

PRE-AUCTION PRESS RELEASE

March Auctions in Zurich

Old Master & 19th Century Paintings, Fine Furniture & Decorative Arts, Jewellery, Books & Manuscripts
28 March – 1 April 2017

Zurich – Koller's spring auctions feature an impressive selection of furniture and clocks from several Swiss private collections, including a German Neoclassical desk which once belonged to the royal collection of the New Palace in Stuttgart. Coinciding with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Russian artist Ivan Aivazovsky, one of the highlights of the 19th Century Paintings auction is a recently rediscovered marine painting by the artist. The Old Master Paintings sale includes an important large-format still life by Dutch master Balthasar Van der Ast. Other highlights include a large Flora Danica porcelain service, and a rare music manuscript by composer Felix Mendelssohn.



IVAN KONSTANTINOVICH AIVAZOVSKY (1817 Feodosija 1900). A stormy sea at sunset. 1896. Oil on canvas. 68 x 99 cm.
CHF 380 000 – 550 000

19th Century Paintings

Russian artists Aivazovsky and Choultsé among highlights

A large, dramatic marine painting by Russian artist Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky, recently rediscovered in a European private collection, will be offered in Koller's 31 March auction of Old Master & 19th Century Paintings (lot 3218, CHF 380 000 – 550 000). Aivazovsky has been the subject of several exhibitions recently, as 2017 marks the 200th anniversary of the painter's birth.

The auction also features three paintings by the Russian émigré artist, Ivan Fedorovich Choultsé. The enchanting realism of his landscapes brought Choultsé international fame during his lifetime, and in recent

years his work has once again been brought to light, in part due to the newly published catalogue raisonné by the Choultsé Foundation and Koller's Moscow representative, Vadim Goncharenko, as well as several exhibitions, most recently at the Mouravieff-Apostoll Museum in Moscow. Another exhibition in St Petersburg is planned for summer 2017. Choultsé's winter Alpine landscape in the 31 March auction at Koller is estimated between CHF 70 000 – 90 000 (lot 3231)

Old Master Paintings, Drawings & Engravings

An important still life by Balthasar van der Ast

The Old Master Paintings auction on 31 March features an exceptionally large format still life by Balthasar van der Ast with extremely detailed representation of flowers, fruit and insects (lot 3040, CHF 850 000 – 1 200 000).

This work, which dates from circa 1620, is representative of the Utrecht period of the Dutch master, during which the art of the still life entered one of its most exciting periods, and Van der Ast began to develop his own style as distinguished from that of his master, Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder (1573-1621).



BALTHASAR VAN DER AST. Large still life with fruit and flowers. Circa 1620.
Oil on panel. 77 x 107 cm. CHF 850 000 – 1.2 million

Another noteworthy still life in the Old Masters auction is a striking work by Georg Flegel and most likely Marten van Valkenborch (lot 3056, CHF 300 000 – 500 000). It depicts a man holding a wine glass and closely approaching a young woman, in front of a table and shelves laden with fruit and flowers.

The painting is rich in symbolism, found particularly in the gestures of the young woman: with her left hand, she points to a bunch of pristine grapes, symbols of chastity and virginity, while her right hand designates a plate of mulberries, which represent the Last Judgement, and an admonition to lead a good life.



GEORG FLEGEL and probably MARTEN VAN VALKENBORCH. Large still life with fruit, vegetables and flowers, and a couple in an interior. Circa 1610-15. Oil on canvas.
CHF 300 000 – 500 000

Fliegel was one of the very first documented still life painters in Germany, specialising in depictions of fruit, flowers and animals, and he often collaborated with various members of the Van Valkenborch family of painters, who executed the figures in his works. This painting, dating from circa 1610-15, has an illustrious provenance dating back to the collection of Count Carl Gustaf Tessin (1695-1770), a brilliant Swedish ambassador and politician, as well as an inveterate art collector.

Of particular interest in the Old Master Engravings auction, especially for residents of the canton of Zurich, is a group of hand-painted large-format maps of the canton, created in the last years of the 19th century by cartographer Andreas Hefti (1862-1931). During the long winter months when war games were more difficult to organize, Swiss Army officers would practice their strategies on topographical maps. As these maps were too small to use effectively, the Winterthur Officer's Club commissioned the young cartographer to make enlargements. Hefti created a beautiful series of 28 large-format maps of the entire canton of Zurich, 24 of which were recently rediscovered in a private collection in Winterthur and will be offered in the 31 March auction (lot 3610, CHF 9 000 – 12 000).

Fine Furniture & Decorative Arts *Masterworks from Swiss private collections*

The selection of furniture in Koller's 30 March auction is particularly outstanding, thanks to works from several Swiss private collections. Among the highlights is a royal "bureau à gradin" which was for several decades part of the collection of the New Palace in Stuttgart (lot 1206, CHF 120 000 – 200 000). Made by court cabinet-maker Johann Klinckerfuss in circa 1800, this extraordinary piece of furniture is adorned with original pencil drawings of landscapes and animals, most likely drawn by Queen Charlotte of Württemberg.



A ROYAL NEOCLASSICAL "BUREAU A GRADIN". JOHANN KLINCKERFUSS, circa 1800. Provenance: The New Palace, Stuttgart. CHF 120 000 – 200 000

Other stellar works from the Furniture auction are an important Directoire mantel clock "à l'Indien et l'Indienne enlacés" illustrating the theme of the "noble savage" cherished by the French aristocracy at the turn of the 19th century (lot 1241, CHF 250 000 – 350 000); a stunning Florentine Renaissance "pietra paesina" cabinet (lot 1024, CHF 100 000 – 200 000), and a pair of Louis XV Boulle marquetry corner cabinets by royal cabinetmaker Joseph Baumhauer (lot 1070, CHF 150 000 – 250 000).



A FLORENTINE RENAISSANCE "PIETRA PAESINA" CABINET. 17th century. CHF 100 000 – 200 000

In the Porcelain section of the sale a large “Flora Danica” service by Royal Copenhagen will be offered. Flora Danica is one of the most sought-after services in the world, and this one, comprising an unusually large number of pieces – over 150 – will be offered in several lots (lots 1407-1429, low estimates totalling circa CHF 40 000).



FLORA DANICA. A table service of over 150 pieces. Royal Copenhagen.

Books & Autographs

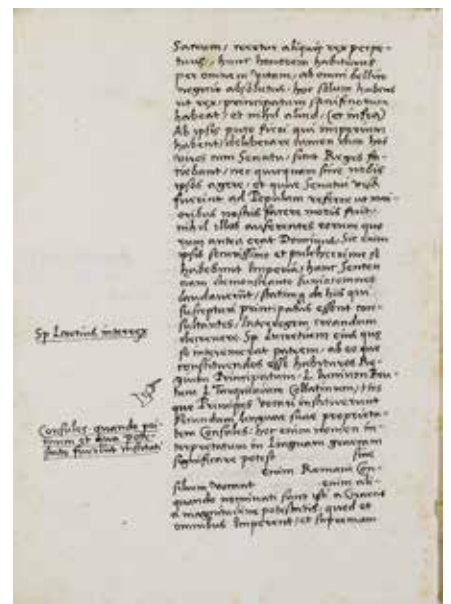
Rare documents by Mendelssohn and Peutinger

The Books & Autographs auction on 1 April features a rediscovered manuscript by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847). In 1830, at age 21, the brilliant composer set off on a long trip while recovering from an attack of the measles. The previous year he had staged the first performance in decades of Johann Sebastian Bach’s Saint Matthew Passion, sparking a renaissance of interest in the then-forgotten composer’s work. While visiting a friend, Julius Schubring, and his sister Agnes, he was impressed by Agnes’ singing, and transcribed for her (probably from memory) two arias and a recitative from the Passion. This highly personal manuscript remained for years in the Schubring family and was only recently rediscovered (lot 517, CHF 120 000 – 160 000).



Another highly important group of manuscripts will be featured in this auction, from the Augsburg humanist and politician Konrad Peutinger (1465-1547). From a reputable but relatively modest merchant family, Peutinger married into one of the most powerful mercantile empires of the time, the Welser family. His diplomatic and juridical skills, as well as his contacts among the Welser and Fugger families, were highly prized by two Holy Roman emperors, Maximilian I and Charles V.

Autograph manuscripts concerning Peutinger are extremely rare, and when they do come to market are often of little real historical significance. The documents offered here are not only important in themselves, but shed new light on Peutinger’s early contacts and dealings with Emperor Maximilian I, and most sensationally bring to light new evidence concerning the origins of the important manuscript most associated with Peutinger, the Tabula Peutingeriana, a Medieval copy of an ancient map of Roman roads (lots 531 – 534, estimates ranging from CHF 20 000 to 60 000).



ABOVE RIGHT:
FELIX MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY.
Autograph music manuscript: St. Matthew Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach. 1830. Hitherto unknown. CHF 120 000 – 160 000.

LOWER RIGHT:
KONRAD PEUTINGER. Autograph treatise by Peutinger concerning the relationship between royalty and the papacy. Before 1519. CHF 60 000 – 80 000



MULTIGEM AND DIAMOND NECKLACE / BRACELET, BY VAN CLEEF & ARPELS, circa 1950. Total weight of rubies and sapphires ca. 9.90 ct, of emeralds ca. 1.40 ct and of diamonds ca. 1.50 ct. CHF 130 000 - 200 000.



AQUAMARINE AND DIAMOND PARURE, by Pasquale Bruni. Ghirlanda Collection, Ref. 12542B. Comprising a necklace, a matching bracelet and a pair of ear pendants. CHF 120 000 - 180 000.



DIAMOND NECKLACE, circa 1950. Set with diamond baguettes weighing 18 ct and brilliant-cut diamonds totalling 73 ct. CHF 130 000 - 200 000

Jewellery

Famous makers and diamond parures

The 28 March Jewellery auction once again features vintage creations by well-known makers such as Van Cleef & Arpels, this time represented by a "Zip" model multigem and diamond necklace/bracelet from circa 1950, in the form of a golden zipper (lot 2063, CHF 130 000 – 200 000). Also from the 1950s, a magnificent diamond necklace with a regal allure boasts no less than 73 ct of brilliant-cut diamonds and 18 ct of diamond baguettes (lot 2172, CHF 120 000 – 180 000). A more recent creation but every bit as imperial is the aquamarine and diamond parure by Italian jeweller Pasquale Bruni, comprising a gorgeous necklace with matching earrings and bracelet, from Bruni's "Ghirlanda" collection (lot 2181, CHF 120 000 – 180 000).

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ABOUT KOLLER AUCTIONS

Koller is the leading Swiss auction house, with offices in London, Munich, Dusseldorf, Milan, Hamburg, Beijing, Moscow and New York. Each year Koller holds over thirty auctions, covering all of the major collecting categories in the fine and decorative arts, jewellery, Asian art and wine. Koller regularly sets record prices and benefits from a large base of international bidders. With its team of highly experienced specialists, as well as its membership in the worldwide group "International Auctioneers," the family-owned auction house combines the distinct advantages of an internationally active auction house with Swiss reliability and efficiency.