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ART & ANTIQUES

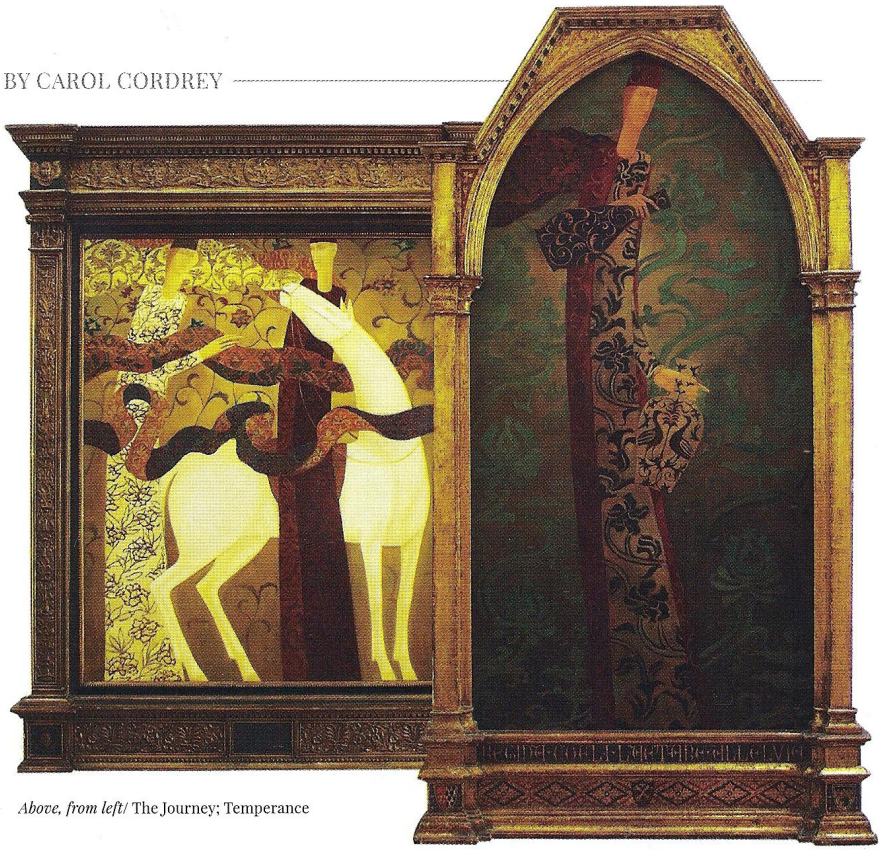
BY CAROL CORDREY

Russian Painter's Iconic Style

Figurative paintings by Russian born artist Timur D'Vatz are a fabulous mix of influences and historic references but the most important fact about them is their quality. D'Vatz honed his elegant style and meticulous painting techniques at art college in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, before arriving in London and developing his work at the Royal Academy Schools; he was awarded two coveted scholarships while studying there. Since then, he has been a BP Portrait Award exhibitor and acquired global sales of his work.

Prime influences on D'Vatz have been Russian icons and, more surprisingly, Celtic mythology with its rich source of legends and symbols. These combine in intriguing narratives that demonstrate his skilful use of line and handling of paint, as well as his judgement of precisely the right amount and style of exquisite decoration to incorporate. The lavish use of gold by D'Vatz links with richly coloured Russian icon painting but the final, flawless flourish in these captivating compositions is his choice of beautiful antique frames; they don't simply enclose the canvases but ensure that each one totally defines quality.

Timur D'Vatz
4-19 December, cadogancontemporary.com



Above, from left/ The Journey; Temperance

Q&A with Anna Evans, Christie's director and specialist head of European works of art

Q: How will the Buy or Bid element of your Interiors sale operate?

A: For the first time our South Kensington buyers will be able to secure objects for a fixed price, be it for an original gift for Christmas or simply a new addition to their home. They don't have to bid; they can walk in and out of Christie's with their purchase or buy via our website. Between 14 November and 3 December, shoppers can come to Christie's South Kensington to view the lots and buy there and then, or do so online from the comfort of their home. The fixed, pre-auction price is a premium. For anyone who wishes to wait for the Interiors auction on 9 December, if the item they are interested in has not already been sold, they can bid in the auction where the items will be priced with auction estimates.

Tubogas quartz wristwatch, Bulgari

Q: What range of artefacts will be in this new part of the Interiors sale and is there a prize lot?

A: This sale features a wide range of items, chosen because they are quirky and unique, as well as being the high quality for which Christie's is known. We're offering a group of seven ceremonial stone adze blades (obligation stones), from Papua New Guinea from circa 1900. Carved from the highly prized chloromelanite stone, these beautiful blades can be appreciated not only for their usefulness but also because they were made for ceremonial purposes and even currency. Another special piece is the Art Deco Victoria Arduino coffee machine. This incredibly stylish object would look wonderful in a contemporary kitchen or even on a coffee bar or restaurant counter.

Q: Have they been set apart because they will make good Christmas presents?

A: Yes; we have selected works of art and objects that would make unique Christmas presents. Whether people come to buy a present or something new for their home, Christie's Buy or Bid offers a chance to welcome new clients who are not familiar with the auction process or don't want to wait for an auction where they might be outbid.

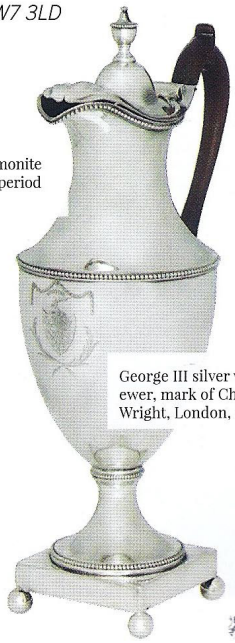
Q: What range of fixed prices can we expect to see?

A: Prices start at £1,040 and go up to £13,000.

Interiors – Buy or Bid. Buy ahead of the auction for a fixed price from 14 November to 3 December or bid at the auction itself on 9 December

Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road South Kensington, SW7 3LD christies.com

Large Moroccan Ammonite from the cretaceous period (145-65 MYA)



George III silver wine ewer, mark of Charles Wright, London, 1779