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The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass for Auction by Sotheby's Australia

The finest and most comprehensive private collection of Art Deco glass ever to be auctioned in Australia

Assembled with determination, perseverance and discernment over a 60 year period

Over 130 items designed by René Lalique between 1914-1939, including vases, bowls, mascots and statuettes



René Lalique 'Perruches' opalescent vases, designed 1919. Combined estimate \$28,000-40,000

On 21 March 2018 Sotheby's Australia will hold an exceptional sale of René Lalique glass from the private collection of the late Mr Hans Mueller & Mrs Gertrud Mueller. The most important collection of Lalique glass ever offered in Australia, the Mueller Collection consists of over 130 pieces of coloured glass from the early 20th century and is estimated at AUD\$462,100 to AUD\$642,300. René Lalique's name is synonymous with the Art Deco period: his unique and specialised techniques with glass gave rise to a style that was essentially expressed through the contrast between clear and frosted glass, sometimes with added patina, enamel or the use of colour. His statuettes, ornaments, figurines, vases, jewellery and architectural adornments encapsulate the art of living and are internationally renowned and appreciated by galleries, museums and collectors throughout the world.

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With World War II looming, Hans Mueller was forced to flee Austria for China with 20,000 other emigrants. Through the war years, he lived in Shanghai as a refugee in poverty, during which time met his future wife Gertrud. With family in Australia, Gertrud managed to migrate to Australia. Hans followed shortly after on a travel permit, with a condition that he must marry within three months, otherwise he would face deportation back to China. Arriving in Sydney, Hans had no money and no contacts. With a wife to support, he by chance went into the menswear business, opening his first store in 1948. By 1981, through determination and hard work, he had amassed a chain of stores, and bought out the long established Lowes brand, further expanding his retail menswear empire.



A René Lalique 'Oran' frosted and amber vase, designed 1927. Estimate \$30,000-40,000



Two René Lalique 'Suzanne' statuettes, designed 1925. Combined estimate \$35,000-50,000

Born in 1860, René Lalique apprenticed and studied jewellery design and manufacture in France and England. By 1885 he had taken over the workshop of jeweller Jules Destape on Place Gaillon in Paris. Inspired by Antiquity and Japonism, he broke with jewellery-making tradition by including innovative materials in his pieces rather than solely using precious stones. By 1905 René Lalique was exhibiting the jewellery and glass objects crafted in his workshop, and later would

collaborate with perfumeries such as d'Orsay and François Coty producing scent bottles. During the 1920s René Lalique established a glass works factory in Alsace and in 1925 his works were exhibited in the International Exposition of Modern Industrial and Decorative Arts in Paris where he was received with high acclaim. Later he was commissioned to produce glass fittings for the Côte d'Azur Pullman Express train and to design glass doors for Prince Yasuhiko Asaka's residence in Tokyo. He then participated in the interior design of the vast first-class dining room of the luxury ocean liner SS Normandie. René Lalique passed away in 1945, and the business was taken over by his son Marc Lalique. As a tribute to the elder Lalique, works produced in the period after his death are marked only *Lalique*, rather than the factory mark *R. Lalique*, which generally appears on earlier examples.



A René Lalique 'Bacchantes' frosted and amber vase, designed 1927. Estimate \$25,000-35,000

Collectors will have a rare opportunity to view and bid on multiple versions of particular designs, including four aspects of the René Lalique 'Esterel' vase from 1923 (combined estimate \$12,000-17,000, pictured below) and three interpretations of the 'Perruches' vase, designed in 1919 (combined estimate \$28,000-40,000, pictured first page). The market should respond gallantly for a rare and important 'Oran' frosted amber vase, designed 1927 (estimate \$30,000-40,000, pictured previous) and a 'Bacchantes' vase in the scarce frosted amber colour will stir interest with an estimate of \$25,000-35,000 (pictured previous).

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'We are extremely honoured and privileged to offer *The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass* for auction. This unique, rare and prestigious collection was assembled with great discernment and foresight over the past 60 years. The collection will attract both national and international attention from new and existing collectors with pieces that have not been seen on the open market for many years.'



Four René Lalique 'Esterel' vases, designed 1923. Combined estimate \$12,000-17,000

AT A GLANCE

The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass
Estimate \$462,100-642,300, 134 lots
Auction in Sydney, 21 March 2018, 6 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Exhibition in Sydney 15-21 March, 10 am to 5 pm
30 Queen Street, Woollahra, NSW

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium and prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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