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John Keats 03 9508 9900 | 0412 132 520
John.Keats@sothebysaustralia.com.au

The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of European Glass Offered for Auction

One of the finest and most comprehensive private collections of European glass ever to be auctioned in Australia, including vases, bowls and mascots

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



A rare Etablissements Gallé 'Cherries' mould-blown soufflé cameo glass vase, circa 1915. Estimate AUD\$8,000-12,000. An Emile Gallé cameo glass vase, circa 1900. Estimate AUD\$6,000-8,000. A rare Etablissements Gallé 'Cherries' mould-blown soufflé cameo glass vase, circa 1915. Estimate AUD\$8,000-12,000.

On 18 July 2018 Sotheby's Australia will hold an impressive sale of European glass from the private collection of the late Mr Hans Mueller & Mrs Gertrud Mueller. One of the most important collections of European glass ever offered in Australia, the Mueller Collection consists of over 110 pieces of coloured glass from the early 20th century and includes designers Daum, Gallé, Lalique and Loetz and is estimated at AUD\$242,100 to AUD\$347,100. This sale follows Sotheby's Australia's auction of The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of Lalique Glass which realised over AUD\$540,000 in March 2018.

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A glass studio based in Nancy, France, Daum was founded in 1878 and became a major design force during the Art Nouveau period. Daum's glass is elaborate in its design, where acid etching is often combined with carving, enamelling and engraving producing lustrous masterpieces. Highlights in the sale include a rare 'Peacock Feathers' cameo glass vase, circa 1915 (estimate AUD\$8,000-10,000, lot 67, pictured) and a large 'Columbines' cameo glass vase, circa 1915 (estimate AUD\$6,000-8,000, lot 55, pictured).

Considered by many as the pre-eminent glassmaker of the late 19th and early 20th century, Gallé was a rival glassmaker to Daum, both of whom manufactured in Nancy, France. The glass produced by this company is renowned for its beautiful forms, rich colour palettes and inspired decoration, often featuring popular Art Nouveau motifs relating to nature, including flowers, plants and insects. A rare 'Cherries' mould-blown soufflé cameo glass vase is estimated at AUD\$8,000-10,000 (lot 94, pictured first page left) employs acid-etched and mould-blown decoration in green, brown and clear glass. An elegant cameo glass vase, circa 1900 is decorated with daisies on a sea green ground (estimate AUD\$6,000-8,000, lot 77, pictured first page centre).

Hans Mueller fled Austria for China with 20,000 other emigrants in the lead up to World War II. 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.

Geoffrey Smith, Chairman of Sotheby's Australia commented: 'Assembled with great discernment and foresight over the past 60 years, this unique, rare and prestigious collection includes many fine examples of Art Nouveau and Art Deco glass by some of the leading European designers. 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.'



A rare Daum Nancy 'Peacock Feathers' cameo glass vase, French, circa 1915. EstimateADU \$8,000-10,000.



A large Daum Nancy 'Columbines' cameo glass vase, French, circa 1915. Estimate AUD\$6,000-8,000.

AT A GLANCE

Fine Asian, Australian & European Arts & Design
Including The Hans & Gertrud Mueller Collection of European Glass
Estimate AUD\$242,100-347,100 | 117 lots
Total sale estimate AUD\$1,374,600-1,946,700 | 355 lots

Auction in Melbourne, 18 July 2018, 6 pm
14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC

Exhibition in Melbourne 12-18 July, 10 am to 5 pm
14-16 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC

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