

Press release

Follow-up report on the **Works of Art & Art Nouveau** sale on 16 May 2024



Supreme craftsmanship attracts collectors throughout the world

Whether in Azerbaijan, Lithuania or Taiwan – the collectors of extraordinary pieces of decorative art can be found anywhere on the globe. They vigorously participated in the **Works of Art & Art Nouveau** sale online or by phone. As a result, the total amount raised was about one million euros. A masterpiece of the watchmaker's art by Jacob Gierke aroused great interest and is now returning to the place where Gierke created the table clock exactly 375 years ago: to Vilnius in Lithuania.

Jacob Gierke worked as a watchmaker in Vilnius, Lithuania, in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. He was mainly known for his intricately and artfully decorated table clocks, which he created between 1626 and 1650. Gierke's works are evidence of important progress in watchmaking as they contain almost all significant technical innovations made until the mid-17th century. A wonderful example of his craftsmanship is the large horizontal table clock, dated 1649 (lot 624). After a thrilling bidding war in which the estimated price increased more than sixfold, this masterpiece is now returning to its Lithuanian home, Vilnius, for a total of roughly 37,000 euros.

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 (lot 533). It had been a present from the Prussian king in honour of military achievements and the associated ennoblement. Now the plates are becoming part of a private collection in Hesse which prevailed against the competition with its online offer of 22,500 euros total.

May 2024

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Instagram @van_ham_auctions

VAN HAM Kunstauktionen
Anne Rinckens
Press & Communication
Hitzelerstraße 2
50968 Köln
Tel. +49 (0)221 925 862-110
a.rinckens@van-ham.com
www.van-ham.com

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In addition to influences by German and French porcelain manufactories, the **Popov Manufactory** in Moscow also created its own types of decoration which harmonized with the Russian subjects. Typical characteristics such as the high saturation of the colour palette and lavish gold decorations can also be found on the large **bowl with imperial double eagle** and floral décor (lot 513). A dedicated bidder from Azerbaijan was able to prevail against his competitor with an offer totalling approximately 125,400 euros.

It is an outstanding testimony to supreme craftsmanship: the **rare combination tool** from Southern Germany on offer was created at the beginning of the 17th century (lot 619). The unobtrusive and geometrically strict décor elements go beyond the tool's mere functions as hammer, pliers, nail puller and crowbar. Numerous bidders recognized its museum-quality significance – now the exciting item will be on the German market for 16,000 euros.

The remarkably fine craftsmanship of a **micro mosaic** with a view of St. Peter's Square in Rome, created in the early 19th century, is more than a popular souvenir of the "grand tour" (lot 543). It was made in the Vatican workshops, which are famous for mosaics, producing mostly large specimens from as early as 1576 on. An online bidder from Italy was able to acquire this extraordinary collector's item for a total of about 22,500 euros.

In addition to Art Nouveau and Art Deco items, Van Ham increasingly focuses on design from the 1950s and '60s. At this sale, a work by **Venini & C. Murano**, founded by Paolo Venini and known for its remarkable creations made of Murano glass, was particularly exciting. The **"A dama" vase** (lot 667) with its characteristic oval shape and its unique aesthetic of flashed glass and fused murrine in opaque turquoise green and red impressed collectors all over the world, achieving a result of 34,500 euros.

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Highlights of the Decorative Art sale on 16 May 2024



Lot 533: **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
Result: €22,500



Lot 624: **Jacob Gierke**
Large horizontal table clock | Dated 1649 | Fire-gilt brass, silver, etc. |
9.5 x 15.5 x 15.5 cm
Result: €37,000



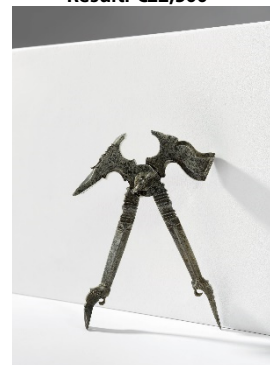
Lot 513: **Popov Manufactory**
Large bowl with imperial double eagle and
fine floral décor | Moscow | Mid-19th century | Ø 44.5 cm
Result: €20,000



Lot 543: **Micro mosaic tabletop with view of St. Peter's Square**
Vatican workshops | Rome |
1st half of the 19th cent. | Table: height 78 cm ø 100 cm
Result: €22,500



Lot 667: **Vase with "A dama" décor**
Venini & C. Murano | Model 1953 | Colourless glass, fused murrine in
opaque turquoise green and opaque red | Height 23 cm
Result: €34,500



Lot 619: **Rare combination tool**
Southern Germany | Early 17th cent. | Probably Nuremberg
Forged iron | 21.5 x 14 x 4 cm
Result: €16,000

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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