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Gold, Silver and Bronze

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction in Sydney 24 October 2017



Demétre H. Chiparus 1886-1947, *Dancer of Kapurthala*, circa 1925.
Estimate \$80,000-100,000

Sotheby's Australia's October sale of Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design will have bidders dancing in the aisles, as a diverse collection of international arts and design is offered for auction. Over 230 works are presented, from the Han dynasty to the present, from Asia, Australia and Europe. Commencing at 6 pm on 24 October at The Hughenden in Woollahra, the sale features objects of exquisite craftsmanship and design from private collections which includes an extensive collection of fine Australian and European art, furniture, glass, porcelain, gold and silver together with Chinese bronzes, ceramics, furniture, jades and works of art.

A ROYAL DECO DANCER

A rare figurine by Demétre Chiparus, *Dancer of Kapurthala*, circa 1925 has been held in the distinguished South Australian Angas family collection for over 90 years. The figurine was purportedly purchased new by Ronald Fife Angas in the late 1920s. Chiparus's *Dancer of Kapurthala* (estimate \$80,000-100,000, lot 198) is an alluringly slender figure whose movement is captured succinctly as she is poised on pointed toe with arms raised.

The direct source of inspiration for *Dancer of Kapurthala* appears to be Anita Delgado, a Spanish flamenco dancer, who captivated the heart of the Maharaja of Kapurthala. During his visit to attend the wedding of Spanish King Alfonso XIII, the Maharaja of Kapurthala, Jagatjit Singh Bahadur, became infatuated with Delgado after witnessing her perform. Initially refusing the Maharaja's advances, Delgado would later marry him in a Sikh wedding in India, and became the Maharani of Kapurthala, Prem Kaur.

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MELBOURNE CUP DESTINED FOR NEW ZEALAND?

The 1964 Melbourne Cup (estimated \$70,000-90,000, lot 172) was won by New Zealand horse *Polo Prince*. Held in a private Queensland collection since 1999, the 1964 Melbourne Cup was presented by the Governor General, William Sidney, 1st Viscount De L'Isle, to Mrs Edna Davis, co-owner of *Polo Prince*. *Polo Prince* entered the race at odds of 12/1, though in the lead up to Cup eve, punters backed him at over 20/1. It was an outstanding victory, as the gelding won by a length-and-a-quarter and was within a tenth-of-a-second of breaking the race record. *Polo Prince* became the eighth New Zealand horse in the previous thirteen years to win the Melbourne Cup.



RARE RUSSIAN SILVER

Items of furniture composed entirely from solid silver are a rarity in the European decorative arts and something these days more likely to be found in a royal collection or a museum. Consigned from a private collection is a fine Russian silver guéridon by T. Werners of Minsk from circa 1890 (estimate \$40,000-60,000, lot 212) the guéridon features a circular gallery-edged top above a flared apron with a pierced border supported on three slender legs. August Teodor Werner (1836-1902), came from a Polish family of German extraction. Werner was held in high esteem by silver specialists of the period and was known for creating high quality works in silver and gold, producing pieces for the Russian market.



ELEVEN-HEADS TO OVERCOME HARDSHIP

An impressive gilt bronze figure of the eleven-headed Avalokiteshvara is estimated at \$30,000-50,000 (lot 50). The eleven headed Avalokiteshvara is an esoteric form of Bodhisattva, believed to have overcome eleven hardships in order to attain Buddhahood. Another insight into the deity is that Avalokiteshvara failed to fulfil his vow of saving all the sentient souls from hell and his head splits into one hundred pieces and Amitabha Buddha consolidated them into ten heads, crowning them with one of his own to show that Amitabha is always there to aid him in his goal of universal salvation.



XIA JUNNA

Contemporary Chinese artist, Xia Junna's paintings almost possess a mystical quality combined with a sense of elegance. *Christmas Eve* 2001 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 111) is a fine example of the artist's work which covers cross cultural boundaries, with almost a voyeuristic element as the observer interrupts the festivities. Born in Mongolia, Xia was relatively protected from the 'Red Wave' of the Cultural Revolution due to the region's isolation. As a child growing up, her artistic talents did not go unnoticed. In 1987, Xia Junna entered the Central Academy of Fine Art's High School, and was fortunate to have the tutelage of Shen Ling who is regarded as an important representative of China's 'New Generation' painters who encouraged Xia's creativity and contemporary style.



AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Auction at The Hughenden, 14 Queen Street, Woollahra, Tuesday 24 October 2017, 6 pm
Total auction estimate \$933,500-1,329,600 | 238 lots

Exhibition in Sydney, 30 & 34 Queen Street, Woollahra
20-24 October, 10 am to 5 pm

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