



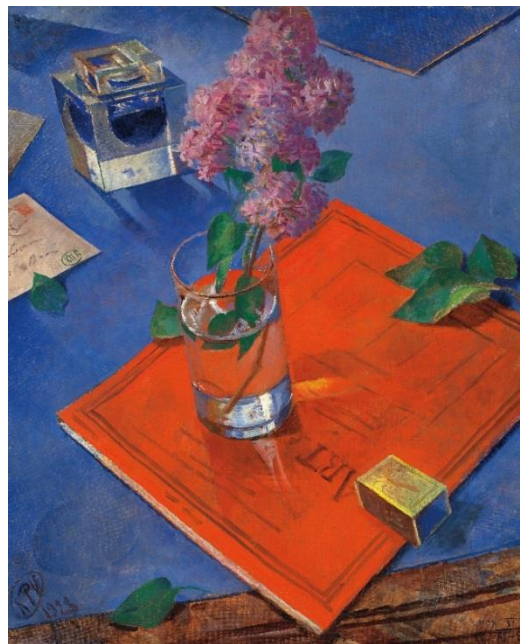
**CHRISTIE'S**  
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# Still Life with Lilac by Petrov-Vodkin leads RUSSIAN ART AUCTION

**3 JUNE 2019, LONDON**



**AN IMPORTANT PARCEL-GILT, SILVER  
AND NIELLO SOUP TUREEN  
MARK OF SEMEN PETROV KUZOV,  
ASSAYMASTER ANDREI TITOV,  
MOSCOW, CIRCA 1795  
Estimate: £200,000 - £300,000**



**KUZMA PETROV-VODKIN (1878-1939)  
*Still life with lilac*  
oil on canvas | 80 x 65.4 cm.  
Estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000**

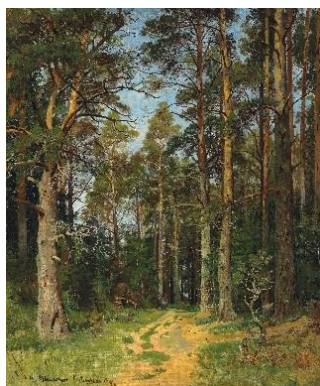


**A JEWELLED GOLD-MOUNTED NEPHRITE  
AND ROCK CRYSTAL STUDY OF A  
DANDELION BY FABERGÉ, ST PETERSBURG,  
CIRCA 1900  
Estimate: £120,000-160,000**

**London** – As we continue to celebrate 50 years of Russian art at Christie's, we are pleased to present our annual auction in London on 3 June, which includes an exciting selection of works by highly sought-after artists including Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin, Boris Grigoriev, Ivan Shishkin, Konstantin Makovsky, Aleksandr Deineka, Sergei Chekhonin and the pioneering female printmaker Anna Ostroumova-Lebedeva. The session of the sale dedicated to Russian Works of Art will offer pieces from the esteemed workshops of Fabergé, important 18th and 19th century silversmiths and Imperial Porcelain Factory, including a jewelled gold-mounted nephrite and rock crystal study of a dandelion by Fabergé and an important parcel-gilt silver and niello tureen (*illustrated above right*, estimate: £120,000-£160,000, and *illustrated above left*, estimate: £200,000-£300,000). The highlight of the sale is *Still life with lilac* by Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin (*illustrated above centre*, estimate: £1,000,000-£1,500,000). The mastery of optical illusion, the brazen use of pure colours and the daring command of perspective confirm this painting as a quintessential Petrov-Vodkin. Having been exhibited at the high-profile XVIII Venice Biennale and offered from the collection of the discerning art critic and publisher, Giovanni Scheiwiller, the still life reveals a fascinating story of cultural exchange between the Soviet Union and Italy in the 1920s-

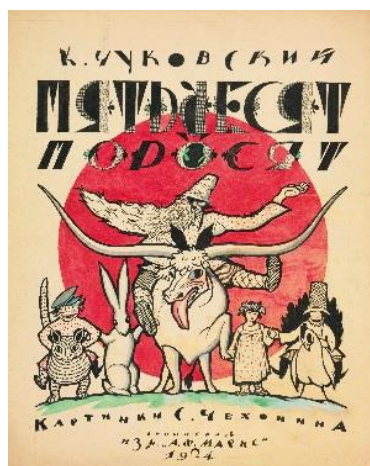
1930s. We are delighted to provide international collectors with a chance to acquire a piece by such an astoundingly talented household name, one paralleled only by the greatest artists of the 20th century. This lot will be on view in Moscow from 15 to 17 May.

## LANDSCAPE AND PORTRAITURE HIGHLIGHTS

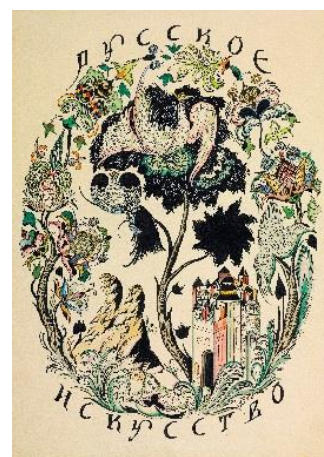


The sale features an important selection of portraits and landscapes, including Ivan Shishkin's *Siverskaya* executed in 1896 by Russia's arguably most famous landscape artist (estimate: £200,000-300,000, *illustrated above left*); Konstantin Makovsky's *Reclining Nude*, a seductive painting accomplished by the master of portraiture and large historical canvases (estimate: £200,000-£300,000, *illustrated above centre*); and *Le Pouliguen* painted by Boris Grigoriev in 1923, a magnificent work from the artist's notable Breton cycle, perhaps the most significant series in his artistic oeuvre. Treasured in the same family for over fifty years, the portrait was initially in the collection of Charles E. Merrill, the self-made investment banker who in 1914 founded the firm now known as Merrill Lynch & Co. (estimate: £350,000-£550,000, *illustrated above right*).

## A RARE COLLECTION OF WORKS BY SERGEI CHEKHONIN (LOTS 1- 35)

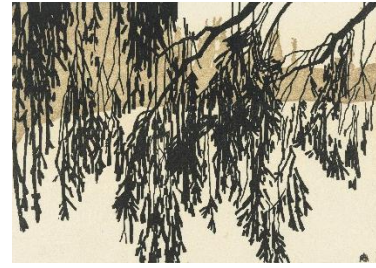
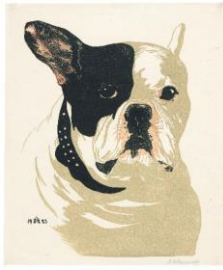


Sergei Chekhonin was without doubt one of the most versatile artists of his generation. His artistic output remained thoroughly diverse throughout all stages of his life, and this ability to adapt and master multiple media, including a wide range of decorative arts as well as graphic design, while developing new techniques and methods, rank him as one of the greats of Russian art. Estimated between £1,200 to £25,000, the collection ranges from textile and fabric designs to graphic designs for journals and children's books, designs for porcelain, watercolours, family portraits and more. The 36 lots form the largest



collection of the artist's work ever to appear at auction and are testament to Chekhonin's versatility and exceptional talent.

## A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF WOODCUTS BY ANNA OSTROUMOVA-LEBEDEVA (LOTS 59-71)



Most well-known for her ground-breaking contribution to Russian printmaking, Anna Ostroumova-Lebedeva's remarkable talent and desire to create her own original designs at a time when students were discouraged from executing their own original compositions astounded her contemporaries and continues to impress and delight international collectors today. Presented at accessible price points, the selection of 12 lots comprising multiple woodcuts, provides a comprehensive overview of the core of her artistic oeuvre: views of the artist's hometown of St Petersburg and its environs, studies of nature, views of Venice, Rome and Tuscany, a collection of ex libris and her favourite bulldog Bobby (estimate: £3,000-5,000; *illustrated above left*). One crucial example is Ostroumova-Lebedeva's early woodcut '*Perseus and Andromeda*' after Peter Paul Rubens executed with such finesse and sophistication that it was mistaken for a watercolour by a professional artistic judging panel during a competition (estimate: £3,000-£5,000; *illustrated above centre*). This collection is a faithful testament to her artistic legacy, and an opportunity for both entry level and discerning collectors to acquire her work.

## FABERGÉ CLOCKS



The highlight of the Russian Works of Art section of the sale is a selection of rare jewelled and guilloché enamel desk clocks. Fabergé workmasters were renowned for producing magnificent yet practical *objets d'art*, such as clocks, cigarette lighters and bell pushes. They were not simply functional desk accessories, but also highly decorative and often embellished with varicolour gold, gems and a variety of enamelling techniques, including painting *en grisaille* and gold foiling (*illustrated left*). Fabergé is known to have invented more than 145 new shades and is remembered as a pioneer in his field by specialists and collectors alike.

## RUSSIAN ENAMEL CRAFTSMANSHIP



Furthermore, we are pleased to present works of art that exemplify the exquisite craftsmanship of a number of makers, as illustrated by the two present lots (*illustrated left and right*) produced by Friedrich Koechli and Feodor Rückert. A rare jewelled and enamel gold Imperial presentation snuff box by Friedrich Koechli, with an estimate of £80,000 - £120,000, (*illustrated*



*left*) demonstrates the tradition of presenting lavish gifts to Russian and foreign dignitaries that flourished during the reign of Emperor Nicholas II. Coming from a private collection in Mexico, a silver-gilt cloisonné and en plein enamel

casket, estimated at £80,000 - £120,000, (*illustrated right*) depicts a detail from *A Boyar Wedding Feast* after a painting by Konstantin Makovsky, and is executed in Pan-Russian style.

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**Notes to Editors:** As 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of Russian Art at Christie's, we are pleased to celebrate the history of the department and look back at the unparalleled success achieved with Russian masterpieces over the past fifty years. Unique in its genre, the Russian Art Department sources a wide variety of objects, from paintings and works on paper by leading artists from the 18th to the 21st centuries, to Russian Works of Art, including Fabergé, Imperial jewels, enamels, militaria and Soviet porcelain. Christie's Russian Art sales, synonymous with distinguished provenance and fine craftsmanship, are held in London twice a year, in June and November.

#### **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.*