

# LA GAZETTE DROUOT

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# CONTENTS

ART MARKET - MAGAZINE



## 24 UPCOMING

The sales season is in full swing, dominated by the sessions devoted to Asian art and furniture from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries of museum quality!

## EVENT 90

The Compagnie de la Chine et des Indes art gallery is celebrating its eightieth birthday: a family affair providing an occasion to look at its founder and the development of the Asian art market.



## 74 RESULTS

Italian abstraction versus French naturalism: a match with a level playing field. Asian art - particularly from China - and jewellery also scored well.



Since 1989, the  
*Garden Party*  
Sale

Château of Artigny in Touraine

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2015

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Ceremonial Chair  
at the Palais de l'Élysée,  
by Georges JACOB.

The Hercule Sword  
of the Duke of San Carlos  
in gold and lapis-lazuli,  
by Martin-G. BIENNAIS.



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Jean-François Ében (1721-1763),  
table marquetry in polychrome  
indigenous and exotic wood.  
Estimate: €600,000/800,000.

# Jean-François OËben

Jean-François OËben will be calling the tune at this impressive dispersion of furniture, paintings and objets d'art: a prestigious sale staged at the Château d'Artigny in the Touraine, under the hammer of Philippe and Aymeric Rouillac. Louis XV's cabinetmaker made a speciality of mechanical furniture. One of the most famous examples is none other than His Majesty's rolltop desk, now in the Château de Versailles. Here a table will be up for sale for the first time. Stamped "J.F. œben" twice, this piece from between 1754 and 1757 is rather unusual in being "dual-purpose": it could be used as both a dressing table and a writing desk. The highly feminine table is embellished with marquetry in polychrome indigenous and exotic wood, ornamented in the centre with a basket of flowers standing on a console with a shell, surrounded by vines, foliage and arabesques. When a secret lever is pressed, the desk reveals a decoration of gold lacquer on a black background. One final, significant detail: the bronze corner decorations feature rare rams' heads from the same model as those created for Christian IV, Duc de Deux-Ponts, or his brother the Crown Prince, close friends of La Pompadour. Riesener, a worthy successor to œben, is also present in the catalogue with a spotted mahogany commode expected

## 7 JUNE

to make €100,000/150,000. The 17th century is well-represented as well, with a remarkable lacquer cabinet made in Paris in around 1670 (*see next page*). An equestrian statue of the Sun King as a Roman emperor based on Etienne Le Hongre's model for the Place Royale in Dijon, which has remained in the family of Martin de Noinville, the architect of the same square, could garner €50,000/80,000, while a replica of the "sunflower" vases by Slodtz in the Grande Allée at Versailles, designed for the Duc de Choiseul at the Château de Chanteloup, should fetch €30,000/50,000. This eclectic programme also contains a collection of antiques, including a sarcophagus front "with Fates" (€50,000/80,000). Lastly, we find a collage of a bird by Braque (€50,000/80,000), and the first talking cinema device, a 1912 automatic chrono-megaphone, presented in its five original Gaumont boxes, which crisscrossed Mexico and Cuba at the beginning of the last century with its owner, Charles Proust (€1/1.5 M). **Caroline Legrand**

# A diplomatic and royal gift...

7 JUNE

Spectacular: that's the least one can say! The gold and black decoration, highlighted in places by mother-of-pearl, parades dancers and musicians in the gardens and terraces of a Chinese palace – unless the inspiration is Japanese... And yet this cabinet was made in Paris, sometime between 1670 and 1690: the most magnificent years of the Sun King. In 1682, Versailles became the seat of power and the court, and the focus of art and literature. These decades also correspond to the reign of Madame de Montespan. This cabinet's lavish decoration, meticulous detail and technical expertise suggest that it was probably a court commission – perhaps a diplomatic gift to the sovereigns of Portugal, or a purchase by Marie-Françoise Élisabeth de Savoie, who married Alphonso VI of Portugal in 1666, now seeking to give a little lustre to the court of Lisbon? One thing is certain: it was found in Porto early in the 21st century, in the residence of Jose Leite da Cunha Martins

Barbot de Azevedo Mavigne. It could very well have landed on the banks of the Tagus in the 17th century. Some of the cabinet drawers feature animals from the Versailles menagerie, with numerous birds like pelicans, ostriches and demoiselle cranes. The sheer detail is stunning, not to mention the brilliance of the Paris lacquerer who so skilfully grasped the techniques and spirit of his Japanese counterparts. According to Daniel Alcouffe, only Germain Massot and the Langlois, father and son, could have made such an item. Mathieu Langlois, established in 1666 as an "ouvrier en vernis" (worker in varnish) set up shop in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine after a time spent as a master embroiderer. Like the cabinets embellished with hardstone panels much in vogue at the time, all the charm of this highly architected piece lies in its ornamentation, here with an exotic touch. It is being sold at the Chateau d'Artigny by the Rouillac auction house.

Anne Foster

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Paris, Louis XIV period, cabinet in lacquer with gold motifs on a black background, in "fonds de poire" frames of aventurine and mother-of-pearl marquetry, c. 1670-1690, 99.3 x 145 x 49.6 cm, total H: 198.1 cm. Estimate: €1/1.5 M.



