

Sotheby's to Offer Important Old Master Paintings From The Collection of J.E. Safra

Led by a 17th-century Landscape by Jan Wijnants
Formerly in the Famed Rothschild Collection
Looted by the Nazis during World War II
And Recovered by the Monuments Men

Highlighting Sotheby's Masters Week Sales
This January in New York



Jan Wijnants and Adriaen van de Velde
**Wooded Evening Landscape With A Hunter And His
Dogs**
Estimate \$2/3 million



Fede Galizia
Pair of still lifes
Estimate \$2/3 million

MASTERS WEEK EXHIBITIONS OPEN 26 JANUARY

NEW YORK, 12 January 2018 – Sotheby’s is pleased to offer nearly 30 European paintings from the extraordinary private collection of J.E. Safra in our Evening and Day auctions of Master Paintings on 1 & 2 February. Offering a wide range of styles, spanning from the 17th through the 19th centuries, the collection is highlighted by significant works from female artist Fede Galizia, Vanvitelli and Jan Wijnants, among others.

The works will be on public exhibition in our New York galleries beginning 26 January, as part of Sotheby’s annual Masters Week exhibitions.

J.E. Safra commented: “I’m thrilled to be offering an eclectic group of Dutch, Flemish, Italian and French paintings once again at Sotheby’s, following the successful sale of my collection of Old Masters and 19th-century paintings in 2011. The two dozen artists represented in the Evening and Day Sales are true masters of their time, and many of these works represent the best of their artistic output.”

[Master Paintings Evening Sale](#)

1 February 2018



The Evening Sale property is led by a pair of still-life paintings from the pioneering female painter Fede Galizia (estimate \$2/3 million). Celebrated for her still-life painting in Italy and throughout Europe in the first quarter of the 17th century – particularly ones depicting fruit – the present pair is a testament to her sensitive approach to subject matter and acute eye for detail. Galizia’s pared-down compositions rarely depict more than two varieties of fruit and are never overfilled or cluttered, typifying her naturalistic style. At the turn of the 17th-century, still lifes of fruit alone were uncommon in Italy, the earliest known being the *Basket of fruit* by Caravaggio in the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, Milan. While it’s possible that Fede was influenced by the intense realism of Caravaggio’s works, her innovative approach to the genre was unique and unparalleled during her lifetime, inspiring generations of artists to follow.

Safra's collection also features a monumental landscape by Jan Wijnants, one of the most important Dutch landscape painters of the second half of the 17th century. Painted in collaboration with Adriaen van de Velde. **Wooded Evening Landscape With A Hunter And His Dogs**, was inspired by the dunes of Haarlem, the artist's native city (\$2/3 million).

The work is further distinguished by its provenance, having been formerly in the collection of the most important collecting dynasties in modern times. The picture entered the Viennese Rothschild collection by 1873, and thus descended in the family for decades. Displayed in the aptly named 'Gemäldeaal' or 'Museum' room of Baron Anselm von Rothschild (1803-1874)'s palatial home in Vienna, it hung alongside the family's most important pictures by the best names from the Dutch Golden Age. When the contents of the family's palace in Vienna were targeted and seized by Nazi authorities in 1938, the collection – including the present work – was removed to the central depot of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, where it was earmarked for Hitler's planned museum-complex in Linz.



Following the conclusion of the War, the picture was recovered by The Allied Forces' celebrated Monuments Men from the Nazi storage facilities in the Salt Mines in Alt Aussee before being restituted to Baroness Clarice de Rothschild in 1947. The Wijnants was one of 11 key paintings from the Rothschild collection for which the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna selected in exchange for the grant of a license to export the remainder of the collection to New York. Under the restitution laws introduced in Austria in 1998, the Rothschild family was able to reclaim their collection, and so the Wijnants was returned to the family, and sold at auction in 1999 to the present owner.



Dated to 1777, **Women In Classical Dress Attending A Young Bride** (estimate \$400/600,000) is one of Joseph-Marie Vien's finest works in the neo-classical style, and the first of four major works painted by the artist during his tenure as Director of the French Academy in Rome. Though history and religious painting dominated his early career, Vien went on to become one of France's earliest proponents

of neo-classicism – catering to the growing demand for antique and classical subjects. Commissioned by the Comte d'Angiviller, Directeur des Bâtiments du Roi, in 1776, the painting was shown at the Paris Salon of 1779, the first and only museum exhibition to include the work.

Vanvitelli's **View Of The Ripa Grande in Rome**, is a beautifully-rendered depiction of the Eternal City's main river port (estimate \$800,000/1.2 million). One of the leading fathers of the Italian *vedute*, the present oil on canvas provides a glimpse into daily life at the end of the 17th century. The right side of the painting shows the Via Marmorata, along which marble from the quarries at Carrara was transported, while on the opposite bank are the main ramps of the port, near the Customs House, with the tower of the church of the Santa Maria in Torre behind it. In the distance is the Church of Santa Maria in Capella, the only building in this group that is still standing to this day. Signed and dated to 1690, it is one of the earliest Italian views by the artist, and one of the finest to remain in private hands.



[Master Paintings and Sculpture Day Sale](#)

2 February 2018

The Day Sale property is highlighted by Gerrit van Honthorst's playful genre scene, **The Flea Hunt** (estimate \$250/350,000). Credited for introducing the theme of the flea hunt into Netherlandish painting, here the artist depicts the procuress helping the smiling, half-naked woman search for fleas on her clothing, all lit by quintessential candlelight.

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