

Sotheby's

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Sotheby's to offer property from the collection of Prince Marc de Beauvau-Craon, Paris



Paris, July 2017: Sotheby's is honoured to announce the sale of fine furniture, paintings and works of art from the collection of Prince Marc de Beauvau-Craon, to be held at Sotheby's on 15 September. This autumn event will inaugurate the new Sotheby's auction room in Paris, named after Laure de Beauvau-Craon.

"I spent my childhood worshipping the beauty of architecture and the arts. I was extraordinarily lucky: wherever I turned my gaze, it always fell on the beauty of life.

On my father's death, the childhood home I loved turned into 'Le Château' overnight. I decided to leave with the magic of my childhood memories intact, filled with the love and tenderness my father had lavished on me. On 29 April 2017, my step-mother, Laure in turn passed away. I am now looking to the future. I hope with all my heart that the Beauvau-Craon collection will find new life with collectors who will perpetuate the love of beauty that Marc and Laure spread so generously around them." Diane de Beauvau-Craon

The seventh and last prince of that name, Marc de Beauvau-Craon (1921-1982) and his second wife, Laure du Temple de Rougemont (1942-2017), were deeply happy in their lives and made a considerable impression on their contemporaries. Marc de Beauvau died in 1982, and Laure only a few months ago, in April. Prince Marc de Beauvau-Craon was *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur*, recipient of the *Médaille de la Résistance*, and the godson of Maréchal Lyautey. He therefore played a leading role in the history of this international family.

Between 1972 and 1982, the Prince was the chairman of *La Demeure Historique*, an association dedicated to the preservation of private historical monuments. His wife Laure also helped develop the association before becoming *Présidente-Directrice Générale* of Sotheby's Paris in 1991, when she opened-up the French art market to international auction houses, ending the 400-year monopoly of *commissaires-priseurs*. Both of them strove constantly throughout their lives to enhance and preserve artistic heritage.

Loyal to his predecessors, Marc de Beauvau-Craon was a man with passionate commitments and tastes. Château d'Haroué, the family home of the Beauvau-Craon dynasty, was the *raison d'être* of this assiduous protector and promoter of the arts. It was built between



1720 and 1732 by the architect Germain Boffrand for the first Prince Marc de Beauvau-

Craon. Grand Connétable de Lorraine, Viceroy of the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany and a Grandee of Spain, this prince and builder was also given the rank of "King's cousin" by Louis XIV, confirmed by Louis XV, in the light of his ancestry. He grew up alongside Léopold I of Lorraine, who made him Marquis then Prince of Craon, and he subsequently became a Prince of the Holy Roman Empire.



The works coming up for auction bear witness to part of the history of this French dynasty, and are a perfect illustration of sophisticated Parisian taste. Gilt bronzes and family portraits are mingled with a distinctly aristocratic touch. The collection is led by an **imposing bronze equestrian portrait of Louis XIV after a model by François Girardon (estimate: €80,000-120,000)**, echoes a **fine pair of French Restoration candelabra based on models by Falconet (estimate: €60,000-100,000)**. A **pair of monumental Louis XVI-style torchères embellished with a faun and bacchante, after**

Clodion (estimate: €30,000-50,000) feature alongside family portraits from the 18th century, like that of the **Princesse de Beauvau-Craon as Hebe by Pierre Gobert (estimate: €15,000-25,000)**, to the 19th century, like the one by **Giovanni Boldini of Grace Gregorini Bingham (estimate: €30,000-50,000)**, the mother of Prince Marc de Beauvau-Craon. Seating also features prominently, with a superb set of **four chairs (estimate: €25,000-40,000) by Louis-Charles Carpentier from the Transition**, the most sought-after period for this maker, who produced the most outstanding furniture in this style (also illustrated by the "Quatre Parties du Monde" set now in the Musée du Louvre).



**Estimates do not include the buyer's premium, and prices consist of the hammer price and the buyer's premium*