

**A Selection of Fabergé
Masterpieces from
The Harry Woolf Collection**

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A RARE GOLD-MOUNTED ENAMEL, NEPHRITE AND ROCK CRYSTAL STUDY
OF WILD STRAWBERRIES BY FABERGÉ, ST PETERSBURG, CIRCA 1900
Estimate £200,000-300,000

London – Christie's announces the sale of an iconic, private collection of Fabergé masterpieces from the collection of Mr. Harry Woolf, to take place live at Christie's London on 29 November 2021 during the Autumn Russian Art sales season. The selection comprises 86 pieces from Mr. Woolf's extraordinary Fabergé collection which he personally composed over a period of nearly fifty years from the 1970's until 2019.

Amongst the exquisite pieces are outstanding examples of objet d'art from the House of Fabergé – from jewelled hardstone animals and decorative photograph frames, to pill boxes, scent bottles, silver pieces and jewellery. **A Selection of Fabergé Masterpieces from the Collection of Harry Woolf** is, with particular reference to the collection of hardstone animals, considered to be one of the very finest private collections. Mr. Woolf is recognised for having collected only the very finest examples of their type all of which exemplify the extraordinary craftsmanship and design of Fabergé and its master craftsmen of the time.

Harry Woolf began to collect Fabergé in the early 1970s at a time when he was already a successful businessman and owner of the London-based pharmaceutical company Underwoods the Chemists. Mr. Woolf relied solely on his own instinct and finely attuned eye in pursuit of the pieces that he purchased. The result is one of the most exemplary Fabergé collections known to have been curated by any private collector in the last fifty years.

Due to the quality, rarity and breadth of Mr. Woolf's collection, pieces have been highly prized as loans to major Fabergé exhibitions around the world taking place at important museums and institutions. Mr. Woolf became a regular and generous lender to Fabergé exhibitions who wished to showcase pieces from amongst his revered collection throughout his lifetime.

More than ten rare pieces from Mr. Woolf's prestigious collection (which are not included in the Christie's London collection sale) are included in the forthcoming pivotal exhibition taking place at the V&A in London opening on 20 November, *Fabergé: From Romance to Revolution*.



A SELECTION OF FABERGÉ MASTERPIECES FROM THE HARRY WOOLF COLLECTION

The Masterpieces from the Harry Woolf Collection comprises four main groups of works; hardstone animals; functional works of art; Japonisme inspired pieces and Russian styled pieces. The hardstone animals, which Mr. Woolf had a particular penchant for, comprise one

of the most whimsical groups of diminutive carved creatures and represent a rare group of works. Fabergé's impeccable craftsmanship also lay in his genius to create objects seen as 'everyday' into individual works of art such as cigarette cases, scent bottles, cigarette lighters and bell pushes. A small number of objects from the Woolf collection have a distinctive Japanese style, inspired by Japanese art known as Japonisme. Some of them are almost exact replicas of netsuke carvings (a frog and a cricket) and some were made in homage to Japanese design. In addition, a large group of objects have a distinctive Russian style which was driven by a renewed interest in its own national heritage at the turn the last century.

Notably the collection includes examples of works by many famous Fabergé masters, including Henrik Wigström, Mikhail Perkhin, Alma Pihl, Julius Rappoport, Fyodor Rückert, Alfred Tillmann, Victor Aarne, Friedrich Koehli, August Holming, Anna Ringe and Vladimir Finikov.

Alexis de Tiesenhausen, International Head of the Russian Art Department, and Margo Oganessian, Russian Works of Art Specialist comment, 'Harry Woolf's impeccable taste, discerning vision and quest for perfection led him to establish one of the most revered iconic collections of Fabergé known in private hands. His collection has been a point of reference for all connoisseurs and lovers of Fabergé around the world for nearly half a century. It is a great privilege for Christie's London to offer over 80 masterpieces from this collection and to have been entrusted by his family.'

Highlights include:



From left to right: A large jewelled gold-mounted agate model of a capercalzie by Fabergé, St Petersburg, circa 1900, 2¾ in. (6.9 cm.) high (estimate £50,000-70,000). A jewelled and enamel gold bonbonnière in the form of a doge's hat by Fabergé, St Petersburg, 1899-1904, 1¾ in. (3.6 cm.) high (estimate £80,000-120,000). A jewelled agate model of a cat by Fabergé, St Petersburg, circa 1900, with rose-cut diamond-set eyes, 2½ in. (5.5 cm.) long (estimate £15,000-25,000).



From left to right: A jewelled and guilloché enamel three-colour gold photograph frame in the form of an easel, 6 in. (15.2 cm.) high (estimate £80,000-120,000). A gold table lighter in the form of a miniature samovar by Fabergé, workmaster Henrik Wigström, St Petersburg, 1908-1917, 3½ in. (9 cm.) high (estimate £60,000-90,000). A jewelled three-colour gold and moss agate photograph frame by Fabergé, Moscow, circa 1890, 4½ in. (10.5 cm.) high, (estimate £80,000-120,000).



From left to right: A gem-set silver-mounted ceramic kovsh by Fabergé, Moscow, circa 1900, 8¼ in. (21 cm.) high (estimate £70,000-90,000). An important jewelled gold and platinum mosaic brooch by Fabergé, St Petersburg, circa 1913, 1½ in. (4.3 cm.) long, (estimate £70,000-90,000). A rare example of a jewelled gold-mounted composite hardstone model of a blue tit by Fabergé, St Petersburg, circa 1900, 2 in. (5 cm.) long, (estimate £50,000-70,000).

Estimates range from £1,000 - £200,000 and the collection is expected to realise in the region of £2,150,000 – 3,151,500.

A pre-sale exhibition global tour will take place at Christie's in Dubai, from 22 – 27 October followed by Paris, from 18 – 22 November. The collection will be on view from 25 – 29 November at Christie's London with the auction taking place live at 1.00pm on 29 November.

For imagery contained in the press release please find a drop box link click [here](#)

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About Faberge

The House of Fabergé was founded by Karl Fabergé's father, Gustav, who established the family business in St Petersburg in 1842. Karl received his jewellery training in France, Germany and Italy before taking control of the business in the early 1870s. The firm's appointment as Jeweller to the Imperial Russian Court in 1885, and growing demand necessitated a move to larger premises at 24 Bolshaya Morskaya Street, which became the main workshop, flagship store and home to Karl Fabergé. The move was completed in 1900, at which time more than 700 craftsmen were employed by the firm.

The turn of century was celebrated with *L'Exposition Internationale Universelle* in Paris, where Fabergé exhibited his famous Imperial Easter Eggs, flower studies and jewellery. The exhibition greatly enhanced Fabergé's reputation and renown across Europe. In 1903, Fabergé opened a branch in London, showcasing his most ingenious objects to an international clientele. The London shop was the only official location outside of Russia and followed the opening of the Moscow and Odessa branches. The years that followed were the most illustrious in the history of the firm. In 1907, Baron Foelkersam published an inventory of the Tsar's collection of silverware and gold in which he described the firm of Fabergé as 'the best and most celebrated in the world' (Baron A. Foelkersam, *Inventaire de l'Argenterie conservée dans les garde-meubles des Palais Impériaux*, St Petersburg, 1907, p. 95).

For further information about Fabergé please see Christie's collecting guide - 15 things you need to know about Fabergé [click here](#)

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