

## Sotheby's Russian Sales Series Achieves £18.1 Million Leading All Sales Across London this Week

### Sotheby's Russian Pictures Sale Achieves £14.5 Million The Highest Total in Five Years *Led by £4.8 Million Record for Ivan Kliun*

**LONDON, 28 NOVEMBER 2019:** Sotheby's Russian Art sales concluded in London on Tuesday with a combined total of £18.1 million / \$23.3 million (est. 12.7-18.6 million) and with over 50% of sold lots achieving prices in excess of their pre-sale high estimates. This is the highest total achieved across London's auction houses this week, more than other auction houses combined, and brings the annual total for Russian sales at Sotheby's this year to £30.6 million. The sales saw considerable interest online, with over 26% of lots purchased by online buyers, whilst 20% of lots were bought by buyers under the age of 40.

#### RUSSIAN PICTURES

The Russian Pictures sale alone brought in a total of £14.5 million / \$18.7 million (est. £10-15 million), the highest total for a sale in this category at Sotheby's in five years. A number of artist records were set, notably for Ivan Kliun, whose [Spherical Suprematism](#) realised a record-breaking £4.8 million / \$6.3 million (est. £2.5-3.5 million), and for Konstantin Yuon, whose [The Ancient Town of Uglich](#) more than doubled its pre-sale low estimate to achieve £1.3 million / \$1.6 million (est. £600,000 - 800,000).

In the same sale, paintings by some of the biggest names in Russian art also exceeded estimates, notably Boris Grigoriev's [The Cellist](#), which sold for £200,000 / \$257,000, eight times its pre-sale high estimate (est. £18,000-25,000), and [Green Landscape](#) by Yuri Annenkov, which more than doubled its low estimate to achieve £225,000 / \$290,000 (est. £100,000-£150,000). In addition, Petr Konchalovsky's [Portrait of the Artist Levon Bunatian](#) realised £855,000 / \$1,100,898, nearly triple the pre-sale low estimate for the work (est. £300,000-500,000).

Reto Barmettler, Head of the Russian Pictures sale said: *"The appearance at auction of rare masterpieces such as Ivan Kliun's Spherical Suprematism and Konstantin Yuon's view of Uglich attracted widespread interest in the lead up to the sale, demonstrating the strong demand for high-quality works with impeccable provenance that are fresh to the market. 20th century portraiture continues to be very popular among Russian collectors, with works by Konchalovsky and Grigoriev generating competitive bidding. The sale achieved the highest total in this category since June 2014 and rounds off another strong year for Sotheby's Russian Picture department."*

#### RUSSIAN WORKS OF ART, FABERGÉ AND ICONS

Achieving a total of £3.6 million / \$4.6 million (£2.5-3.6 million), among the highest totals in the category in recent years, the Russian Works of Art, Fabergé and Icons sale was led by a [silver-gilt cloisonné and pictorial enamel triptych icon](#) which sold for £555,000, more than five times the pre-sale low estimate (est. £100,000 - 150,000), breaking the record for an enamel icon.

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Further highlights of the sale, included [a Fabergé jewelled rock crystal 'snowflake' pendant](#), after the design by Alma Pihl, which achieved £175,000, nearly three times its high estimate (est. £40,000-60,000), and [a silver-gilt, cloisonné and pictorial enamel casket](#) crafted by Feodor Rückert, which sold for £200,000 (est. £100,000-150,000). Notably, [Metal: A Soviet porcelain tea set](#), sold for £125,000 / \$160,950, more than 13 times the high pre-sale estimate of £7,000 - 9,000.

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Images are available to download [here](#).

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\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium and are net of any fees paid to the purchaser where the purchaser provided an irrevocable bid.

Images are available upon request

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