Images: Christie's Images Ltd 2012

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OLD MASTER PAINTINGS

Old Master & British Paintings Evening Auction

Christie's London, July 3

christies.com

A Rembrandt masterpiece, *A Bust of a Man in a Gorget and Cap*, 1626/27, (est. £8–12 million) leads this sale of the most important private collection of Dutch Old Master paintings to come to the market in recent years. The Rembrandt is part of the featured private collection of 15 exceptional works by 17th-century Dutch masters of the "Golden Age" formed by the discerning eye of Pieter and Olga Dreesmann, who focused on quality, rarity and importance. Buzz is also circulating around the poetic *Shipping in a Calm* (est. £2.5–3.5 million), one of the finest paintings by Willem van de Velde II, and the quietly intense *Asparagus and Red Currants on a Plinth* (est. £1.4–2 million) by Adriaen Coorte. ▷

by PATTI VERBANAS

PICK YOUR PASSION, THEN INK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE TOP LUXURY AUCTIONS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN NOW AND YEAR'S END.

Vintage Images; Courtesy Swann Auction Galleries

VINTAGE POSTERS

Vintage Posters

Swann Auction Galleries, New York, August 1

swanngalleries.com

From exotic locales (Paul George's *Fly to South Sea Isles / Via Pan American*, c. 1938) to World War II propaganda (James Montgomery Flagg's iconic *I Want You*, 1917), this auction offers a collection of rare and important American posters and several poignant Mather Work Incentive posters (*Your Idea May Move the World*, 1924) for estimates less than $1,000. ▷

20TH CENTURY & MODERN DESIGN

Early 20th Century Design & Modern Design

David Rago Arts & Auction Center, Lambertville, New Jersey, June 16 & 17

ragoarts.com

Rago is synonymous with design. Indeed, much of the important modern design that has come to auction since the 1980s has been sold by this powerhouse on the banks of the Delaware River. Rago's back-to-back June sales offer the best in furnishings, ceramics, glass and other decorative arts from the likes of Tiffany, Stickley, Lalique, Rookwood and Ohr. Standouts include: "Jazz" bowl (1929) by Viktor Schreckengost, signed by the artist and stamped "Cowan" with a floral mark (est. $40,000–60,000); an untitled "bush" bronze (top left) and copper sculpture (1970s) by Harry Bertoia (est. $20,000–30,000); and a large earthenware bowl (bottom left) with white "crater" glaze (1960s) by Otto and Gertrud Natzler (est. $15,000–20,000).

PHOTOGRAPHY

A Show Of Hands: Photographs from the Collection of Henry Buhl

Sotheby's New York, December 12 & 13

sothebys.com

Assembled by visionary collector Henry M. Buhl, this assemblage explores the theme of the human hand in photography and includes works from early 19th-century pioneers to 20th-century masters, including Herbert Bayer, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Edward Weston and Man Ray, whose evocative 1922 "Rayograph with Hand and Egg" (est. $250,000–350,000). "Henry Buhl's singular focus and passion for the theme of the hand was equaled by the iconic quality of the images he selected," says Denise Bethel, director of Sotheby's Photographs Department. This sale gives a new meaning to the term "High Five."

ART OF THE AMERICAN WEST

The 27th Annual Coeur d'Alene Art Auction

Reno, Nevada, July 21

cdaartauction.com

The star of this year's sale, which is marked by major paintings by Charles M. Russell, Frederic Remington and Albert Bierstadt, is a magnificent beaded war shirt confirmed to have been the personal item of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce (est. $600,000–900,000). Regarded as the most significant Native American artifact in the history of the West to ever come to auction, the war shirt is depicted in an 1877 photograph of the Chief following his surrender to General Oliver O. Howard. ▷

Photos: Courtesy Sotheby's

ESTATE SALE

Property from the Estate of Brooke Astor
Sotheby's New York, September 24 & 25
sothebys.com

This legendary figure of New York society was known for surrounding herself with objects she loved, and each example of fine and decorative arts and jewelry on offer in her estate sale reflects her life and passions: Chinese lacquer furniture, Export porcelain, paintings of dogs — many depicting her own — and jewelry, incredible, exquisite jewelry. The socialite, known as much for her elegance as her philanthropy, has said, "People expect to see Mrs. Astor, not some dowdy old lady, and I don't intend to disappoint." Nor does her collection of gems disappoint. Examples read as a roll call of the best designers of the 20th century: Verdura, Cartier, Buccellati, David Webb, Tiffany & Co. and Bulgari. Highlights include an emerald and diamond ring set with a 22.84 carat Colombian emerald (est. $100,000–150,000), an emerald and diamond necklace (est. $250,000–350,000), and a wonderfully articulated 18K gold, fancy-colored diamond, coral and ruby lion brooch by Van Cleef & Arpels (est. $20,000–30,000). ▷

Images: Courtesy Bonhams

FASHION

What Women Want ... at Auction

Bonhams, Los Angeles, California, October 21

bonhams.com

This is retail therapy dressed to the nines. Bonhams certainly has cornered the market for sophisticated women who love to shop, appreciate luxury and rejoice upon discovering a good bargain. Vintage and contemporary jewelry, accessories, gowns, silver, watches and furniture from the likes of Hermès, Judith Leiber, Kathrine Baumann, Stuart Weiztman and Versace headline this year's lots.

AUTOMOBILES

Sports & Classics of Monterey
RM Auctions, Monterey, California, August 17 & 18
rmauctions.com

RM Auctions, the world's largest collector car auction house for investment-quality automobiles, makes its highly anticipated return to downtown Monterey for its annual sale. A summer tradition for car enthusiasts across the globe, the RM sale, now in its 27th year, is regarded as the "heart" of Monterey's classic car week celebration. In years past, the sale has seen some of the world's most important and historic Ferraris, including a 1960 Ferrari 250 GT SWB Berlinetta Competizione, which realized $5,280,000 in 2011. Time to get your motor running and head down Pacific Coast Highway.

WATCHES

Important Modern & Vintage Timepieces
Antiquorum, New York, June 20
antiquorum.com

Antiquorum, the world's leading auction house specializing in horology, celebrates the art of classic timepieces from a Who's Who of the world's top companies such as Rolex, Cartier, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Corum and Patek Philippe, whose "Celestial Wristwatch," a rare astronomic, self-winding, 18K white gold wristwatch with mean time indication, nocturnal sky chart of the Northern Hemisphere, moon phases and orbit, and time of the meridian passage of Sirius and the moon (est. $180,000–240,000) is a highlight. ◆