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AUCTION RECORD FOR ADELAÏDE LABILLE-GUIARD

Portrait de la Duchesse d'Aiguillon

Sells for with €657,000

Achieves a World Record Unbeaten for 30 Years



THE JEAN-LOUIS BURTIN COLLECTION OF 19TH CENTURY LORRAINE MASTERS

Tripled high estimate with €1.2 million total

Paris, 21 June 2018: The sale of Old Master and 19th Century Paintings, Sculptures and Drawings at Sotheby's in Paris achieved a total of €5.6 million, with strong prices for high quality works in excellent condition from prestigious private collections. The high points of the day were a world auction record for Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, the success obtained by the Jean-Louis Burtin collection of 19th century Lorraine masters, and some strong prices for Renaissance bronzes.

RECORDS FOR WOMEN ARTISTS

The highest price of the sale went to the *Portrait de la Duchesse d'Aiguillon* by **Adélaïde Labille-Guiard**, which at **€657,000** posted a world record for the artist, topping the previous one going back 30 years (lot 67, estimate: €200,000-300,000).

Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, like her colleague and contemporary Elisabeth Vigée Le Brun, was one of the few women painters who made a name for themselves in the 18th century. In addition, the subject of this portrait is another highly interesting female figure: the Duchesse d'Aiguillon, one of the most prominent women of her time, a member of the Parisian aristocracy and a real icon of beauty.

The second highest price went to an exquisite still life by the Flemish artist **Nicolaes van Verendael**. Famous in his lifetime for similar works, Van Verendael expressed the full extent of his talent in this exquisite bouquet, painted on a large copper plaque. With every view it reveals a plethora of details: the artist's studio reflected in the water; minuscule insects frolicking on the carnation petals and larger-than-life butterflies fluttering around the composition. It is all the more realistic because the artist probably used real butterflies' wings here. The result obtained was worthy of this delicate 17th century work: estimated at €80,000-120,000, it finally fetched **€255,000** (lot 31).

La Promenade Solitaire by **Hubert Robert**, while an unusual subject for the artist, clearly appealed to collectors with its romantic ambience, exceptional condition and provenance. In the almost enchanted solitude and calm reigning in the woods, a young woman seems increasingly lost in her thoughts as she moves towards a tomb. At **€200,000**, the painting largely outdid its high estimate of €60,000 (lot 49),

THE JEAN-LOUIS BURTIN COLLECTION OF 19TH CENTURY LORRAINE MASTERS TRIPLES ITS HIGH ESTIMATE

The key event of the 19th century painting section was the sale of Jean-Louis Burtin's collection, which had remained with his descendants until now. It consists of works by Lorraine painters and sculptors who were mostly his friends and colleagues, particularly Emile Friant.

The collection made a total of **€ 1.2 million – three times its high estimate –**, attracting international bidding from Europe and the US, as well as from French collectors, some from the Lorraine region.

The most sought-after lots included *La discussion politique*, 1889, **Emile Friant's masterpiece** depicting a lively discussion between labourers on the banks of the Meurthe. At

€212,500 it roundly beat its high estimate, achieving the **second-highest price ever for the artist** (lot 134, estimate: €30,000-50,000). Here, all the expressions, attitudes and movements are finely judged, without exaggeration. This vibrantly truthful painting demonstrates the young Friant's admirable talent for depicting people's emotions and moods.

Le repas frugal, also by **Emile Friant**, garnered the second-highest price in the collection at **€168,750** (lot 136, estimate: €30,000-50,000). Typical of the Naturalist movement, this painting also evokes the working-class world of the Lorraine, and shows a family (that of his companion Eugénie Ledergerber) about to take a "frugal meal" in their unassuming home.

A high price also went to an early study by **Pierre Puvis de Chavannes**: the strikingly modern *Sketch for L'été ou la baignade*. Painted in around 1863–1864, it had never left the family of the artist's nephew, Camille Jordan, so was appearing on the market for the first time this evening. This study for the first major wall painting produced by Puvis de Chavannes, *Ave Picardia Nutrix*, designed for the main staircase of the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Amiens, was knocked down for **€212,500** (lot 177). This work also foreshadowed his huge output as an interior designer, which established him as an international name.

A speaking symbol of Sotheby's activity, *La Vente Aux Enchères* by **Jules Boilly**, son of Louis-Léopold Boilly, inspired a battle up to **€249,000** (lot 105, estimate: €70,000-100,000). This superb painting with an uncommon subject is probably the artist's masterpiece. He depicts the atmosphere typical of a major auction, where fierce bidding takes place in a scene of tumultuous energy. Jules Boilly was an art lover and collector, and visibly took great pleasure in recreating the atmosphere of a big sale during the Ancien Régime.

HIGH PRICES FOR BRONZES AND OBJETS D'ART

In the 'Sculptures and Objets d'art' section, the highest prices went to French Renaissance bronzes and objets d'art, like this charming statuette in bronze of a *Mère s'agenouillant avec son enfant* by **Barthélemy Prieur**. The high-quality casting of this mother and child won over an American collector, who carried them off for **€187,500** after an estimate of €50,000-70,000 (lot 10). Art lovers recognised the rarity of this model, of which very few versions exist.

Among the mediaeval works, a **bookbinding plate in Limoges champlevé enamel** with attractive polychromy, c. 1200-1230, conquered a private collector, who chased it all the way up to **€97,500**: over three times its high estimate (lot 8, estimate: €20,000-30,000).

The exquisite refinement of a **small amber casket** attributed to **Georg Schreiber**, c. 1620-1630, pushed the bidding up to **€68,750** after an estimate of €15,000-20,000 (lot 27). This once belonged to the Duc d'Aumale (lot 27, estimate: €15,000-20,000).

PREEMPTIONS

Musée d'Orléans

Jean-Baptiste Perronneau

PORTRAIT D'UN HOMME DE FACE EN HABIT ET VESTE DE DRAP BLEU GALONNÉS D'OR

Signed and dated on the top right: "Perronneau/1765".

Oil on its original canvas

65 x 54 cm

€26,250

Musée de Toulouse

Jean Rivière

THÉODORA

C. 1891

Original polychrome plaster

Height: 81 cm

€16,250

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