

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | South Kensington | 3 September 2012
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOVERS OF LONDON ENGAGE IN A BIDDING WAR AT CHRISTIE'S 'THE LONDON SALE'



Lot 71

John Atkinson Grimshaw (1836-1893)
Southwark Bridge and St. Paul's, 1883
Sold: £361,250



Lot 124

Edward Seago, R.W.S., R.B.A. (1910-1974)
The Quadriga, Hyde Park Corner
Sold: £91,250



Lot 153

Margaret Thatcher's
business suit
Sold: £25,000



Lot 110

A pair of Elizabeth II limed-oak
Coronation chairs
Sold: £7,500



Lot 46

A gold Olympic medal,
London, 1908
Sold: £17,500



Lot 31

An original Routemaster double-
decker bus, 1966
Sold: £67,250

South Kensington, London – In an extraordinary year for London, Christie's celebrated by presenting a one-off themed auction of items synonymous with the capital entitled *The London Sale*. The pre-sale exhibition welcomed visitors throughout the summer, concluding with the auction on 3 September, offering collectors the chance to acquire pieces of the city's iconic imagery and history from paintings, prints, photographs and posters, through to rock and roll, Royal, Olympic and political memorabilia. The auction realized a total of **£1,442,813 / \$2,286,859 / €1,817,944** against a pre-sale estimate of £929,400 - 1,315,500.

Nicolas Martineau, Director, Head of Sale and Auctioneer commented: *"There has been a real buzz in and around London this summer, and it has been a pleasure to join in the excitement by staging such a special auction celebrating the art and icons of the capital. Showcasing London's rich history through the objects and works of art on offer, Christie's The London Sale exhibition ran for six weeks, welcoming over 16,000 visitors including local residents and tourists from around the world. The packed saleroom and the results from the auction are testament to the popularity and fondness felt for the city of London by all who visit."*

Highlights included:

- A selection of seven outfits worn by **Baroness Margaret Thatcher** during the 1970s whilst Education Minister were offered for sale from a Private Collection and realized a combined total of £73,125 / \$115,903 / €92,138 ([lots 147-153](#)). Each outfit exceeded the individual estimates of £1,000-1,500, with all but one selling to an online bidder in South Korea. The highest individual price was achieved for a jade green wool suit comprising a dress and jacket by British designer Mansfield which was worn on a number of occasions by Thatcher, most notably on the day she was confirmed as Conservative Party leader in February 1975. It sold for £25,000 / \$39,625 / €31,500 to an Anonymous bidder in the room.
- An original **Routemaster double-decker bus** from 1966 exceeded the pre-sale estimate of £20,000-30,000 and sold for £67,250 / \$106,591 / €84,735 to an online bidder in South Korea, following a battle with two telephone bidders and another on the internet ([lot 31](#))
- The Olympic section of the sale was led by a **first place Olympic medal** from the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896. Never awarded due to the cancellation of the boating events as a result of bad weather, the medal sold for £25,000 / \$39,625 / €31,500 ([lot 44](#)). A British winner's solid gold medal from the first London Olympics in 1908 fetched £17,500 / \$27,737 / €22,050 ([lot 46](#)). An original London 1948 Olympic torch sold for £6,875 / \$10,897 / €8,663 ([lot 43](#)).
- A pair of 1950s fashion photographs by Norman Parkinson, featuring **Uma Thurman's model mother**, Nena Von Schlebrugge sold for £3,750 / €5,944 / \$4,725 ([lot 84](#))
- A pair of Elizabeth II limed-oak coronation chairs offered by a descendant of Harold Sissons, Mayor of Umtata, South Africa, who attended the Coronation ceremony in 1953 exceeded the pre-sale estimate of £800-1,200 to sell for £7,500 / \$11,888 / €9,450 ([lot 110](#))
- Now a popular slogan often adapted, a rare and original **'Keep Calm and Carry On'** wartime poster sold for £12,500 / \$19,813 / €15,750 against a pre-sale estimate of £800-1,200 ([lot 142](#))

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Please click [here](#) for a full list of auction results online

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 £300. 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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