

Sotheby's

Press release Paris

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THE COLLECTION OF MRS DJAHANGUIR RIAHI ACHIEVED REMARKABLE PRICES AT SOTHEBY'S

TOTAL: €8.4 MILLION*



***A giallo tigrato* marble Leopard, Rome, c. 1783,
attributed to Antonio Moglia: €991,500**

**World auction record for the album leaf from the late Shah Jahan
album, Mughal India, c. 1650-1658: €271,500**

Paris, 6 July 2017 – The Collection of Djahanguir Riahi achieved a total of €8.4 million, including the imperial Chinese jades sold on 22 June in Paris. With some truly fierce bidding, collectors acclaimed works that were particularly dear to Mrs Djahanguir Riahi: Fine furniture, works of art, silver and paintings, not to mention Chinese imperial jades. The results obtained this evening paid tribute to a selection of works chosen and acquired with discernment.

Registration no. 2001 – 002 of 25 October 2001
Sale conducted by Cécile Verdier and Jeanne Calmont

*Total including the sale of Chinese imperial jades (22 June 2017) and Mrs Dajhanguir Riahi's collection (6 July 2017)

The highest price of the sale went to an important Roman **giallo tigrato marble seated female leopard, c. 1783**, whose material renders the feline's coat naturally and with elegance. Collectors fought up to **a million euros** to carry off this extremely rare work (lot 52, €991,500), which had an estimate of €200,000-300,000.

A large parcel-gilt and lacquered silver figure of a dancing blackamoor, possibly made in Bamberg between 1680 and 1720, largely exceeded its high estimate at **€607,500** (lot 40, estimate: €200,000-400,000). The silversmith's mark, NR or MR, cannot be attributed with certainty. One theory suggests Moritz Rachel, a silversmith who worked at the court of Dresden. The Russian import mark *HM* stands for Nikifor Moshchalkin, a master assayer active in St Petersburg between 1772 and 1800. The "Africans" theme was the speciality of Dresden silversmiths from the Dinglinger family: a corpus the statuette here seems to resemble. These pieces are universally recognised, and are mainly found in the Grünes Gewölbe in Dresden.

Eight collectors battled it out for a **gilt-bronze mounted Chinese lacquer, Parisian varnish and ebony commode**, late Louis XV, , c. 1765, stamped **J.F. Leleu and JME**, taking it all the way up to **€847,500** (lot 116, estimate: €150,000-250,000).

€487,500, the price obtained for a **pair of Louis XVI painted meubles d'entre-deux**, with cabinetmaking attributed to **Ferdinand Bury** and the painted decoration attributed to **Jean-Louis Prévost**, encapsulated an enthusiasm for refined 18th century works (lot 140, estimate: €150,000-250,000).

Collectors were ferocious in their efforts to carry off an album leaf **from the late Shah Jahanalbun** album with a **Portrait of Maharana Karan Singh of the Mewar dynasty (r. 1620-1628), Mughal India, c.1650-1658**, which the Riahis acquired in 1965. With **€271,500**, this exceptional gouache achieved the **world auction record** for an album leaf from this album (lot 85, estimate: €60,000-80,000).

At **€125,000**, a masterpiece of silverwork, this **French parcel-gilt silver reliquary Angel**, c. 1480, with the silversmith's mark *R.L.*, largely exceeded its high estimate (lot 14, estimate: €30,000-40,000). In his book *Les Orfèvres de l'Auvergne*, Claude Cassan mentions a community of silversmiths working in Brioude from the early 14th century onwards. He identifies a chalice engraved with a later date (1578), now in the treasure-house of the Church of Saint Victor, Marseille, with a mark very similar to the one stamped on the angel's robe.

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

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