

## Press release

Advance report on the **Works of Art & Art Nouveau** sale on 16 May 2024



## Thrilling provenance history waiting to be continued

The provenance history of two Chinese cachepots from the Kangxi period makes for highly thrilling reading, leading from the property of August the Strong to the A.S. Drey art shop, to the Ernst Schneider Collection, and ending in 2023 with the restitution to the heirs of the Drey art shop. At the Works of Art & Art Nouveau sale, the provenance will now be continued, and the new owner can join this exciting series of well-known collectors. Moreover, KPM fans may look forward to an extraordinary series of twelve plates with views of the Rhine as well as to the second part of the Trier porcelain collection with early Meissen works.

The pair of large **cachepots with cut peony decoration** are distinguished not only for their impressive size and elaborate glaze technique but above all for their provenance history (estimate: €30,000–40,000). Originally the cachepots, which were produced during the Chinese Kangxi period (1662–1722) were part of the porcelain collection of **August the Strong** (1670–1733), Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, in Dresden. In 1920 they were acquired by the A.S. Drey art shop, which was founded by **Aron Schmay Drey** in Munich in 1866, at an auction held to generate funds for new acquisitions. The art shop was forced to close during the Nazi regime. To comply with further reprisals, the inventory, including the two cachepots, was sold on 17 and 18 June 1936 by the auction house Graupe in Berlin. We do not know who the buyer was. Later on the two pieces were part of the collection of businessman and art patron **Ernst Schneider**. A first part of his collection was already exhibited as a permanent loan to the Schloss Jägerhof in Düsseldorf from 1955 on, including the two cachepots. In 1987 they were purchased by the City of Düsseldorf and in late 2023, as research was conducted by the Provenance Research Unit, they were restituted to the heirs of the former owners of the A.S. Drey art shop. Van Ham is pleased to have the honour to offer these extraordinary items with their thrilling history during its Spring sale.

April 2024

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A complete **set of twelve plates with romantic views of the Rhine** created by the Royal Prussian Porcelain Manufactory (KPM) was owned by a Prussian noble family whose ancestral seat was Berlin (estimate: €14,000–18,000). Prospect or veduta painting on porcelain played an important role at various porcelain manufactories from the start – and the creations of KPM are considered to be among the most beautiful examples of fine loupe painting. In the 19th century they were used as diplomatic gifts and gifts of honour by the Prussian king. These twelve plates, too, were presented to honour military achievements and the associated ennoblement. They have been privately owned since then.

After the first part of a **private collection from Trier** with excellent **early porcelain items** was already successfully auctioned in Autumn, the second part of this collection will now be called up. The pieces, which for the most part were produced in **Meissen**, were collected with great enthusiasm over many decades. They are impressive in terms of both quality and quantity. They exhibit the most beautiful types of decoration, such as exquisite chinoiseries, Kakiemon decorations, merchant shipping scenes or background porcelains from the famous porcelain manufactory.

The monumental **pair of girandoles with Victorias** are impressive not only for their formal language and size of 73.5 cm, but also for their rarity (estimate: €15,000–20,000). Typically, girandoles of this type come as fire-gilded and partly patinated bronzes. In this case, however, the Neresheim manufactory created a precious work made entirely of silver modelled after the Masters of the French Empire style.

The **rare combination tool** from Southern Germany, made in the early 17th century, can be used as a hammer, pliers, nail puller and crowbar (estimate: €10,000–12,000). Yet despite its function as a work tool it is, then as now, above all an outstanding testimony of supreme craftsmanship. This is evidenced by the unobtrusive and geometrically strict decorative elements. A highly comparable tool can be found in the permanent collection of the Trade Museum in Nuremberg on loan from the Free State of Bavaria.

The manufacture of a very finely crafted **micromosaic**, embedded in a table, with a view of St. Peter's Square in Rome can be dated to the early 19th century (estimate: €8,000–10,000). It was made in the Vatican workshops, which are famous for mosaics, producing mostly large specimens from as early as 1576 on. In the 19th century, they turned their focus on the art of micromosaics, thus reviving the techniques of antiquity. In the course of the "grand tour" they became popular items, finding their way into the travellers' homelands. In the case of the work on offer, it is possible that it was a gift from the Vatican to the Sisters of Mercy of the Convent of St. Charles Borromeo.

In 1875, during his journeyman years, **François Linke** arrived in Paris, where he founded his furniture manufactory in 1881. It quickly became highly successful, making him one of the leading ebenistes of his day. In 1900 he exhibited at the Paris World's Fair for the first time, where he won a gold medal. His

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furniture is marked by its exquisite craftsmanship that seeks its equal – see, for instance, the elegant **display cabinet in Louis XVI style** made of kingwood with index number 381 from a private collection in the Rhineland region (estimate: €9,000–11,000).

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## Highlights of the Decorative Art sale on 16 May 2024



**Set of twelve plates with romantic views of the Rhine**  
KPM | Berlin | 1837–1844  
Porcelain, decorated in colour and gold | Ø 24.5 cm each  
**Estimate: €14,000–18,000**



**A pair of eminent cachepots with cut peony decoration**  
China | Kangxi period (1662–1722) | Porcelain with white glaze and blue decoration | Height 50 cm, ø c. 53 cm  
**Estimate: €30,000–40,000**



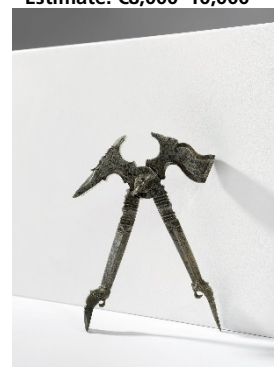
**A pair of extraordinary girandoles with Victorias, Empire style**  
Neresheim silver | Hanau | Around 1900 | C. 7670 g | Height 73.5 cm each  
**Estimate: €15,000–20,000**



**Micromosaic tabletop with view of St. Peter's Square**  
Vatican workshops | Rome  
1st half of the 19th cent. | Table: height 78 cm, ø 100 cm  
**Estimate: €8,000–10,000**



**Magnificent display cabinet, Louis XVI style**  
François Linke | Paris | Around 1895 | Kingwood | 149 x 62 x 36 cm  
**Estimate: €9,000–11,000**



**Rare combination tool**  
Sothorn Germany | Early 17th cent. | Probably Nuremberg  
Forged iron | 21.5 x 14 x 4 cm  
**Estimate: €10,000–12,000**

### Van Ham – About us

Founded in 1959, the Cologne-based auction house Van Ham is a family business run by Markus Eisenbeis, now in its second generation. The internationally acclaimed auctions cover the areas of Modern & Contemporary Art, Old Masters & Impressionism, Works of Art & Art Nouveau as well as Fine Jewels & Watches. In 2023, Van Ham achieved the best result in its history with a total turnover of around 53.8 million euros, putting it in second place among German auction houses. Van Ham is the market leader among art auction houses in Germany in the Jewels & Watches segment and is also the leader for online sales with over 40 curated Online Only auctions per year.

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