

PRESS RELEASE

Munich, June 2020

Art and antiques consistently in high demand in the auctions at Hermann Historica GmbH im stetigen Wachstum

The very first day of the 82nd Auction at Hermann Historica GmbH in Grasbrunn, near Munich, presented a lineup of artefacts wrought with masterly artistic workmanship, dating from antiquity right through to the modern era.

The sale of the 717 lots on 25 May was like taking a journey through history and continents. Entitled "Art and handcrafts, antiquities", the catalogue included virtually every epoch and every region of the world, all testaments to outstanding craftsmanship in a wide variety of materials. Fantastic results were achieved, thanks to the keen participation of the bidders on the telephone and the hitherto unknown, yet extremely



active community of online bidders on all six auction platforms, culminating in a sensational, thirty-fold increase of the opening price. Last year's relocation to the new, spacious premises in Grasbrunn proved to be the proverbial stroke of good luck in the otherwise unfortunate COVID-19 situation; the generous space made the pre-sale viewing possible in person and permitted direct attendance in the saleroom. Silver, glass and Asian art objects were particularly sought after, along with paintings and sculptures.

The announcement of an Old Master painting unleashed a veritable bidding frenzy on all channels. Measuring a mere 25 centimetres in diameter, the enchanting, circular, 17th century work of finest Flemish rustic genre painting inspired such enthusiasm that its new owner could only claim his prize after a seemingly never-ending barrage of bids. Depicting a young farmer's wife in traditional Flemish dress, holding a cauldron full of embers and set against a genre village scene of a farmhouse, the painting ultimately changed hands for 57,500 euros, eclipsing its estimate of 1,500 euros. A graceful, voluptuous, 17th century Venus of "pudica" type, crowned with a striking diadem and holding myrtle blossoms in her hand, also succeeded in captivating the audience and achieved a gratifying result. Standing 46 centimetres tall and fashioned in the finest Italian Renaissance style, the bronze sculpture was valued at 12,000 euros but went on to fetch 15,000 euros.

During the 19th century, the Viennese gold and silver smith Hermann Ratzendorfer gained the highest renown for his peerless neo-Renaissance works by combining the most superb materials with exquisite craftsmanship. Winning medals at the World Expositions in Vienna and Paris, his unparalleled handcrafted objects



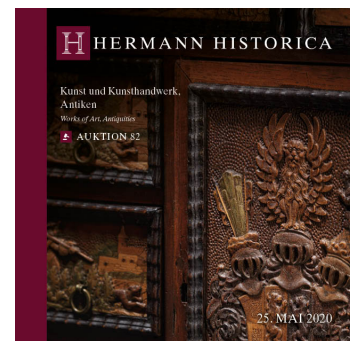
Press contact:

MARIA BURDICK

Communication and press
Bretonischer Ring 3
85630 Grasbrunn / Munich
GERMANY
Mobile: +49 (0) 177 - 81 81 415
Phone: +49 (0) 89 - 54 72 64 9 - 0
Fax: +49 (0) 89 - 54 72 64 9 - 999

press(at)hermann-historica.com
www.hermann-historica.com

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Works of Art, Antiquities

<https://www.hermann-historica.de/upload/82/A82kua/>

Auction 82 - Live Auction

May 25, 2020:
Works of Art, Antiquities

May 26, 2020:
Antique Arms and Armour from all over the world
The J. Durval Collection of Antique Firearms

May 27, 2020:
Fine Antique and Modern Firearms
The Frey Collection - Firearms from Württemberg

May 28, 2020:
International Orders & Military Collectibles

Copie permitted – please send proof to:
Hermann Historica GmbH
Marketing Department
Bretonischer Ring 3
85630 Grasbrunn / Munich
GERMANY

or by email to:
press@hermann-historica.com

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press@hermann-historica.com

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are sure to delight, especially by virtue of their superlative enamelling. One of his showpieces is a magnificent, fan-shaped ornamental plate, resplendent in partially gilt silver, featuring grotesque figures in coloured enamel, their flat perforations filled with lavishly engraved rock crystal. The exceptionally impressive artwork now graces a new collection



for 31,250 euros, its starting price of 25,000 euros notwithstanding. Next up, no less fabulous and dating from the same period, was an opulent chess set. The extraordinarily splendid execution of the unusually large figures in partially gilt silver, standing up to 22 centimetres tall, their naturalistic features carved in ivory, suggests that this exceptionally distinguished version of the "game of kings" was originally owned by a prominent household. The pleasing hammer price of 52,500 euros, far surpassing the reserve of 40,000 euros, would indicate that this is unlikely to change anytime soon.



Moving on to a different culture during the same era, lot number 556 announced an almost identical pair of Chinese bat vases. Dating from the Kuang Hsu period (1875 – 1908) and abundantly painted with auspicious bats in different colours, the large, bellied vases, tapering up towards the neck, did not escape buyers' notice. Bidding soon out-

tripped the guide price of 2,000 euros and the sale was completed for the impressive sum of 30,000 euros. European porcelain from the Meissen Manufactory is widely acclaimed around the world. Therefore, collectors welcomed the opportunity to purchase the group of 23 Japanese figurines from the "Foreign nations" series in one lot. Some seated, some standing, all naturalistically portrayed, painted in colour and with occasional gilded details, the group presents a vivid study of Japanese culture designed by Friedrich Elias Meyer, court sculptor in Weimar and modeller in Meissen as of 1748. Bids from 25,000 euros had been invited for the formidable ensemble, which closed at a very respectable 32,500 euros. A breathtaking, French Lalique vase in smoked glass, clearly classified as Art Déco, provided the final flourish in the wide range of eras and materials. Made in 1928, signed and in absolutely immaculate condition, having attracted a good deal of interest among dedicated Lalique collectors during the run-up to the auction, the "Phentièvre" model raced past its estimate of 6,000 euros before the hammer fell at 8,500 euros.

Upcoming Auction: Online Only Auction: June 22 - 26, 2020

Press contact:

MARIA BURDICK

Communication and press

Bretonischer Ring 3

85630 Grasbrunn / Munich

GERMANY

Mobile: +49 (0) 177 - 81 81 415

Phone: +49 (0) 89 - 54 72 64 9 - 0

Fax: +49 (0) 89 - 54 72 64 9 - 999

[press\(at\)hermann-historica.com](mailto:press(at)hermann-historica.com)

www.hermann-historica.com

Copie permitted – please send proof to:

Hermann Historica GmbH

Marketing Department

Bretonischer Ring 3

85630 Grasbrunn / Munich

GERMANY

or by email to:

press@hermann-historica.com

Further information and high-definition photo material:

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press@hermann-historica.com

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