

KOLLER ZURICH

POST-SALE PRESS RELEASE

Auctions in Zurich: 18 - 22 September 2017

ENTHUSIASTIC BIDDING FOR OLD MASTERS AND ANTIQUES AT KOLLER

Koller's "antiques week" of auctions in Zurich produced impressive results, with several prices in the mid-six figures, and active bidding for both fine and decorative arts from the Renaissance through the 19th century. Cyril Koller, president of Koller Auctions, commented, *"What was evident during this auction series is that alongside the success of modern & contemporary art, there is still very much interest – I would say even a growing interest – in the arts of the past centuries. Bidding was particularly strong for good-quality works from private collections".*



3037

DIRCK VAN BABUREN

(circa 1594 Utrecht 1624)

Violin player with a wine glass. 1623.

Oil on canvas. 80.4 x 67.1 cm.

Sold for CHF 595 000

A rare 17th-century portrait of a violin player by a Dutch follower of Caravaggio sold for over half a million Swiss francs during Koller Zurich's Old Master & 19th Century Paintings auction on 22 September. The artist, Dirck van Baburen, painted the work during a brief and fascinating period in Dutch painting. Van Baburen was a part of an artistic movement in Utrecht from 1621 – 1626 whose members emulated the dramatic painting style of Caravaggio (1571-1610). After travelling to Rome to study the recently departed master's works, they returned to Holland and employed his stark chiaroscuro lighting and monochrome backgrounds, becoming known as the Utrecht *caravaggisti*. Since his career was cut short by his death in his early 30s, very few works by van Baburen are known, which explains the very active bidding at Koller's auction for this lively portrait, recently rediscovered in a private collection.



3206

IVAN KONSTANTINOVICH AIVAZOVSKY

(1817 Feodosia 1900)

View of a steep, rocky coast and a rough sea at sunset. 1883.

Oil on canvas. 66 x 103 cm.

Sold for CHF 618 500

An important work by Russian artist Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky also realized over a half-million Swiss francs. "View of a steep, rocky coast and a rough sea at sunset" (1883) demonstrates Aivazovsky's pure mastery of brushstroke and effect, and rendered it irresistible to its new owner. Another highlight of the sale was a charming genre scene by 19th-century German artist Carl Spitzweg. The small-format (30 x 14 cm) work, typical for the artist, sold for CHF 300 500 (lot 3218).



1178
A SILVER-GILT KOVSH PRESENTED BY CZAR ALEXIS OF RUSSIA
 Russia, 1667/68.
 The exterior inscribed in old Cyrillic, explaining that Alexis presented this kovsh to the merchant Alexei Suchanov for collecting customs tariffs in the year 1667/1668.
 Sold for CHF 164 900



1018
A NORTH ITALIAN ROCOCO POLYCHROME-DECORATED COMMODE
 Venice, circa 1730/40.
 Sold for CHF 408 500

SUCCESS FOR RUSSIAN SILVER

The F.F. von Uthemann collection of important Russian silver at Koller Zurich on 21 September was a resounding success. The collection of eleven works, which had been in a private family collection for over a century, comprised silver creations from the 17th – 19th centuries, some with royal connections. Altogether, the sale of the collection totalled over CHF 375 000.

The top lots of the collection were two 17th-century silver-gilt kovsh drinking vessels, presented by Russian Czars to their subjects in reward for loyal service: one by Alexis of Russia, and the other by Ivan V and Peter the Great. Such royal gifts are extremely rare today and practically impossible to find outside of museums. The two kovsh sold for CHF 164 900 and CHF 152 900, more than four times their pre-sale estimates.

FURNITURE HIGHLIGHTS

The Furniture auction featured a North Italian Rococo polychrome decorated commode which sold for an impressive CHF 408 500. The commode, from an Italian private collection, was not only in excellent condition but was one of the highest-quality pieces of its type to come to the market in recent years. In the specially curated section of the auction entitled "Baroque to Belle Epoque", two lots stood out: a pair of Italian neoclassical marble vases after a model by Piranesi (CHF 132 500), and a Louis XV lady's marquetry writing desk attributed to Pierre Roussel (CHF 101 300).

FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS



3004
NICCOLÒ DI SEGNA
 (active in Siena ca. 1331-1348)
 Crucifixion. 1325-30.
 Tempera and gold on panel. 35 x 21 cm.
 Sold for CHF 96 500



3022
WILLEM CLAESZ. HEDA
 (1594 Haarlem 1680)
 Still life with Römer, pewter dish and peeled lemon. 1634. Oil on panel. 41 x 31 cm.
 Sold for CHF 198 500



3218
CARL SPITZWEG
 (1808 Munich 1885)
 Der Gratulant. Circa 1860.
 Oil on oak panel. 28.6 x 14.2 cm.
 Sold for CHF 300 500



1416
A PAIR OF ITALIAN NEOCLASSICAL
LIDDED VASES "A L'ANTIQUE"
after drawings by G. B. Piranesi
Italy, circa 1780/1800.
Sold for CHF 132 500



1179
A SILVER-GILT KOVSH PRESENTED BY
IVAN V AND PETER THE GREAT
Moscow, 1681/82.
Inscribed by Czars Ivan V and Peter the Great.
Sold for CHF 152 900



1397
A LOUIS XV LADY'S WRITING DESK
"A FLEURS"
Attributed to Pierre Roussel (*maître* 1745)
Paris circa 1760.
Sold for CHF 101 300

PRESS CONTACT

Karl Green, green@kollerauctions.com +41 44 445 63 82

Philipp Koller, Raum für Kommunikation, koller@raumfuerkommunikation.ch +41 44 201 92 10

High-resolution images available [here](#).

ABOUT KOLLER AUCTIONS

Koller is the leading Swiss auction house, with offices in Munich, Dusseldorf, Milan, Hamburg, Beijing and Moscow. 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.