

Advertisement

**Carlson Gallery Inc.**



**MARCH MADNESS AUCTION**  
Sunday, March 15 10.30am EST  
www.carlsongallery.com

## Reynolds portrait of Princess Diana's ancestor emerges at Monaco auction

A portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-92) of Lavinia Bingham (1762-1831), Countess Spencer, will be offered at an auction in Monaco next month.

Alex Capon  
25 Feb 2026



Portrait of Lavinia Bingham, Countess Spencer, by Joshua Reynolds, estimated €100,000-200,000 at Accademia Fine Art.

Share: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

The artist received commissions over a 30-year period from John Spencer, 1st Earl Spencer, and his wife Georgiana. Painting several generations of the family, many of the portraits hung at the family's Althorp estate in Northamptonshire, including the 'primary' version of the picture in Monte Carlo.

That portrait of Lavinia, the daughter of the Irish peer Charles Bingham, 1st Earl of Lucan, was painted in 1782, the year she married John Spencer's son, George Spencer, and is regarded as an exceptional work by Reynolds. It shows her wearing in striking attire with a frilled lace cap tied under her chin and a fur stole.

A mezzotint of the portrait by Charles Howard Hodges was later published in 1786.

The 2ft 6in x 2ft 1in (77 x 63cm) oil on canvas that will be offered at Monaco auction house Accademia Fine Art on March 19 is believed to date from around two years after the original. It is similar to the Althorp portrait but with subtle variations and different colours – it is described by the saleroom as a 'lighter, more luminous' depiction of Diana's great-great-great-great-great-grandmother.

This version has not been shown publicly since appearing at the Grosvenor Gallery in London back in 1883-84. It is noted as an 'untraced' replica copy of the Althorp picture in David Manning's 2000 catalogue raisonné of Reynolds' paintings.

Its provenance has been traced back to the collection of the artist's niece Marie Palmer (1750-1820), Dowager Marchioness of Thomond, who inherited a significant number of Reynolds' works after his death. It was sold from her estate at Christie's in 1821 where it was bought by one W. Wansey.

It subsequently went to his son in law, the doctor Edward Hamilton, who in turn sold it in 1901 for the notable sum of £3650 to RMW Walker, a collector who lived in Sloane Court in Chelsea.

Having passed down via Walker's daughter to a descendant based in Monte Carlo, it will now be offered at Accademia with a €100,000-200,000 estimate.

### Penitent Magdalene

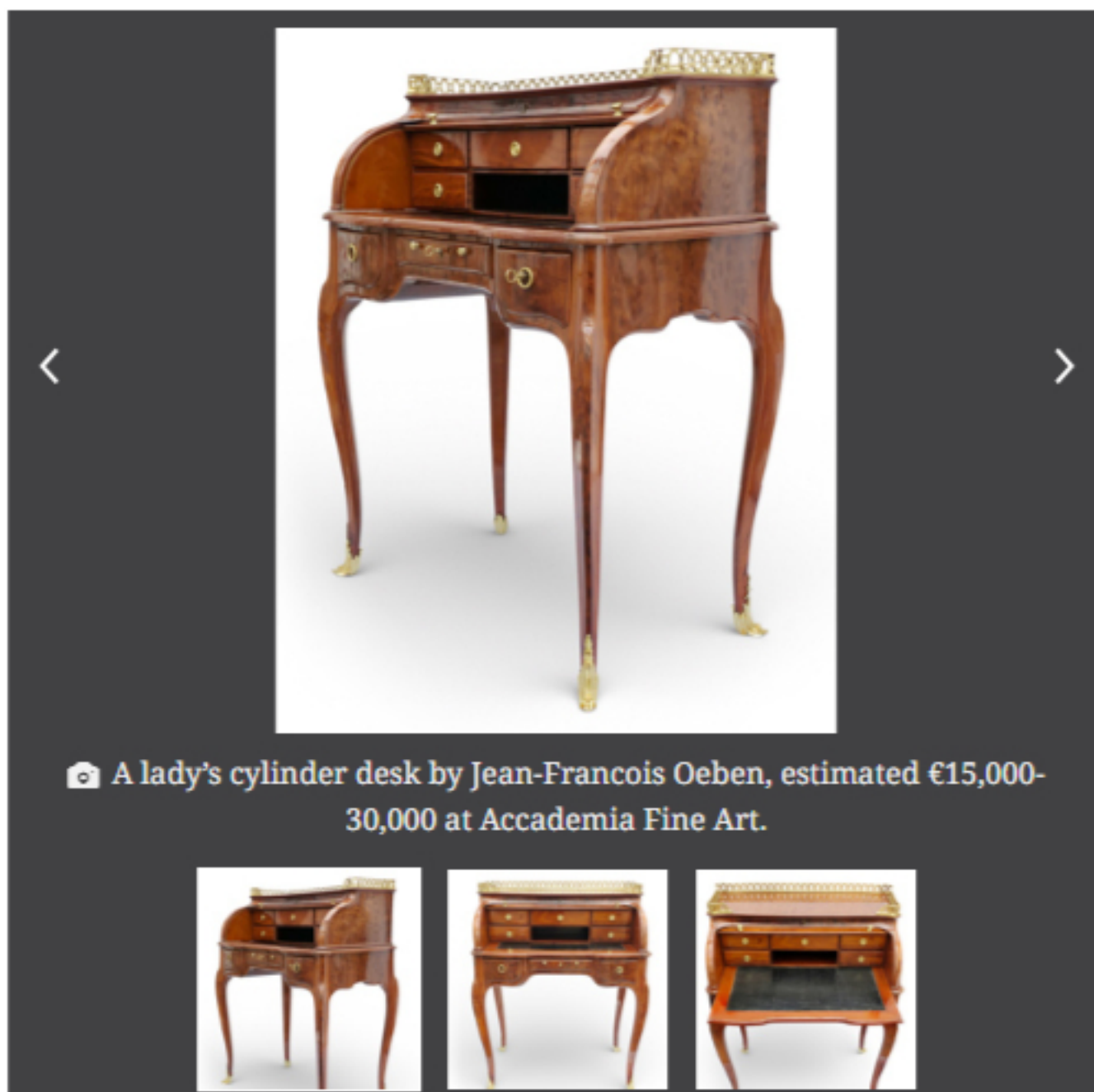


Penitent Magdalene, a work offered as 'attributed to Peter Paul Rubens', estimated €150,000-200,000 at Accademia Fine Art.

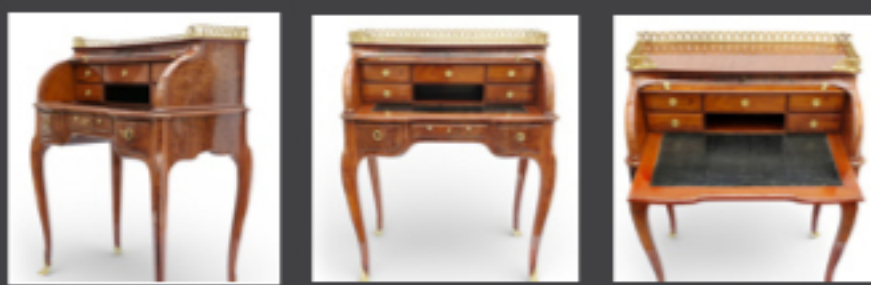
Another work at the same Monaco sale but separately consigned is a painting of the Penitent Magdalene which will be offered as 'attributed to' Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).

The 3ft 4in x 2ft 7in (1.03m x 78cm) oil on panel previously sold at a Phillips auction in 1999 where it was attributed to Jan van der Hoecke but it was since assessed by Professor Justus Müller Hofstede in 2010 who deemed it a work 'entirely by Rubens' according to the Accademia catalogue.

### Jean-Francois Oeben desk



A lady's cylinder desk by Jean-Francois Oeben, estimated €15,000-30,000 at Accademia Fine Art.



Another notable lot at the sale is a lady's cylinder desk by Jean-Francois Oeben, one of the most important cabinetmakers of the 18th century who supplied furniture to the French royal family.

The mahogany piece is described as 'of flowing form and perfect balance, with elegant proportions' and was once in the collection of Louis-Philippe (1773-1850) who became King of the French in 1830.



A detail of the Jean-Francois Oeben desk, estimated €15,000-30,000 at Accademia Fine Art.


Having sold at an auction at the Hôtel Drouot in 1996, it last appeared on the open market at Sotheby's Paris in 2017 in a sale of works from the collection of French-Iranian businessman and furniture collector Madame Djahanguir Riahi, taking €143,000.

Having since been restored, this time around expectations are more modest as it is pitched at €15,000-30,000.

Tags: Auctions Europe Fine Art France Front Page and News International News topics Oil, Acrylic paintings & Mixed Media Old Masters Print Edition Sir Peter Paul Rubens

Share: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Advertisement



**FERRIER ANTIQUES**

Antiques, Bergman Bronzes, Silver, Treen, Jewellery plus Single Owner Collection Of Die Cast Model Vehicles

with low reserves, P&P included  
Ends from 07 Mar 2026 19:00 GMT

### Buy at auction online

Forthcoming sales include

- Cadmere Auctions**  
Jewellery, Watches, Design, Militaria & Asian Art  
02 Mar 2026
- Churchill Auctions**  
Antiques & Collectables  
02 Mar 2026
- Alnwick Auctions**  
Jewellery, Precious Stones, Watches, Silver & Pens  
03 Mar 2026
- Anderson & Garland**  
Militaria  
03 Mar 2026
- Capes Dunn**  
Ceramics & Glass  
03 Mar 2026
- Chiswick Auctions**  
Japanese Art  
03 Mar 2026

**the saleroom**  
The home of art & antiques auctions

### Related

- Kent County Council offloads further artworks at auction**  
26 February 2026
- Pictures emerge from attic to serve up a wartime treat**  
24 February 2026
- Padamsee prime period work comes for sale**  
20 February 2026
- West London sale provides a showcase of 19th century art style and subject**  
20 February 2026
- Walter Greaves portrait of his brother Henry turns heads at Dorset auction**  
16 February 2026

Advertisement

**Advertise with atg**

Catherine Southon  
SPECIALIST IN CHINA AND  
Decorative & Fine Arts Auction



Contact us now