

THE TIMELESS APPEAL OF MASTERS FROM THE PAST

RUBENS, CANOVA AND TURNER SET BENCHMARKS AT SOTHEBY'S IN LONDON THIS WEEK

Sales Total £77.7 Million / \$102.6 Million



IMAGES AND INDIVIDUAL TOP TENS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

London, 5 July 2018 – This week's sales concluded today with a combined total of £77.7 million, with strong results across Old Master and British paintings and drawings, decorative arts, sculptures and antiquities spanning over two millennia.

Please find below a summary.

TOTAL: £77,693,925 / \$102,599,863

Sale Title	Estimate (£)	Total (£)	Total (\$)
Ancient Sculpture & Works of Art	3,158,700 - 4,706,300	5,445,000	7,157,453
Royal Orders & Medals	798,390 - 1,144,760	1,559,565	2,050,048
Medieval Manuscripts & Continental Books	1,711,600 - 2,449,500	1,731,021	2,275,427
Old Master Sculpture & Works of Art	2,021,200 - 2,977,900	3,551,813	4,668,858
Old Master & British Works on Paper	3,932,700 - 5,781,100	5,668,813	7,491,336
Treasures	7,474,700 - 10,981,800	12,498,938	16,517,347
Old Masters Evening & Day	36,608,000 - 52,704,000	47,238,775	62,439,394

- Total up 70% on last December.
- Participants spanning four continents, with buying from Asia, Russia and Latin America.
- 77.3% of lots sold.
- **More than half of the lots** achieved prices above top estimates.
- **10 auction records** for Paolo Veneziano, Gillis Claeissens, Hans Baldung (called Grien), a work attributed to Albrecht Dürer, a single portrait by Rubens (in GBP), oil on copper by Clara Peeters (in GBP), Pieter Coecke van Aelst the Elder, Lorenzo di Bicci, Liberale da Verona, Vicente Carducho.
- **Fresh-to-the-market works:** almost half of the lots offered in the Evening sale had not appeared on the market for over 40 years.
- **Over 7,100 people** visited our galleries over the five-day exhibition. A further **1,250** saw our collaborative show at Victoria Beckham's cutting-edge store on Dover Street.

Highlights of the Evening Sale

A Great Night for Dutch and Flemish Painting:

The category totalled £21.6 million, above estimate (est. £12,755,000-19,750,000).

- **A rare portrait by Sir Peter Paul Rubens** made £5,416,400, a landmark price for a single portrait by the artist in GBP (est. £3-4 million). Unseen on the market for 60 years, since it was acquired by the great Dutch collector Hans Wetzlar, this remarkable depiction of a Venetian Nobleman was cherished by the artist who kept it until his death in 1640.
- **A newly-restituted work by Dutch Golden Age master, Jacob Ochtervelt**, fetched £1,930,000 (est. £1.5-2.5 million). Looted from a bank vault during World War II, *The Oyster Meal* was recently returned to the heirs of its rightful wartime owner.
- **Works from the Van Dedem Collection**, one of Europe's finest private collections of Dutch and Flemish masterpieces, put together by the great Dutch connoisseur, Baron Willem van Dedem totalled £7,401,750 (est. £3.8-5.2 million), with more lots offered in the Old Masters Day sale.

A still life by **Clara Peeters** was bought for £634,000 by agent and dealer David Koetser for the National Gallery of Art, Washington. The price achieved was **an auction record for an oil on copper by the artist** in GBP (est. £250,000-350,000).

Portraits high in demand, especially Northern Renaissance works

- A rare early portrait of a man with a spotted fur collar by **Lucas Cranach the Elder**, probably painted in 1508, sold for £2,410,000 (est. £1.5-2 million).
- A late 15th-century portrait of Mary of Burgundy, **Netherlandish or South German School**, achieved £2,050,000 (est. £1-1.5 million).
- A striking portrait of a man against a green background attributed to **Albrecht Dürer**, probably from the second part of the 1490s, soared to £1,150,000, **the highest price ever paid at auction for a work attributed to Dürer** (est. £300,000-400,000).
- A group of four exceptionally rare panels painted in Northern Europe *circa* 1418-25 doubled the low estimate and sold for £2,650,000 (est. £1-1.5 million).

British Paintings 100% Sold

- One of only two oil views of 'London' by **Turner** left in private hands, **Walton Bridges** sold for £3,370,000 (est. £3-5 million).

- All 5 lots offered in this category found buyers with a combined total of £7,154,000 (est.£6 – 9.4 million).

OLD MASTERS DAY, 5 July

The Old Masters Day Sale realised a total of £4,604,625 with a number of highlight works selling well above their pre-sale estimates. The top lot of the sale was a work by Dutch portrait and genre painter, **Caspar Netscher** whose oil on canvas, ***The Fortune Teller***, more than tripled its high estimate to fetch £274,000 (est. £60,000-80,000).

TREASURES, 4 July

A new auction record was established for **Antonio Canova**, the greatest Neoclassical sculptor, when his long-lost ***Bust of Peace*** sold for £5,303,500 – surpassing the artist’s previous auction record of £3.9 million set by ‘Bust of Murat’, in November 2017. Autograph Canova marbles are exceptionally rare on the art market and the appearance of this exceptional work with matchless provenance dating back all the way to its conception in 1814 caused a great deal of excitement. A telephone battle broke out as the successful buyer was determined to win out, driving the final sale price to a figure far beyond pre-sale expectations.

A watch used by the great British hero, **Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson** to orchestrate the Royal Navy’s victory at the Battle of Trafalgar sold for £322,000 (est. £250,000-450,000). Now mounted in a gilt-brass carriage clock case, this **pocket watch** was carried by Nelson during his final battle and retrieved from his wounded body before he died.

OLD MASTER & BRITISH WORKS ON PAPER, 4 July

A stunning Swiss landscape by Britain’s favourite artist, **J.M.W. Turner** sold for £2,050,000 (est. £1.2-1.8 million), among the top prices ever achieved for a watercolour by the artist. Created in the final years of the artist’s life and widely considered to be the pinnacle of his achievements in the medium, ***The Lake of Lucerne from Brunnen*** depicts one of the most dramatic landscapes in the Swiss Alps, capturing the view over the picturesque village of Brunnen on the eastern shores of Lake Lucerne.

A further highlight was the **preparatory study by Pierre Prévost for an extraordinary lost panorama of London** which sold for £250,000 (est. £200,000-300,000). Measuring over 6-metres in length, this extraordinary vista of London which offers a unique view of the city in the early 19th century was unknown until very recently.

ROYAL ORDERS & MEDALS FROM THE COLLECTION OF GEORGE, DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE (1819-1904), KING GEORGE III’S GRANDSON, 3 July

The sale of Royal Orders and medals from the collection of George, Duke of Cambridge (1819-1904), King George III’s grandson – in associated with Morton & Eden – brought a total of £1,559,565, far surpassing the pre-sale estimate of £798,390-1,144,760. All but five of the 80 lots sold, with over 77% of these selling for above their pre-sale high estimates.

The early British material attracted strong interest with the superb Lesser George sash badge of **The Most Noble Order of the Garter**, with a cameo by the celebrated gem engraver **Benedetto Pistrucci**, achieving £168,750 (est. £100,000-150,000). German, Russian and other world insignia were all keenly contested and the Siamese order of the Maha Chakri substantially exceeded expectations when it sold for £85,000 against an estimate of £20,000-30,000. The sale concluded with two Field Marshals’ batons dating from 1821, carried by the First Duke of Cambridge and by the Duke of Gloucester at King George IV’s coronation, which sold for £77,500 and £72,500 respectively (est. £30,000-40,000 each).

OLD MASTER SCULPTURE & WORKS OF ART, 3 July

The Old Master Sculpture & Works of Art sale brought a total of £3,551,813 against a pre-sale estimate of £2,021,200-2,977,900. The top lot was a superbly carved boxwood Christ which sold for £1,138,000, soaring over its pre-sale estimate of £200,000-300,000. This exciting recent addition to the *oeuvre* of **Veit Stoss**, the leading Late Gothic sculptor celebrated as ‘the Master of Crucifixes’, is the only known surviving small-scale version of this subject that can be attributed to the master’s hand.

An exceptional mid-17th century bronze group of **Apollo slaying a Python**, a newly discovered cast of a model that has traditionally been attributed to Ferdinando Tacca (1619-1686), sculptor to the Medici in Florence, flew above estimate to £466,000 (est. £120,000-180,000).

The sale saw strong results for marbles: two rare additions to the *oeuvre* of **Giacomo Serpotta**, representing **Europe and America** and powerfully symbolising the interaction between the burgeoning New World and the Old (*circa* 1720-1730), achieved £225,000 (est. £200,000-300,000), while an exquisite pair of sculptures attributed to **Giovanni Battista Foggini**, of **Lucretia and Pompeia Paulina** representing a noble pairing of moral tragic heroines (*circa* 1700), sold for £200,000 (est. £180,000-250,000).

ANCIENT SCULPTURE & WORKS OF ART, 3 July

The sale of Ancient Sculpture and Works of Art sale soared above the pre-sale estimate of £3.2-4.7 million to bring £5,445,000 – the highest result for the series since it began in London in May 2016. 70% of sold lots went above the high estimate.

The sale was led by an **Egyptian indurated limestone figure of the Scribe Nekht-Ankh** dating to circa 1800-1700 B.C. The cloaked figure had been on display in the Main Hall at Palais Stoclet since 1905, amidst the frescoes and mosaics of Gustav Klimt, and sold for £1.5 million (est. £1-1.5 million).

A **Roman marble funerary altar** from the 1st century A.D., first recorded in the garden of Agostino Andrea Chigi's villa, at the same time that Raphael was painting the interior, sold for £187,500, over three times the high estimate (£45,000-60,000). A **Roman marble torso of Hermes** from the 2nd century A.D. provoked a lengthy bidding battle which saw the messenger god fly three times over the high estimate to bring £218,750 (est. £45,000-65,000). A **rediscovered Roman wall-painting fragment** which once hung in Horace Walpole's gothic castle, Strawberry Hill House, sold for £16,250 (est. £15,000-25,000). Two **ancient Egyptian mummy masks** mesmerised buyers, selling for £162,500 (est. £60,000-90,000) and £200,000 (est. £100,000-150,000) respectively.

Ancient jewellery saw strong results, with all four lots selling far above estimate: a **pair of Greek gold earrings** sold for £40,000 (est. £15,000-25,000); an **Egyptian glass and carnelian bead necklace** sold for £16,250 (est. £7,000-10,000); a **gold torque**, probably Sarmatian, sold for £68,750 (est. £10,000-15,000), and a **Sarmatian gold lion griffin head appliqué** sold for £112,500 (est. £3,500-4,500).

FOR MORE NEWS FROM SOTHEBY'S

News & Video: <http://www.sothebys.com/en/news-video.html>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/sothebys

Instagram: www.instagram.com/sothebys

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sothebys

Snapchat ID: sothebys

YouTube: www.youtube.com/SothebysTV

Weibo: www.weibo.com/sothebyshongkong

WeChat ID: sothebyshongkong

Sotheby's has been uniting collectors with world-class works of art since 1744. Sotheby's became the first international auction house when it expanded from London to New York (1955), the first to conduct sales in Hong Kong (1973), India (1992) and France (2001), and the first international fine art auction house in China (2012). Today, Sotheby's presents auctions in 10 different salesrooms, including New York, London, Hong Kong and Paris, and Sotheby's BidNow program allows visitors to view all auctions live online and place bids from anywhere in the world. Sotheby's offers collectors the resources of *Sotheby's Financial Services*, the world's only full-service art financing company, as well as the collection advisory services of its subsidiary, *Art Agency, Partners*. Sotheby's presents private sale opportunities in more than 70 categories, including S|2, the gallery arm of Sotheby's Global Fine Art Division, and two retail businesses, Sotheby's Diamonds and Sotheby's Wine. Sotheby's has a global network of 80 offices in 40 countries and is the oldest company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

Browse sale catalogues, view original content, stream live auctions and more at www.sothebys.com, and through Sotheby's apps for iPhone, iPad, Android, Apple TV and Amazon Fire

#

#

#