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An Adventurous Spirit

An Important Private Collection to be Sold to Benefit a Charitable Foundation

The Collection Sale, Christie's London, 13 December 2018 & Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale, Christie's London, 27 February 2019



Paul Signac, *Le Port au soleil couchant, Opus 236 (Saint-Tropez)* (1892, Estimate on Request)

London – Christie's will offer an eclectic and carefully curated collection, titled *An Adventurous Spirit: An Important Private Collection Sold to Benefit a Charitable Foundation*, across two London sales in December 2018 and February 2019. Major works from the collection will be exhibited together in an exhibition in London during Christie's Classic Week in early December. *An Adventurous Spirit* provides a remarkable view of a unique collection across many fields, from Impressionism to 20th Century Design, which was shown in beautiful homes in London, Saint Tropez and Saint Barths. Visitors to the galleries will witness a recreation of the extraordinary *mis-en-scène*, with masterpiece paintings presented alongside the great objects and artworks as they were shown in these exquisite homes. The Collection Sale on 13 December 2018, will describe the discerning eye of a significant collector, embracing paintings, drawings, sculpture, English and European Decorative Arts and 20th Century Design. Following the Collection Sale, five major paintings by Paul Signac, Gustave Caillebotte, Félix Vallotton, Edouard Vuillard and Giovanni Boldini will be highlights of the *Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale* on 27 February 2019. This inspirational and deeply personal collection provides evocative insights into the creative joy of collecting and connoisseurship and the matching of fine objects with Impressionist artworks.

Jussi Pykkänen, Global President, Christie's: "Every object and every painting in the collection has been chosen with considerable care and with a grand design in mind. These were homes of wonderful contrasts, filled with joy, and with refined objects which caught the eye and the imagination. The Signac is amongst the finest of the artist's great *Opus* paintings, and certainly amongst the greatest of Signac's works in private hands. The Caillebotte and the Vallotton are also museum quality pictures which will challenge the world records for the artists. Both were bought here at Christie's and it is a privilege to be handling these works again and to see them exhibited as they have been shown by this great collector, and a close friend, for so many years."

IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART, 27 FEBRUARY 2019

The adventurous spirit of the late collector that amassed these works is reflected in the lives of the artists whose works were acquired. Gustave Caillebotte was a skilled sailor who introduced Paul Signac to the sport. Following the death of Signac's great friend Georges Seurat, he set sail for the South of France, a voyage that would come to alter the course of his career forever. The most important painting by the artist to come to auction in twenty years, *Le Port au soleil couchant, Opus 236 (Saint-Tropez)* (1892, Estimate on Request, *illustrated top left, page one*) is one of the first and finest works that Signac painted in St Tropez. Rendered in Signac's quintessential pointillist style, this painting is a masterpiece of the artist's *Opus* works and is set to achieve a new auction record for the artist. Using individual dabs of vibrant, complementary colours, Signac captures the drama of sundown in the play of deep

violet shadows on the water and the final golden rays of the day in the sky above the coastal hillside.



A rare, and only recently rediscovered Impressionist masterpiece, Gustave Caillebotte's *Chemin montant* (Estimate on Request, *illustrated left*), painted in Trouville in 1881, brings together the two main aspects of the artist's oeuvre: the iconic urban figure paintings of the 1870s, and his landscapes and garden scenes of the next decade. First exhibited in the *7th Exposition des Artistes Indépendants* in 1882 in Paris, *Chemin montant* subsequently

remained unseen for over a century until it was included in the landmark Caillebotte retrospective held in Paris and Chicago in 1994. This major rediscovery was followed by a landmark price made for the artist when the work was sold in Christie's New York in 2003. With its dynamic perspective and compositional ingenuity, *Chemin montant* encapsulates the pictorial enigma that characterises the greatest of Caillebotte's paintings, as well as exemplifying the artist's gradual embrace of an Impressionist style. The visible brush strokes suggest the movement of a gentle wind across the lush foliage, while the play of light and shade in the foreground evokes the seeming vibration of the landscape under the summer sun.

With its daring composition and use of bold planes of colour, Félix Vallotton's *En promenade* (painted circa 1895, estimate: £1,200,000-1,600,000, illustrated right) encapsulates the artist's mastery of the pictorial vocabulary of *Les Nabis*. Combining the influence of Vallotton's Nabi associates, Bonnard and Vuillard, the painting's radical composition also reveals the importance of *Japonism* in the artist's work of this time. Achieving the then world record price for the artist when it was acquired from Christie's in 2006, this masterful painting has been requested for the forthcoming exhibition on the artist to be held at the Royal Academy, London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York in 2019.



Edouard Vuillard's *Aux Pavillons à Cricqueboeuf, devant la maison* (1911-34, estimate: £600,000-800,000, illustrated, left) is one of 13 decorative panels commissioned by Josse Bernheim and Gaston Bernheim de Villers for their villa, Bois-Lurette, at Villers-sur-Mer.

Giovanni Boldini's *Portrait of Madame Roger-Jourdain* (1898, estimate: £800,000-1,200,000, illustrated far left) completes the group being sold in the February Evening Sale. Only recently identified by Christie's specialists, the elegant and playful sitter was also a friend of Sargent, and a leading figure in Parisian artistic circles: her portrait by Besnard hangs in the Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

AN ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT, 13 DECEMBER 2018



Charles Cator, Deputy Chairman, Christie's International: *"Collections are more than an assemblage of individual works of art, however important: they are the story of a person's life, intensely personal and evocative, with so many threads and themes. That was never more true than with this remarkable collection, tellingly eclectic, which very much bears the stamp of the person who created it. Whether in business, philanthropy or friendship, this brilliant and enquiring mind ventured along many different paths, always followed with perception, charm and amusement. Idiosyncratic in tastes and open to the unexpected, interests and enthusiasms were keenly developed. This collection is a reflection of a richly varied life in many far-flung places."*

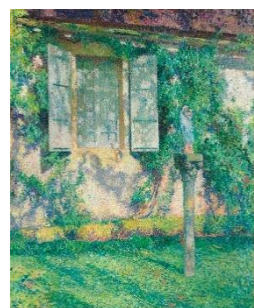
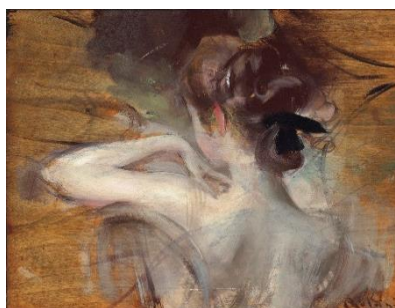
The December sale presents a wealth of disciplines and periods, comprising almost 400 lots, spanning important 18th century English and European Decorative Arts, Impressionist, Modern British, 19th Century and Victorian paintings, Silver, Jewellery and 20th Century Design through to decorative lighting and soft furnishings. Estimates range from £300 up to £1.5 million.

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS & SCULPTURE



The Whip, Trevelloe Wood by Sir Alfred Munnings, painted in Cornwall in 1913, shows the artist's mastery as a colourist and his virtuosity in handling paint and building up rich surface impasto (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000 million, *illustrated left*).

Further highlights include *Marché à Saint-Tropez, la Place aux Herbes*, by Albert Marquet (1905, estimate: £250,000-350,000, *illustrated far left*); an exquisite pastel by Louis Anquetin (1891, estimate: £120,000-180,000, *illustrated second left*); *Jeune fille au chignon* by Giovanni Boldini (estimate: £60,000-80,000, *illustrated second right*); *Vierge à l'enfant sur une colonne devant la façade de Marquayrol* by Henri Jean Guillaume Martin (*circa* 1915, estimate: £120,000-180,000, *illustrated far right*); and *Thème C Variation 8*, a pen and ink drawing by Henri Matisse (1941, estimate: £200,000-300,000). Notable sculptures include *Mons Fils* by Chana Orloff (conceived in 1923 and cast during the artist's lifetime, estimate: £60,000-90,000).



FURNITURE & DESIGN



The Decorative Arts are led by a superb pair of Régence ormolu-mounted and brass-inlaid amaranth Coquilliers attributed to André-Charles Boulle or Boulle Fils (*circa* 1720-30, estimate: £400,000-600,000, *illustrated left*) and a pair of





George II white-painted side tables, almost certainly designed by William Kent (circa 1735, estimate: £250,000-400,000, *illustrated page 4 right*). Key design lots include a much-coveted *Flock of 'Nouveaux Moutons' – Transhumant, Belier, Agneaux* by François-Xavier Lalanne, which will be offered in five lots (combined estimate: £360,000-540,000, *illustrated left*) and a pair of Symbolist gates, Circle of Leonardo Bistolfi (late 19th century, estimate: £20,000-40,000).

THEMES



There are numerous themes running through this collection from animals to travel heralding the collector's diverse interests and sense of fun as illustrated by a late 19th century bronzed terracotta model of a Bull Mastiff that guarded the collector's London entrance hall (estimate: £1,000-1,500, *illustrated in situ page three far right*); a late 19th/early 20th century French polychrome *tôle peinte fireside companion stand* modelled with a dummy-board figure of a dog seated on a cushion (estimate: £1,500-2,500, *illustrated left*), models of yachts and even a toy fire engine (estimate: £300-500, *illustrated right*).



Please see below for personal insights into the collection and the life of the collector from Charles Cator, Deputy Chairman, Christie's International.

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Notes to Editors:

Charles Cator, Deputy Chairman, Christie's International shares his personal insights into the collection and the life of the collector himself: "Collections are more than an assemblage of individual works of art, however important: they are the story of a person's life, intensely personal and evocative, with so many threads and themes. That was never more true than with this remarkable collection, tellingly eclectic, which very much bears the stamp of the person who created it. Whether in business, philanthropy or friendship, his brilliant and enquiring mind led him down many different paths, always followed with his typical perception, charm and amusement. Idiosyncratic in his tastes and open to the unexpected, interests and enthusiasms were keenly developed. This collection is a reflection of a richly varied life in many far-flung places.

The process of creating his homes gave him great enjoyment and there was always a project on the go. New plans abounded and it was exciting to witness them, whether it was the visionary and courageous transformation of his Knightsbridge home from courthouse to one of the most distinctive and unusual properties in London, working at stages with Nina Campbell and then François Catroux, or his two homes in St. Tropez, adjoining properties with spectacular views yet a short walk from the centre of the town he was so fond of, again transformed with the skilful help of Catroux, or the creation of an idyllic sanctuary on St. Barths where again he played his kind and wise part in helping the local community

Themes were followed with perseverance and humour, whether it was pictures of much loved St Tropez, animals, especially dogs and bears, amusing toys and models or the work of contemporary sculptors. Like so many collectors, he enjoyed the sales of other collectors – he immediately got the point of them and understood the context and the underlying story. So from Christopher Gibbs' magical manor house on the Thames at Clifton Hampden came the model of the Qutb Minar Tower, which then with typical amusement had the missing sections added, and from sales of other collectors came many acquisitions to enhance his own schemes. He always saw the intriguing – and quirky – side.

One happy evening in the Drawing Room in London, looking round me I realised the reason why one always felt so at ease in that imposing but immensely comfortable room was because everything was an outstanding example of its type. When he decided to redo the room, he

went for the best – the comte d'Ons-en-Bray's splendid coquilliers for his chateau de Bercy from the Wildenstein Collection, whose distinctive form added grandeur and scale or the majestic Empire bookcases by the Imperial ebeniste Othon Kolping from Barbara Piasecka Johnson's collection.

Likewise the light-filled hall leading to the beautiful garden designed by Martin Lane-Fox was enhanced by the splendid pair of Kentian side tables whose griotte marble tops echoed the autumnal colours in Sir Alfred Munnings' atmospheric Cornish hunting scene hanging above one, their sculptural force balanced by the neatly executed mahogany hall chairs supplied by Ince and Mayhew to Viscount Midleton for Peper Harow, while the Duke of Sussex's magnificent epergne added sparkle and glamour to the Dining Room.

But such things bring me back to the man himself. Extraordinarily modest about his own considerable achievements, he listened to others and backed people he believed in. He was intensely loyal to his legion of friends across the world – and wonderfully generous; the houses and collections he created were the background for happy times, shared by so many.

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2018 that totalled £2.97 billion / \$4.04 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 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 & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

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**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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