

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S

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“THE TEXAN WHO CONQUERED RUSSIA”

**RUSSIAN ART, SILVER, ENGLISH FURNITURE, AND JEWELS FROM
ONE OF AMERICA’S GREATEST PIANISTS**

**THE VAN CLIBURN COLLECTION TO BE OFFERED
AT CHRISTIE’S NEW YORK ON MAY 17**



New York- On May 17, Christie's is honored to present a sale of over 150 exceptional works from the personal collection of Van Cliburn, one of America’s greatest pianists. The collection comprises superb examples of English furniture, Russian Art, Silver and Jewels reflecting Mr. Cliburn’s refined taste and the private passion of a sophisticated connoisseur. With estimates ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000, the total sale is expected to achieve in excess of \$3 million.

William Strafford, Head of Private Collections, said: “It is a tremendous honor for Christie's to offer the Van Cliburn Collection, which reveals a uniquely personal side to this supremely talented musician. Mr. Cliburn's passionate pursuit of perfection in his music is reflected in the superb works of art he acquired for his personal collection, with historically important and rare examples of English furniture and silver complimented by dazzling works of art from Russia, a country where he remains revered today.”

Van Cliburn said: “From the beginning of my concert life, I would spend my earnings from performances searching for something beautiful of timeless quality to remember different concerts in various cities. I have always found throughout my life that beauty raises your consciousness and provides incalculable inspiration. I hope that some of the beauty that has inspired me for decades will find others who appreciate them as much as I always have.”

Van Cliburn

Van Cliburn (b. 1934) is one of America's greatest pianists in the history of music and a persuasive ambassador for American culture. Since his historic 1958 victory at the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, Mr. Cliburn has reached across political frontiers with the universal message of beautiful music. In that same year, he appeared on the cover of Time Magazine who billed him “The Texan Who Conquered Russia.” Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, he began piano studies at age three and was twelve when he made his orchestral debut with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. After graduating from Kilgore High School, he studied at Juilliard School in New York City. Mr. Cliburn has received more than twenty honorary doctorate degrees. He has provided scholarships at many schools worldwide and has performed for every President of the United States since Harry Truman and for royalty and heads of state in Europe, Asia, and South America. He has received the Kennedy Center Honors, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the Order of Friendship from President Vladimir Putin, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and recently President Barack Obama honored Mr. Cliburn with the National Medal of Arts.

Further details of the sale and catalogue will be available by April.

Auction: The Van Cliburn Collection
Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

May 17, 2012
May 12-16, 2012

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2011 that totaled £3.6 billion/\$5.7 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 £502 million / \$808.6m in 2011, an increase of 44% 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 emerging and new 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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Images available on request

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