

CHRISTIE'S

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Works of Art from **The Giuseppe Rossi Collection** Sold to Benefit a Charity

24 September – 15 October 2020 Online



Pictured left, lots: 62, 102, 50, 5, 124, 29 and 27
Pictured right, lots: 39, 8, 44, 74, 131, 31, 95 and 2

Christie's London – Announce the sale of *Works of Art from The Giuseppe Rossi Collection, Sold to Benefit a Charity*. The collection charts the evolution of European style, taste and design during the 18th century from the Baroque to neoclassicism totaling 148 lots and includes: Italian and French furniture, ormolu-mounted Chinese and European porcelain, Old Master paintings and drawings, silver, clocks, and French, German, Italian and Chinese ceramics.

Dottor Giuseppe Rossi (1914-1989) is acknowledged as one of Italy's greatest post war connoisseur collectors and most prestigious antique dealers, acquiring works from collections such as that of King Umberto II and the Rothschild family. He was acknowledged as having an exceptional eye and built one of the 20th century's most important collections of 18th century decorative arts.



Born in Turin to a family of cabinet makers at the outbreak of the First World War, it was undoubtedly this heritage which inspired what would become a lifelong passion. Whilst working for the family firm, he initially studied business, graduating in 1937 and taking a job with a paper manufacturer. Following military service during the Second World War, Rossi re-joined the family *atelier* working alongside his father and sister, Maria Luisa. It was then he began to focus on collecting and dealing in earnest, leasing the Palazzo of the Marchese Carrassi del Villar on Piazza San Carlo, Turin, from the late 1940s as a prestigious location for his burgeoning business. (*Illustrated left*), A Louis XV Ormolu Clock mounted with a Meissen Commedia dell'arte family (estimate £15,000-25,000).

Rossi rapidly developed a reputation for excellence, supplying museums and collectors alike and working with other renowned dealers such as Mallet, Bernheimer and the celebrated Pietro Accorsi – the latter connection evidenced by lot 4 in this sale, a splendid neoclassical commode, attributed to the Savoia court cabinet maker Giuseppe Viglione, which bears an Accorsi label. Rossi's reputation was not only based on the objects he sold but on the renowned private collection he was building for his own pleasure. The collection demonstrated his dedicated focus on the development of the decorative arts during the 18th century, both in Italy and the wider continent. Following his death in 1989, the gravity of the collection Rossi assembled was illustrated by a landmark sale of works, which realised in excess of £20,000,000. (*Illustrated right*), a Walnut bureau cabinet 'trumeau', (estimate £15,000-25,000). (*Illustrated below left*), a pair of north Italian white-painted and parcel-gilt pliants



possibly by Giuseppe Maria Bonzanigo, Turin, circa 1780, (estimate £5,000-8,000).





Rossi's sister Maria Luisa Rossi (1919-2017) shared his passion and worked alongside him from 1944. The collection now comes to market following Signorina Rossi's death three years ago at the age of 98. The sale comprises prized pieces acquired by her brother and retained by Miss Rossi during their time working together. The family archives indicate that the many of the pieces have been in the collection since the 1940s and 50's. Miss Rossi studied Economics graduating with honours in

1942 whilst also working for her father's business. She always had a strong interest in conservation and restoration and so when health problems led her brother to stop dealing, she opened 'Bottega del Restauro of Rossi Maria Luisa' going on to carry out restoration work at important Turin landmarks such as the Sede della Piccola Casa della Divina Provvidenza, Istituto delle Rosine and the Opera Barolo.

(Illustrated above left), one of a pair of Old Master Paintings *Views of Venice*, (estimate £10,000-15,000). (Illustrated right), parcel-gilt and cream painted folding boiserie panels, early 18th century, from the Palazzo Reale, Turin. (estimate £15,000-25,000)



Miss Rossi was widely known for her charitable works both in the community and for the city of Turin and in 1995 she was honoured with the *Cavaliere al merito della Repubblica Italiana*. As with the proceeds

from her brother's sale, the proceeds from this auction are to go to charity and will help support the work of the Scuola per Artigiani Restauratori, Turin, a school specialising in conservation and restoration which Miss Rossi co-founded in 1994. (Illustrated above left), Giuseppe Rossi (1914-1989) and (illustrated above right), Maria Luisa Rossi (1919-2017).

Adrian Hume-Sayer, Director & Head of Sale, Private & Iconic Collections, comments: *'We are thrilled to have been entrusted with the sale of this remarkable collection which will be offered for sale online from our international headquarters in London. One of Italy's most revered connoisseurs, Giuseppe Rossi's name continues to resonate with international collectors some thirty years after his death. We are delighted that the proceeds from this auction will go to support important charitable works in Turin, in line with Miss Rossi's wishes'*

Estimates range from £500 to £30,000 and the sale is expected to realise in the region of £500,000.

A highlights view will be taking place at Christie's, King Street from 24 – 29 September.

To view the sale please click here www.christies.com

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Notes to Editors

Lots featured on page 1 images left to right

Left: **Lot 62**, north Italian green-painted and parcel-gilt mirror, probably Turin, third quarter 18th century, (estimate £10,000-15,000). **Lot 102**, a pair of Louis XV ormolu twin-light wall lights, mid-18th century, *in the manner of Jacques Caffieri*, (estimate £3,000-5,000). **Lot 50**, Italian school, 19th century, *The Porta Garibaldi, Milan; The Colonne di San Lorenzo, Milan; Veduta dell'Ospedale Maggiore, Milan; and The Certosa di Pavia*, (estimate £1,500-2,500). **Lot 5**, A Louis XV porcelain mounted ormolu striking mantel clock, *Paris, circa 1790*, (estimate £15,000-25,000). **Lot 5**, A Louis XV porcelain mounted ormolu striking mantel clock, *Paris, circa 1790*, (estimate £15,000-25,000). **Lot 124**, A pair of Samson porcelain Kakiemon-style vases late 19th century, (estimate £500-800). **Lot 29**, A Louis XV ormolu-mounted kingwood parquetry commode by Etienne Doirat, circa 1730, (estimate £10,000-20,000). **Lot 27**, A pair of Louis XVI grey-painted side chairs *attributed to Georges Jacob, circa 1780*, (estimate £2,000-3,000).

Right: **Lot 39**, a Sicilian (Trapani) maiolica large armorial drug-jar, mid-16th century, (estimate £4,000-6,000). **Lot 8**, A north Italian Rococo blue and white 'Lacca' commodino Genoa, third quarter 18th century, (estimate £4,000-6,000). **Lot 44**, A pair of views of Venice *in the manner of Canaletto*, 19th century follower of Giovanni Antonio Canal, called Canaletto, 19th century, (estimate £10,000-15,000). **Lot 74**, a silver-gilt mounted famille verte bowl and cover *The Porcelain Kang XI* (1662-1722), (estimate £1,200-1,500). **Lot 131**, A pair of ormolu and cut and moulded-glass six-light candelabra, 20th century, (estimate £1,500-2,500). **Lot 31**, A Louis XV tulipwood, amaranth and bois de bout floral marquetry table a ecrire by *Bernard II Van Risenburgh*, third quarter 18th century, (estimate £10,000-15,000). **Lot 95**, A north Italian grey painted canape probably piedmont, late 18th century, (estimate £4,000-6,000). **Lot 2**, A pair of north Italian polychrome, 'Lacca' armchairs *Venice, third quarter 18th century*, (estimate £4,000-6,000).

About Christie's

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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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