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Luminescent Results for Lalique Glass Achieved by Sotheby's Australia

The finest and most comprehensive private collection of Art Deco glass ever auctioned in Australia from the collection of Hans & Gertrud Mueller achieved outstanding results

The collection was assembled with determination, perseverance and discernment over a 60 year period

The sale consisted of over 130 items designed by René Lalique between 1914-1939, including vases, bowls, mascots and statuettes



René Lalique 'Perruches' opalescent vases, designed 1919. Collectively sold for \$79,910 March 2018

On 21 March 2018 Sotheby's Australia auctioned an exceptional collection 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 consisted of over 130 pieces of coloured glass from the early 20th century and realised \$545,340 with 118.8% sold by value with interest coming from Australia, Europe and America. René Lalique's name is synonymous with the Art Deco period. His statuettes, ornaments, figurines, vases, jewellery and architectural adornments encapsulate the art of living, are internationally renowned, and appreciated by galleries, museums and collectors throughout the world.

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Sale result highlights include;

- Three interpretations of the 'Perruches' vase, designed in 1919 collectively achieved \$79,910 with bids coming from absentee, telephone, internet and room bidders for these works (combined estimate \$28,000-40,000, lots 10, 11, 12 pictured first page).
- A rare and important 'Oran' frosted amber vase, designed 1927 sold to a telephone bidder for \$48,800 (estimate \$30,000-40,000, lot 54, pictured)
- A 'Bacchantes' vase in the scarce frosted amber colour realised \$30,500, (estimate \$25,000-35,000, lot 65, pictured).
- A 'Suzanne' statuette in frosted amber glass, designed in 1923 sold for \$24,400 (estimate \$20,000-30,000, lot 45)



A René Lalique 'Oran' frosted and amber vase, designed 1927. Sold for \$48,800 March 2018

BACKGROUND TO HANS & GERTRUD MUELLER

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 'Bacchantes' frosted and amber vase, designed 1927. Sold for \$30,500 March 2018

BACKGROUND TO RENÉ LALIQUÉ

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. 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, with numerous commissions following from large luxury and lifestyle companies and royalty. 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.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: '*The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass* attracted national and international attention from new and existing collectors with many pieces not seen on the open market for numerous years. This unique, rare and prestigious collection was assembled with great discernment and foresight over the past 60 years, and through our sale, new collectors will be able to reflect upon and enjoy the work of René Lalique.'

AT A GLANCE

The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass
Auction in Sydney, 21 March 2018, 6 pm
InterContinental Sydney, 117 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Lots on offer: 134

Total sold \$545,340 including buyer's premium

Sold by volume: 67.16%

Sold by value: 118.78%

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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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