'the Whitehanded' (d. 1048) who acquired Alpine territories as a feudal lord and became the first Count of Savoy. His sons and the dynasty that followed progressively acquired influence and land in Piedmont, the territory east of Savoy and south of the Alps as well as ruling Aosta, which borders Switzerland and France. Amedeo VI (d. 1383) called 'the Green Count' founded the Order of the Collar in 1362. Known today as the Order of the Annunciation, it survives as one of the oldest dynastic orders of chivalry (see lot 42). In the late fourteenth century, Amedeo's eight-year-old grandson succeeded as Amedeo VIII (d. 1451). Though devout, he was a warrior-knight, whose faithful service to the Empire earned him the title 'Duke of Savoy' in 1416. His descendant, Emanuele Filiberto (d. 1580) succeeded in 1553 and set about strengthening the House of Savoy's position, both militarily and administratively, and in 1563 he moved the capital of Savoy from Chambéry to Turin. The seventeenth century witnessed a great building program in Turin. The future Royal Palace was completed in 1658, the Carignano Palace in 1680, and the Madama Palace, built in the thirteenth century, was expanded and refurbished. The Holy Shroud of Christ, brought to Turin in 1578, was venerated in a chapel of the Duomo.

Vittorio Amedeo II, first King of Sardinia (d. 1732), although wed to a niece of Louis XIV of France and faithfully adherent to French foreign policy in the early years of his reign, was not averse to changing sides when political interests dictated. Later in the seventeenth century he withdrew loyalty from France in order to support the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs. When the Spanish refused to acquiesce to Piedmont's takeover of Milan, a separate treaty was written, weighed strongly in Savoy's favour and against the interests of Spain. At the opening of the War of the Spanish Succession, Piedmont reunited with France. In the early eighteenth century Vittorio Amedeo II aligned with the Habsburgs and the English, and in 1713, the Treaty of Utrecht rewarded him with new lands in north-east Italy and a Crown in Sicily. Seven years later Vittorio Amedeo II accepted, in exchange for Sicily, Sardinia, a realm that he could more easily rule from Turin.

During the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, Sardinia became a refuge for the House of Savoy. In 1831 the succession passed to a branch of the family descended from Tommaso Francesco, Prince of Carignano. Carlo Alberto, (d. 1849) succeeded Carlo Felice, King of Sardinia (d.1831), his fifth cousin one generation removed, to become King of Sardinia and Duke of Savoy and he in turn was succeeded in 1849 by his son Vittorio Emanuele II (d. 1878).

Vittorio Emanuele II, King of Sardinia and later first King of Italy from 1861, assisted by D'Azeglio, Cavour, Crispi and Garibaldi, acquired for the House of Savoy, Sardinia's sister states and by 1870, with the acquisition of the Papal State, the union was nearly complete. The Risorgimento was a complex and controversial movement, but its result, a united Italy, was long overdue. Vittorio Emanuele II's eldest son Umberto I succeeded in 1878. He married a Savoy cousin Margherita (d. 1926), and moved the Savoy Court to the Quirinale Palace in Rome and lavishly re-furnished the Villa Reale Monza, Milan.

During the nineteenth century the Royal residences included the Quirinale Palace, Moncalieri, Racconigi and Villa Reale Monza. The Villa was emptied of most of its furnishings in 1859, many of which were transferred to the Palazzo Reale of Milan for the visit of Napoleon III. From that date, Monza was occupied by Umberto I, the 'Principe di Piemonte'. After his accession in 1878, furniture was purchased in large quantities for the state and private rooms until 1900, when the King was assassinated. From then on, Monza rapidly declined and was virtually unused. In 1919, King Vittorio Emanuele III (1869-1947) took the decision to transfer ownership of most of the Royal residences to the Italian State. Later the private property of the Royal House of Savoy, Racconigi was gifted with its contents by King Vittorio Emanuele III (d.1947) to his son Umberto (d.1983), Prince of Piedmont (later King Umberto II), following his marriage to Princess Maria-José of Belgium in 1930. The pieces that appear in this catalogue are all privately owned. The family residence of Racconigi was acquired by the Italian State in the 1970s, carefully conserved and later opened as a State Museum in 1980.

Born at Racconigi, Umberto was a competent officer, well-groomed to succeed upon his father's abdication. This he did in 1946, reigning briefly as Umberto II. In a war-torn nation, Umberto and his wife, the adamantly anti-fascist Maria-José, campaigned to preserve the monarchy. In June 1946, a popular referendum decided narrowly in favour of a republic and Umberto and Marie-José left for Portugal. 'Il Re di Maggio', as Umberto was christened by the Italian press, died in Geneva in 1983 and Maria-José in 2001. They are both buried in the Abbey of Haute Combe on the shore of Lake Bourget, Savoy; the ancestral burial ground of the Savoy family.

## About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in the first half of 2019 that totalled £2.2 billion / \$2.8 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.

*\*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 and are reported net of applicable fees.*

###

Images available on request

**FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:**

