

CHRISTIE'S

RESULTS | NEW YORK FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 22 JANUARY 2024

IMPORTANT AMERICANA TOTALS

\$9,294,784

MORE THAN DOUBLE LAST YEAR'S TOTAL | 122% HAMMER AGAINST LOW ESTIMATE
MORE THAN 25% OF BUYERS AND BIDDERS WERE NEW TO CATEGORY

WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR JOSHUA JOHNSON PORTRAIT



THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM, SOLD TO BENEFIT THE ACQUISITION FUND
GILBERT STUART (1755-1828)
George Washington (Vaughan type)
29 x 23 ¾ in.
Oil on canvas
Price Realized: \$2,833,000



WORLD AUCTION RECORD
JOSHUA JOHNSON (C.1763-AFTER 1824)
Mrs. Martha (Hall) Dorsey and Mary Ann Dorsey
26 x 25 in.
oil on canvas
Price Realized: \$1,134,000

New York – Christie's annual sale of **Important Americana** totaled \$9,294,784, more than doubling last year's total, and selling 122% hammer against low estimate, with 80% of lots sold. More than one in four buyers and bidders in the sale was new to the category at Christie's. The auction achieved strong results across two live sessions 18 and 19 January 2024, with important prices for fine portraits, folk art, silver, Chinese export porcelain, and more. The two top lots in the sale reflect the wide range of the Americana category. A rare lifetime depiction of George Washington by the first President's greatest portraitist, Gilbert Stuart, from the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, made \$2,833,000, while an intimate portrait of *Mrs. Martha Dorsey and Mary Ann Dorsey*, by the first known Black American professional portraitist, Joshua Johnson, set a world auction record, bringing \$1,134,000.

A Christie's Americana Specialist, Julia Jones, said: "*Americana is thriving. 'We set a world record for the stunning Joshua Johnson portrait, and achieved remarkable prices for Gilbert Stuart's 'George Washington (Vaughan Type)' and the 'Pocket Pistols' owned by Alexander Hamilton, both sold to benefit The Metropolitan Museum of Art's acquisition fund.'*"

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Founding Fathers: In addition to the magnificent Vaughan type portrait of Washington, the sale included a significant group of works related to the Founding Fathers, including Thomas Sully and Jane Cooper Sully's portrait of *Benjamin Franklin* after David Martin, which came from the collection of direct Franklin descendants, and brought \$176,400; a Rembrandt Peale portrait of *George Washington*, made \$529,200; and a pair of pocket pistols belonging to Alexander Hamilton, from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, made \$819,000.



THOMAS SULLY (1783-1872) AND JANE COOPER SULLY (1807-1877), AFTER DAVID MARTIN
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
oil on canvas
51 x 44 in.
Price Realized: \$176,400



REMBRANDT PEALE (1778-1860)
GEORGE WASHINGTON
oil on canvas
36 x 29 1/4 in.
Price Realized: \$529,200



PROPERTY FROM THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, SOLD TO BENEFIT THE ACQUISITION FUND
THE GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON PAIR OF FLINTLOCK POCKET PISTOLS
MADE BY JEAN-LOUIS JALABERT (1766- 1846), SAINT ETIENNE, FRANCE, 1798-1804
9 9/16 in. (24.3 cm) long
Price Realized: \$819,000

Folk Art: Beyond the Joshua Johnson Dorsey portrait, the sale saw great results for a range of works including, Ammi Phillip's portrait of *Ruth Palmer*, which made \$201,600; Ralph Earl's elegant 1790 pair of portraits of Thomas and Anna Tucker, which fetched \$163,800; and a carved and painted trade figure of a Racetrack Tout from the 1880s, which brought \$163,800.



A CARVED AND PAINTED TRADE FIGURE
DEPICTING A RACETRACK TOUT
PROBABLY NEW YORK CITY OR CHICAGO,
CIRCA 1880
on original trapezoidal base
76 in. high, 20 in wide, 18 1/2 in. deep
Price Realized: \$352,800



RALPH EARL (1751-1801)
THOMAS AND ANNA (DIBBLE) TUCKER
oil on canvas
37 3/4 x 31 3/4 in. (each)
Price Realized: \$163,800



AMMI PHILLIPS (1788-1865)
MRS. RUTH (HAYNES) PALMER
oil on canvas
36 x 30 in.
Price Realized: \$201,600

Decorative Arts: Highlights among the wide range of decorative arts included, a group of 40 items from the Estate of Marvin Davidson led by a very rare pair of dragon-carp tureens, covers, and stands, which made \$40,320; the Deshler side chair, the work of the master Philadelphia carver John Pollard, which brought \$126,000; a Massachusetts bombé chest-of-drawers that fetched \$163,800; and an early New York silver tankard bearing the mark of Benjamin Wynkoop, which went for more than three times its low estimate, bringing \$151,200



PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF MARVIN DAVIDSON
A PAIR OF CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN DRAGONCARP TUREENS, COVERS AND STANDS QIANLONG PERIOD (1735-1796)
9 1/4 in. (23.5 cm.) long
Price realized:\$40,320



THE DESHLER FAMILY CHIPPENDALE CARVED MAHOGANY SIDE CHAIR
THE CARVING ATTRIBUTED TO JOHN POLLARD (1740-1787), PHILADELPHIA, CIRCA 1769
38 1/2 in. high
Price realized: \$126,000



THE CROWNINSHIELD FAMILY CHIPPENDALE MAHOGANY BOMBÉ CHEST-OF-DRAWERS
MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS, CIRCA 1770
appears to retain its original cast brass hardware
33 1/4 in. high, 40 in. wide, 22 in. deep
Price realized: \$163,800



PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE OF JOAN AND BOWEN BLAIR, LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS
AN AMERICAN SILVER TANKARD
MARK OF BENJAMIN WYNKOOP, NEW YORK, CIRCA 1710
7 in. (17.8 cm.) high
42 oz. 8 dwt. (1,319 gr.)
Price realized: \$151,200

Images for press use available **HERE.**

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