

French Auction House Hosts May 5 & 6 Sale In London



A center table is stamped "E.V.R.E." for Bernard II Van Risenburgh. Highly sophisticated, it is decorated with a magnificent Japanese lacquer, gold on a black background, and comes from the legendary Jeffrey and Simone (1700/200,000).

LONDON — The auction house Europe Auction is conducting a sale in London on May 5 and 6. Clerridge's Hotel will host this sale, featuring almost 60 pieces estimated to achieve \$11.5 million.

The sale will be conducted by auctioneer Nathalie Verdol. Reminding her great enthusiasm for this project, she explained, "London is a key location in the international art market. Along with New York and Paris, it forms the 'Golden Triangle.' She explained what propelled this choice, "Some of the lots for sale belong to French expatriates living in England, and so the British capital was the natural choice," she stated. "Furthermore, following our successful sale in Geneva in 2009, we wanted a new challenge to continue the development of our young auction house. London very quickly became the obvious choice."

This sale will bring together a collection of furniture and objects that presented by expert Camille Baryel. As a top specialist in this period, he explained, "Eighteenth Century furniture is the best ambassador of France's fine taste. It exports very well both in terms of style and space. Great refinement is timeless and universal. It knows no frontiers. London and international buyers are well aware of this. I am hoping to find many new Anglo-American friends, those great collectors who have previously shown a keen interest in the Eighteenth Century."

Among the finest of the spotted lots is a center table stamped "E.V.R.E." for Bernard II Van Risenburgh (\$700/250,000). Highly sophisticated, it is decorated with a magnificent Japanese lacquer, gold on a black background, and comes from the legendary

of Irvy van Risenburgh. There are pieces by the same cabinetmaker in the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Louvre, the Getty Museum, and even in Buckingham Palace.

There is also a distinguished name behind an exceptional Louis XV writing table (bureau plat) in stained wood, veneered with Louis XV Chinese lacquer, stamped Jacques Dubois. There are examples of this cabinetmaker's work in the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, the Musée de Laeken in Paris, the Wallace Collection and in Weddowen Manor, London.

Pride of place in the script style goes to a mahogany bureau plat stamped Jacob D.R. Meisler. This piece boasts a prestigious provenance as it comes from the collection of a descendant of Jacques and Victor Napoleon. Works from the Meisler Jacob are found in the greatest public collections, notably the Château de Versailles, the Louvre and the Château de Compiègne, which has a desk in a very similar model (\$700/250,000).

Also featured will be a bottle marquetry bureau plat from the first half of the Nineteenth Century stamped Robert Pons, and, from the same cabinetmaker, a mobile à hauteur d'appui (side cabinet) in stained wood, with mahogany and bottle marquetry and a black Peruvian bark's top (\$170/200,000 each).

Old and modern paintings, sculpture and tapestries will also be featured at this sale.

Public viewing at Clerridge's Hotel at Brook Street, Mayfair is set for May 5 from 11 am to 3 pm and from 10 am to 9 pm on the day of the sale. For information, +37 245 242 210 or www.europeauction.com



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Human connections

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Through June 5, 2011



Central Park's Arsenal Gallery Hosts 'Ai Weiwei & Emperor's Fountain'

NEW YORK CITY — From May 2 to July 15 the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park, at 830 Fifth Avenue at 64th Street, will present "Full Circle: Ai Weiwei and the Emperor's Fountain." This is the Chinese artist, architectural designer, social and cultural critic's first major public art sculpture in New York City. On view concurrently, "Circle of Animals/Boiling Heads" will be at the historic Pulitzer Fountain in Grand Army Plaza.

"Full Circle" focuses on the inspiration for Ai's public art project: the ramshaded Eighteenth Century cast-iron fountain

clock designed by European Jewett for the imperial prince known as the "Thousand Year (the Garden of Perfect Brightness). Images and documentary footage will address how Ai has recast the fountain's history including its recent role as an evocative symbol of contemporary China's complicated understanding of its own history and the shifting relationship with the West.

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