

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | SOUTH KENSINGTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 19 December 2012

Guinevere CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS



South Kensington – Christie's is pleased to have been entrusted with *Guinevere - Celebrating Fifty Years*, an anniversary auction marking the first half a century of the popular and luxurious interiors shop, to be held in the South Kensington saleroom on 19 March 2013. Originally founded by French hat designer Genevieve Weaver in 1963, and now owned by her two sons Kevin and Marc, Guinevere Antiques remains a very personal, family-run business with a famous shop-front spanning the length of four shops. The eclectic mix of styles and eras showcased throughout the extensive premises on the Kings Road, London reflects the taste of the brothers who travel the world collecting fascinating objects and décor. Famous faces sometimes found browsing the rooms include the likes of Valentino, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jade Jagger, Nina Campbell, and Sir David Tang. The auction will comprise around 450 lots of unique and unusual decorative objects, furniture, lighting, fabrics and more, representing both Ancient and Modern, East and West selected both from Guinevere antiques and from the private collections of the Weaver family. The selection is expected to realise in excess of £700,000, with estimates starting from £500.

"Guinevere is a beautifully curated treasure trove, one of the most unique stores in the world, a place where I am constantly delighted and inspired" - **Gwyneth Paltrow**

"A trip to Guinevere is always a source of inspiration for me"
- **Etro**

"The whole of Guinevere is a collection of fantasies which reduce our own homes to dullness" - **Sir David Tang**

"It's a treasure trove of possibilities, highly seductive and impossible to leave without some heavenly purchase"
- **Nina Campbell**

Genevieve Weaver (1931-2008)



Image courtesy of Peter Johnson

Genevieve Weaver acquired her first ever antique in London in 1959 (the same year that Kevin was born) – a walnut Spanish table bought for £100 for her futuristic self-designed Notting Hill home. Realising the value of antique furniture over modern in terms of re-sale value, due to her self-confessed need to adapt her surroundings on a frequent basis, Genevieve quickly started to look at antiques differently. At the time the antiques business was very much a man's world however this was no obstacle for Genevieve. Driven by passion, her main concern was always the visual statement and impact a piece could provide. A collector in her own right, she admitted that “it was always the buying rather than selling that gave me the biggest thrill”, justifying purchases with, “If you see something you absolutely love, then you should buy it – for the simple reason you might never find it again”.

The shop, likened by some to an ‘Aladdin’s cave’, has come a long way since Genevieve papered the walls in wrapping paper, and laid vinyl upside down to create a white floor. It has also grown considerably, however, the brothers continue to adhere to their mother’s mantra that “there is no point in selling pieces that you don’t like yourself”, encouraging private clients and decorators alike to buy objects to live with rather than revere.



*Further sale details will be available in 2013

PRESS CONTACT: Leonie Pitts | +44 (0)20 7752 3121 | lpitts@christies.com

The complete eCatalogue will be available to view online from mid-February 2013:
www.christies.com/calendar

PUBLIC EXHIBITION:

Saturday, 16 March: 11am – 5pm
Sunday, 17 March: 11am – 5pm
Monday, 18 March: 9am – 7.30pm

AUCTION:

Guinevere – Celebrating Fifty Years
Tuesday, 29 March 2013
10.30am

Christie's South Kensington

Open seven days a week, Christie's South Kensington is one of the busiest salerooms in the UK attracting over 200,000 visitors each year. With over 100 sales and offering more than 20,000 lots annually, estimates start from £500. Interiors sales dedicated to

home furnishings are held three times a month alongside regular Sunday sales of single-owner collections. Specialised sales for the avid collector are scheduled throughout the year according to category, and include Film Posters, Pop Memorabilia, Antiquities, Jewellery, 20th Century British Art and Chinese Works of Art, among others. In 2011 Christie's South Kensington realised the highest ever total for the second successive year with sales of £115.9 million / \$186.6 million.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 billion/\$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. 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. Christie's offers over 450 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 and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

**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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High resolution images and further information available on request

Visit Christie's Website at www.christies.com



CHRISTIE'S SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3LD

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Monday: 9am – 7.30pm

Tuesday – Friday: 9am – 5pm

Saturday & Sunday: 11am - 5pm

WWW.CHRISTIES.COM

Prices do not include buyers' premium