

# CHRISTIE'S

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## CLASSIC WEEK

NEW YORK, APRIL 29 – MAY 1



**New York** – Christie's announces **Classic Week** in New York, which brings together seven auctions featuring 19<sup>th</sup> century European Art, Old Master paintings and Antiquities. Three distinguished private collections will be offered in dedicated sales: the Desmarais Collection of fine and decorative art; the G. Sangiorgi Collection of important and rare ancient gems; and the Estate of Lila & Herman Shickman's 19<sup>th</sup> century European and Old Master paintings. The exhibitions at Christie's Rockefeller Center Galleries open to the public on April 25, and the auctions will take place April 29 – May 1.

This season features a remarkable selection of fresh to market works from private collections including Old Masters from the dealer Richard Feigen and the artist Frank Stella. Among the works with imperial connections on offer include [Jacques-Louis David's \*The Distribution of the Eagle Standards\*](#) commissioned by Napoleon; [Élisabeth-Louise Vigée Le Brun's](#) portrait of Madame du Barry, the last mistress of King Louis XV of France; a [Roman amethyst intaglio with a portrait of Demosthenes](#), a rare masterpiece signed by Dioskourides, the chief gem engraver for Emperor Augustus, and a [Roman marble portrait bust of Emperor Didius Julianus](#).



### **Masterpieces in Miniature: Ancient Engraved Gems formerly in the G. Sangiorgi Collection | April 29 at 10am**

The sale comprises 40 lots of the most sought-after cameos and intaglios from one of the most celebrated collections still in private hands spanning from the 16<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. A major highlight in this sale includes [The Roman black chalcedony intaglio portrait of Antinous](#) (circa 130-138 A.D.), one of the finest gems still in existence. Other highlights within this sale include exceptional pieces from the Marlborough collection (1765-1875), including a [Roman Sardonyx Cameo with a draped bust of Julio-Claudian Prince](#) (circa early 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.), and [The Roman Sardonyx Cameo of Medusa](#) (circa

1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.). Rounding out this sale of timeless and ancient artifacts is the [Roman Amethyst Intaglio with a portrait of Demosthenes](#) (circa late 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.).

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### Antiquities | April 29 at 11am



Leading the Antiquities sale is a [Roman marble portrait bust of Emperor Didius Julianus](#) from 193 A.D. which has everything collectors desire; it is in superb condition; it has original surface polish; it has prestigious provenance from the collection of the late Patrick A. Doheny; and it has been published since the 1950s. Another top lot of the sale is an [Egyptian limestone group statue for Sa-Userwy and his son Sen-Min](#) from the Middle Kingdom, circa 1878-1750 B.C. from a private Belgian collection. The sale features property from a Princely Collection which is led by [The Portalegre Bracelet](#); a magnificent gold bracelet from the end of the European Bronze Age and perhaps the only example of its type still in private hands. From the same collection comes a selection of Egyptian works including an [alabaster jar](#) and a [serpentine cylinder seal](#), both from the Old Kingdom, and a [green-glazed steatite commemorative scarab for Amenhotep III](#) from the New Kingdom. Among the Greek works offered is an exquisite [gold lion head pendant](#) which is on par with the finest work from the Classical period. Vases featured in the sale are an [Attic red-figured Nolan Amphora](#) attributed to the Alkimachos painter, circa 470-460 B.C. and an [Attic red-figured Column-Krater](#) attributed to the Pig Painter, circa 475-465 B.C.

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### European Art | April 30 at 2pm



The European Art sale features a strong selection of Barbizon school paintings led by a late snowy landscape by [Gustave Courbet](#), *Le chasseur d'eau*, which was formerly in the Havemeyer collection. Other notable Barbizon school pictures include six works by [Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot](#) and two exceptional paintings by [Léon Augustin Lhermitte](#). The top lot of the sale is [William Adolphe Bouguereau's L'Attente](#), depicting a female figure inspired by antiquity, a motif Bouguereau was famed for throughout his career. Additional sale highlights include [Henri Gervex's Une séance du jury de peinture – étude](#), a study for the artist's Salon entry of 1885 which is in the collection of the Musée d'Orsay, as well as [Giovanni Boldini's L'amica del marchese](#), one of a series of intricately detailed paintings inspired by the artist's visit to Versailles in 1875. The sale also includes a selection of British paintings, led by [George Clausen's](#) important *Holiday Time* of 1885, which has not been exhibited publicly for more than 125 years. The cover lot of the catalogue is [Louis Marie de Schryver's](#) beautiful *Marchand de fleurs, la rue du Havre, Paris*, an outstanding example of de Schryver's paintings of Parisian flower sellers which was painted at the height of his career.

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### The Desmarais Collection: A pied-à-terre in New York | April 30 at 10am



*The Desmarais Collection: A pied-à-terre in New York* encompasses a remarkable selection of furniture, paintings and porcelain from the distinguished Canadian couple Paul and Jacqueline Desmarais, which was decorated by the internationally acclaimed interior designer Juan Pablo Molyneux. Comprised of more than 150 lots of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century European furniture and Sèvres porcelain, highlights in this collection include: A Louis XVI Ormolu-Mounted Bois Satine, Amaranth, Sycamore and Marquetry Commode by [Jean-Henri Riesener](#), as well as a [A Sèvres Porcelain Bleu Celeste Taillandier Ornithological Part Dessert Service](#). In addition to the beautiful porcelains and decorative pieces in this

collection, this sale also features French paintings, including [François Boucher's](#) *Vénus et les Amours* and [Élisabeth-Louise Vigée le Brun's](#) *Portrait of a young girl, half-length*.

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### Old Masters | May 1 at 10am



The Old Masters sale features works from the personal collection of renowned and influential art dealer Richard Feigen featuring early Italian and Baroque paintings, as well as 18<sup>th</sup> century British landscapes. The collection includes [Annibale Carracci's](#) important early work, *The Virgin and Child with Saint Lucy and the Young Saint John the Baptist*; [Lorenzo Monaco's](#) *The Prophet Isaiah*, a gold-ground *tondo* originally belonging to his celebrated altarpiece in the Accademia, Florence; [Guercino's](#) *Vanitas Still Life*, the only known still life by the artist; and [John Constable's](#) double-sided sketch, *The Skylark, Dedham*, with a *Study of a Cow Standing in a Stream* on the reverse. The sale also features one of the most exciting Dutch Golden Age paintings to appear on the market in years; *Double-portrait of a husband and wife, half-length, seated at table, playing tables* by [Jan Sanders van Hemessen](#) sold from the collection of Frank Stella. Two exciting rediscoveries are offered at auction for the first time: [Jacques-Louis David's](#) *The Distribution of the Eagle Standards*, is a *modello* for the artist's important and monumental work commissioned by Napoleon, which X-rays reveal insight on his artistic process with the reworking and removal of Empress Josephine, as well as an angel swooping above, from the final painting now residing in Versailles. One of the most remarkable tales of rediscovery in modern art history is [Hans Baldung Grien's](#) *Lot and his daughters*, a work known to scholars since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as having been cut into fragments, three of which have been reunited and shown together here for the first time since their dissemination. Works by [Élisabeth-Louise Vigée Le Brun](#), [Fra Bartolomeo](#) and [Joos van Cleve](#) round out the highlights.

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### Old Master Paintings and Sculpture | May 1 at 2pm



The Old Master Paintings and Sculpture sale includes a wide array of works created between the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and offered at accessible price points. Highlights include sculptor [Ridolfo Schadow's](#) newly discovered Neoclassical masterwork, *The Sandal Binder*; a rare still life by the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish painter, [Blas de Ledesma](#); a striking *Judith and Holofernes* by the Milanese woman artist, [Fede Galizia](#); a rediscovered canvas showing *The Rape of Europe* by [Michele Desubleo](#); a pair of polychrome wood reliefs attributed to [Hans Klocker](#) and his workshop; a set of four farmyard scenes from the [collection of Tommy Hilfiger](#); and a freely painted pair of oil sketches of the children of the Earl of Derby by [George Romney](#). The sale will begin with a group of nineteen works from a distinguished private collection, which are offered without reserve.

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### Masterworks from the Estate of Lila & Herman Shickman | May 1 at 11am



Masterworks from the Estate of Lila & Herman Shickman offers a carefully comprised collection from one of the greatest American art dealers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century encompassing 15 works Old Master and 19<sup>th</sup> century European paintings. The collection is led by two still-life masterpieces; [Juan van der Hamen y León's](#) *Still life with flowers and fruit*, one of the most important Spanish still-lives remaining in private hands; and [Luis Meléndez's](#) *Still life with artichokes and tomatoes in a landscape*. Additional top lots include still-lives by Willem Kalf and Abraham Mignon, and *Two studies of the head of a young man* from the studio of [Sir Peter Paul Rubens](#), which had been on loan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A standout example of the 19<sup>th</sup> century works is [Jean-François Raffaëlli's](#) *Notre Dame et le*

*quai de la Tournelle*, which captures the spectacle of fin-de-siècle society in the French capital.

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#### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2018 that totalled £5.3 billion / \$7 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.

*\*Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

*\*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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*Images available on request*

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