

Sotheby's

Collections

London | 28 Oct 2014, 10:30 AM | L14305



LOT 305

PROPERTY FROM A PRIVATE EUROPEAN COLLECTION

A FLEMISH GAME PARK TAPESTRY, ENGHIEU, LATE 16TH CENTURY

woven with a formalised garden and foreground vine-clad colonnaded pergola with term figure supports and intricate balustrade, the foreground incorporating exotic animals, within a four-sided compartmentalised border with allegorical figures including Victory, Chastity, Pride and Fortitude, within blue and white strapwork narrow inner and outer borders

approximately 340cm. high, 373cm. wide; 11ft. 2in., 12ft. 3in.

ESTIMATE w40,000-60,000 GBP

Lot Sold: 37,500 GBP

CATALOGUE NOTE

The composition of figures in landscapes and hunting scenes in the foreground of elaborate buildings and formalised gardens, is in the manner of Hans Vredeman de Vries.

For a similar Enguien tapestry, without the colonnaded pergola, with similar formal garden inclusion of the hunting

group and various birds, see Guy Delmarcel, *Flemish Tapestries*, London, 1999, pp.172-173. This published piece also has a border which has very similar motifs, including the distinctive strap-work blue and cream inner, outer and internal panels and some of the same allegorical figures. It bears the Enghien mark and the date 1589, associated with the commission of this particular piece and inclusion of family coat-of-arms.

Compare it with an Enghien Game Park tapestry, late 16th century, without the colonnaded pergola, depicting a formalised enclosed garden, hunters in pursuit and a large turkey and cockerel in the foreground, within the same border type and incorporating the same allegorical figures of Chastity in the side borders, sold Sotheby's, London, 10th December 2003, lot 37.

For a Game Park tapestry, with the Enghien mark and unidentified makers mark, circa 1600, of similar compositional balance to the present tapestry, the composition incorporating a similar vine clad colonnade with small term figure supports, an allegorical compartmentalised border, albeit with additional compartments of small figural groups and separate animals, a triumphal procession rather than a hunting scene and without groups of animals or birds, see Guy Delmarcel, *Tapisseries Anciennes d'Enghien*, Mons, 1980, no.23. pp.54-55.

For an interesting comparable 'Pergola' tapestry with similar elements of the Game Park compositions of the hunt and formalised gardens, and in this example including the strap-work blue and cream inner border, and incorporating a similar vine clad colonnade pergola with supports with small term figures, as in the present tapestry, see Sotheby's, Milan, 28th October 2003, lot 365. This has a very different main border design with exuberant scrolls, and the tapestry was attributed to the Brussels workshop of Jan II Raes, circa 1600/1620.