

CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

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CHRISTIE'S AFRICAN, OCEANIC AND AMERICAN INDIAN ART SALE REALISES €11,565,175 (£8,211,274 / \$12,952,996)

MOST IMPORTANT AFRICAN, OCEANIC AND AMERICAN INDIAN ART SALE EVER TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S FRANCE

- 96% sold by value
- 78% sold by lot
- 3 lots sold above €1 million
- 7 auction world records,

including the 2nd most important price achieved for an African work of art sold in France, and the 3rd in the world



François de Ricqlès, auctioneer of the sale, selling the William Rubin Kota for €5,473,500

Paris – Christie's Paris' African, Oceanic and American Indian art sale achieved €11,565,175 / £8,211,274 / \$12,952,996 with strong sell-through rates of 78% by lot, 96% by value and 45% of the lots selling above high presale estimates. Leading the auction was the highly anticipated William Rubin Kota, a work epitomizing the links between African and Modern Art, in the great tradition perfected by the celebrated William Rubin, art historian and Director of Painting and Sculpture at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Collectors paid an honorable tribute to this iconic Kota sculpture, as it reached €5,473,500 / £3,886,185 / \$6,130,320, making this work the most valuable work of African art ever to be sold at Christie's France, 2nd most important price achieved for an African work of art sold in France, and 3rd in the world.

Susan Kloman, International head of the department, commented: *“Exceptional quality and pristine provenance have attracted an international audience with collectors from 10 different countries, bidding either in person in a full saleroom or via the telephones or the internet with spirited bidding by 6 bidders on the William Rubin Kota. 7 records were set during the sale, including for Baga, Grebo, Kota works, and 70% of the top ten lots were acquired by private collectors”.*

Through the strong prices achieved by both lots from the former collection of Claude V´erit´e, bidders have demonstrated continued demand for these works. The Gr´ebo/Krou mask sold for €1,321,500, breaking the record of a Gr´ebo work and the Baga shoulder mask (*D’mba*) achieved €2,393,500 setting a world record for any Baga work.

Throughout the sale, strong interest was shown in works from all continents. Oceanic works were successful as shown by the extremely rare Maori nephrite handclub dating back to the 18th century, or possibly earlier, which reached 85,500, twice its presale estimate, and an ancient canoe prow depicting a powerful Maori warrior which sold for €217,500. Finally, American Indian works sold for strong prices as illustrated by a Tlingit mask that achieved €337,500 against a €50-80,000 presale estimate.

We now look forward to our Parisian December sale.

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**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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