

# CHRISTIE'S

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# JASPER CONRAN

## THE COLLECTION

Christie's London, September 2021



New Wardour Castle: The White Drawing Room Photo © Simon Upton

*“Time gives an object soul and I find that very attractive.”*

**London** – A name synonymous with style, design and the English country house, **Jasper Conran** **The Collection** will be offered in two parts: a Live auction (Part I) at Christie's London headquarters on the 14 September and an Online sale (Part II) that is open for bidding from 1 to 21 September. Providing a remarkable window in to the purity, simplicity and silence of the magical interiors that Jasper Conran created at Flemings Hall; Walpole House, Chiswick; Ven House, Somerset and most recently New Wardour Castle, the collection is a feast for the eyes. It presents a refined contemporary approach to the best of country house style, with the rigour and discipline that underscore Jasper's unique taste. Comprising over 430 lots in total, the Collection includes English Furniture, Old Master Paintings, Chinese and Japanese Works of Art, Indian and Islamic Works of Art, Victorian Paintings, European Furniture and Sculpture. Reflecting Jasper's passionate pursuit of perfection, the

importance of texture, feel and history is tangible in each and every object and on every mellowed surface. The sale of this iconic Collection will be a landmark in the history of English taste and a celebration of all the fabulous interiors that Jasper has created over many years. With estimates starting from £500 up to £800,000, the pre-sale exhibition will be open to the public for all to enjoy from 6 to 13 September, with a late night view on Tuesday 7 September.



New Wardour Castle:  
The Medici Vase  
Estimate: £30,000-50,000  
Photo © Simon Upton

**Jasper Conran comments:** *"During the last forty years I have had the good fortune and privilege of being able to buy wonderful things from some of the greatest dealers in paintings, objects and furniture in this country including Christopher Gibbs and Peter Hinwood, Mark Weiss, Peter Hone, Will Fisher at Jamb and Edward Hurst. I don't lay claim to being one of the world's greatest collectors but I do think I have a beady eye for the beautiful."*

*"We have moved to a seventeenth century house in West Dorset which is much smaller than its predecessors. Given the scale of our new home there is*

*simply nowhere to put the collection that I have gathered, so now is the time to part. Am I sad? Yes of course, since there are several rare and precious things with wonderful provenance that I have loved and appreciated living with; HOWEVER I am pragmatic and would much rather these lovely objects go on to have new lives in new homes. They were after all, made to be seen, used and enjoyed."*



New Wardour Castle:  
The West Wing Study  
Photo © Tim Beddow

**Benedict Winter, Christie's Head of Sale comments:** *"Christie's is honoured to offer the collection of Jasper Conran whose style and vision are legendary. With his unique take on the country house, Jasper has collected wonderful pieces with equally wondrous provenances, pointing to the rich history of British collecting over the last four hundred years. It has been a joy for Christie's to collaborate with Jasper on this exciting two part sale and to research and more deeply understand the objects that he lived with in his homes over the years."*

#### **Highlights include:**

##### **OLD MASTER PAINTINGS**

*"The aesthetic marriage of paintings, furniture and objects has been a lifetime's curation. I didn't start out trying to make a collection, but it has become one; along the way I found that my eye became attuned to certain qualities in the objects, and I sought out the gentle patina of time that lends charm and romance, as well as the 'softness' of the untouched."*

One of Jasper's lifelong passions has been English portraiture. The Collection includes a large group of Old Master portraits that added texture and colour to the simplicity of the refined English furniture, alongside which they lived.

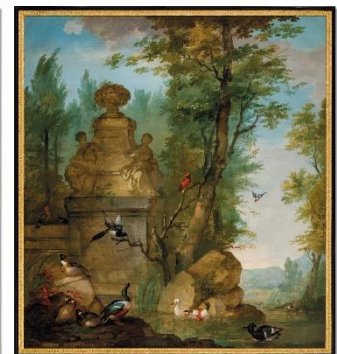
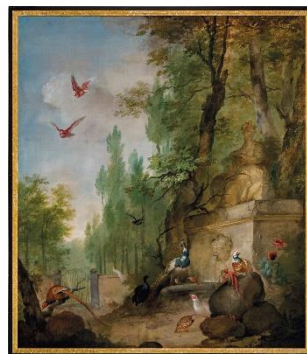


The sale is led by a magnificent portrait of Cecilia Neville by Robert Peake from Grimshaw Hall (estimate: £500,000-800,000, *illustrated right*). Peake was one of the most outstanding portrait painters at the Elizabethan and Jacobean court and was favoured in particular by King James I's eldest, but short-lived son and heir Henry, Prince of Wales. Cecilia, one of the great beauties of the Jacobean court, was related to the English royal line through her father, Henry Neville, *de facto* 9<sup>th</sup> and *de jure* 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Bergavenny, a descendent of John of Gaunt.



Having hung companionably alongside *Cecilia Neville* in the White Drawing Room at New Wardour Castle, a further leading highlight is a portrait of Jasper's ancestor *Anthony Maria Browne*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Montagu, circa 1593 (estimate: £400,000-600,000, *illustrated left and on page one*). Set within an allegorical landscape, with symbolic elements pointing to a family curse, this is the portrait of a man prepared for all that life might bring, as noted in the motto '*Rien m'estone*', '*Nothing bothers me*', written in the dark clouds to the top right. Once part of the collection at Battle Abbey, it was acquired by Jasper from Christopher Gibbs just over 20 years ago.

Formerly in the possession of Geoffrey Bennison (1921-1984) - one of the most celebrated decorators of the 20<sup>th</sup> century - is *A pair of ornamental landscapes with birds* by Aert Schouman (estimate: £80,000-120,000, *illustrated right*). Bennison's clients included Terence Stamp, Lord Weidenfeld and David de Rothschild; such was his appeal and curation of clients, those who succeeded in commissioning him became known as 'the happy few.'



## ENGLISH FURNITURE AND DECORATIVE ARTS

*"I think what attracts me to an object is its character, its patina, the life that it's led."*



An elegant pair of George III giltwood console tables circa 1760, after a design attributed to Thomas Chippendale present a unique opportunity to secure a pair of tables that Jasper himself re-united. (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated left*). Having acquired one

table from Edward Hurst in April 2009, remarkably just seven months later the second table to the apparent pair presented itself at auction where Jasper was the winning bidder.

The magnificent *Longleat Giltwood Chandelier*, circa 1720-30, is attributed to Benjamin Goodison, the Court Cabinet-maker of the day, who enjoyed extensive Royal patronage (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated right*). Pertinently, Jasper recalls – in his catalogue introduction for this sale – that it was during a weekend stay at Longleat as an eight year old boy, that “amongst the early English portraits, hand painted eighteenth century *Chinoiserie* wallpapers, furniture from several centuries and leather bound books burnished in gold, a passion that has lasted a lifetime was born.”



Further highlights, from left to right include: A George II grey-painted pier mirror *circa* 1735-40, in the manner of William Kent (estimate: £40,000-60,000); a pair of early George III white-painted simulated-bamboo window seats by William Vile and John Cobb, made by William Strickland for Forde Abbey, dated 1764 (estimate: £25,000-30,000); a George II mahogany serpentine sofa attributed to Paul Saunders, *circa* 1755-60 (estimate: £20,000-30,000); *The Rousham Wall Brackets*, a pair of George II mahogany wall brackets designed and supplied by William Kent, *circa* 1740 (estimate: £30,000-50,000). Originally designed for Rousham Park in Oxfordshire probably the most celebrated of Kent's commissions. Acquired *in-situ* at Flemings Hall, *The Medici Vase*, late 19<sup>th</sup> century, was once in the collection of photographer Angus McBean (estimate: £30,000-50,000, *illustrated page 2*).

## EUROPEAN FURNITURE AND DECORATIVE ARTS



Highlights include, from left to right: Robert Henry Benson's mirrors from Walpole House, Chiswick - a pair of Italian Neoclassical Giltwood Pier Mirrors Tuscany, *circa* 1790-1800 (estimate: £15,000-25,000); a North European painted-canvas six-fold chinoiserie screen from Glemham decorated with figures in a pagoda landscape (estimate: £6,000-10,000); and a pair of Louis XVI ormolu two-branch wall-lights late 18<sup>th</sup> century, possibly by Francois Remond (estimate: £5,000-8,000).



## CHINESE AND JAPANESE WORKS OF ART



**Chinese** works offered include four blue and white Kraak dishes, Ming Dynasty (16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century) (estimate: £2,500-4,000, *illustrated left*) and an export black, gilt and red lacquer coffer on a George II stand, *circa* 1730 (estimate: £4,000-6,000, *illustrated right*), originally acquired by Sir William FitzHerbert, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet (1748-1791) for Tissington Hall, Derbyshire.



Among the striking **Japanese** lots are a Japanese black and gilt-lacquer cabinet on a giltwood stand the cabinet Edo period, 18<sup>th</sup> century, the stand later (estimate: £10,000-15,000, *illustrated left*) and a pair of ormolu-mounted Japanese Imari trumpet vases the vases Edo period (late 17<sup>th</sup> century), the mounts 19<sup>th</sup> century, later adapted as lamps (estimate: £3,000-5,000, *illustrated right*).



## PART II: THE ONLINE SALE

**Part II** (online), which is open for bidding from 1 to 21 September, is rich in yet more varied and tantalising delights, including from left to right:



English School, mid-17 <sup>th</sup> century, <i>Portrait of a gentleman, aged forty-one (illustrated)</i> and <i>Portrait of a lady, aged fifty-two, three-quarter-length</i> (estimate: £10,000-15,000)	Queen Anne red and gilt-japanned small mirror, <i>circa</i> 1710 (estimate: £2,000-3,000)	Japanese Imari vase, mounted as a lamp Edo Period (late 17 <sup>th</sup> -early 18 <sup>th</sup> century) (estimate: £1,500-2,500)	Pair of Regency mahogany hall chairs, <i>circa</i> 1815 (estimate: £4,000-6,000).	A needlepoint carpet, woven in thirty-five panels, <i>probably France, 19<sup>th</sup> century</i> 12ft. x 8ft. (estimate: £2,000-3,000)
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For full details and images of all the lots being offered in both Part I and Part II of **Jasper Conran The Collection** please click [here](https://www.christies.com/auctions/jasper-conran-the-collection) to browse the e-catalogue and visit <https://www.christies.com/auctions/jasper-conran-the-collection>

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## About Jasper Conran

Throughout his career, Jasper Conran OBE, has remained one of the most respected British designers dressing everyone from royalty to Royal Ballet, whilst stylishly clothing the British public. His talent has extended beyond fashion into performing arts, interiors and more recently into travel with the opening of his first hotel in Marrakech.

Born in London, he studied at Parsons School of Art Design New York, launching his first collection for Henri Bendel in New York City.

The recipient of several awards including British Fashion Council Designer of the Year and two honorary doctorates - Professor at the University of Arts London and The Laurence Olivier Award for Costume Design. Jasper Conran has created a brand that continues to build long-lasting connections.

#### About Christie's

Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).

Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. In recent years, Christie's has achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction (Leonardo da Vinci's *Salvador Mundi*, 2017), for a single collection sale (the Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, 2018), and for a work by a living artist (Jeff Koons' *Rabbit*, 2019).

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Recent innovations at Christie's include the groundbreaking sale of the first NFT for a digital work of art ever offered at a major auction house (Beeple's *Everydays*, March 2021), with the unprecedented acceptance of cryptocurrency as a means of payment. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.

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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 and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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