



ILLUMINATION IN ISOLATION

Koopman Rare Art, A Curated Selection

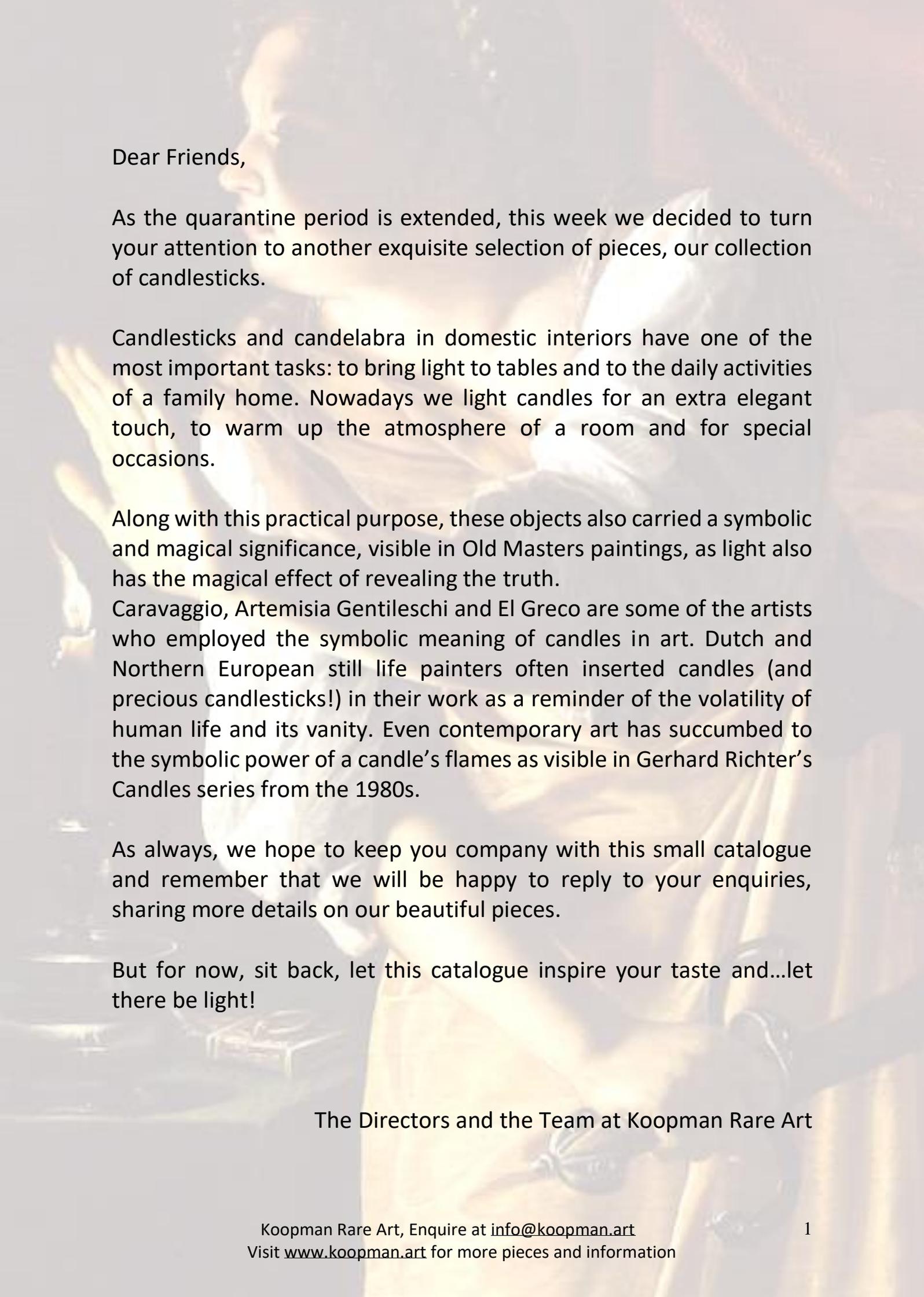


Koopman Rare Art

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Dear Friends,

As the quarantine period is extended, this week we decided to turn your attention to another exquisite selection of pieces, our collection of candlesticks.

Candlesticks and candelabra in domestic interiors have one of the most important tasks: to bring light to tables and to the daily activities of a family home. Nowadays we light candles for an extra elegant touch, to warm up the atmosphere of a room and for special occasions.

Along with this practical purpose, these objects also carried a symbolic and magical significance, visible in Old Masters paintings, as light also has the magical effect of revealing the truth.

Caravaggio, Artemisia Gentileschi and El Greco are some of the artists who employed the symbolic meaning of candles in art. Dutch and Northern European still life painters often inserted candles (and precious candlesticks!) in their work as a reminder of the volatility of human life and its vanity. Even contemporary art has succumbed to the symbolic power of a candle's flames as visible in Gerhard Richter's Candles series from the 1980s.

As always, we hope to keep you company with this small catalogue and remember that we will be happy to reply to your enquiries, sharing more details on our beautiful pieces.

But for now, sit back, let this catalogue inspire your taste and...let there be light!

The Directors and the Team at Koopman Rare Art



An Extraordinary Pair of George II Rococo Candlesticks or Candelabra

Silver

London, 1739

Maker's mark of Benjamin Godfrey

Height: 41.2cm, 16.2in.

Weight: 4603gr., 148 oz (including matching candelabra branches)

POA

These spectacular cast and chased candlesticks are truly exceptional masterpieces of rococo taste. Their bases are richly decorated with foliage, asymmetrical cartouches and shells. The stems are in the curious shape of two kneeling blackamoors, a wonderful example of the western arts' fascination for the exotic element that characterised the rococo taste. Their raised arms are holding large decorated drip pans as an offering gesture to the viewer.

At this time the slave trade existed in a way that can be very complex for us to conceive nowadays. The UK Parliament approved the Trade with Africa Bill in 1698, opening up the African continent to the free but regulated commerce and trading of slaves. Westerners were fascinated by the exotic magnificence of these unknown lands and perceived the slavery as "natural", immersed as they were in a pre-modern society based on birth privilege and social injustice. It was to be centuries before English society changed their position, leading to the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833.



A Set of Four Queen Anne Candlesticks

Britannia Standard Silver

London, 1706

Maker's mark of Benjamin Pyne

Weight: 1,800 gr, 58 oz 16 dwt

Height: 18 cm, 7 in

£ 65,000

These candlesticks have a majestic presence due to their large circular bases and foliate decoration. They are a great example of the early French taste within English silver.



An Important Set of Four Silver-Gilt George III Royal Candlesticks

Silver Gilt
London, 1814
Maker's mark of Paul Storr
Height: 9in, 22.86cm
Weight: 102oz, 3,185g

POA

This spectacular set of candlesticks was part of the extensive silver collection of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, fifth son of George III. In 1837 he succeeded to the crown of Hanover and took with him a large quantity of English Royal silver.

These cast candlesticks are in the rococo revival style, inspired by the work of 18th century French makers. Their condition is impeccable, and their weight and quality are exquisite. The Victoria and Albert Museum has a pair from the same set in its collection, but the rarity of a suite of four makes this set an exceptional masterpiece.



A Pair of Queen Anne Candlesticks

Silver

London, 1712

Maker's mark of Joseph Bird

Height: 19 cm, 7.4 in

Weight: 960 gr, 30.87 oz

£ 16,500

The sleek elegance of these candlesticks is enriched by the detail of the coat of arms on the bases. The geometric element adds to their traditional and interesting design. A real classic and a wonderful collector's item.



A Pair of five-light Silver Candelabra from the Painted Hall at Greenwich

Silver
London 1938
Maker's mark of Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Co Ltd
Height 63.5cm
Weight 382oz (2)

£ 34,000

This pair of candelabra is a great option for investing in pieces with a traditional design on a majestic scale. They bear the crowned monogram of King George V, being part of a set that was commissioned by him for the Painted Hall at Greenwich. We have several more pairs from the same set which would create a truly spectacular suite on your dinner table.



A Set of Four George I Candlesticks

Britannia Standard Silver

London, 1716

Maker's mark of Thomas Merry

Weight: 1,480 gr, 47 oz 59 dwt

Height: 19.6 cm, 7.71 in

£35,000

Thomas Merry was regarded as a specialist candlestick maker in the 1700s. Due to the quality of his pieces and their perfect proportions, a set of four candlesticks is very rare to come across as they are extremely sought-after. The geometric element of their design is very representative of early Georgian taste. Simple and beautifully substantial, this set is a must have for any elegant household.



A Grand Pair of Victorian Candelabra

Silver

London, 1876

Maker's mark of Robert Garrard

Weight: 11,070 gr (366oz.)

£ 65,000

This pair of candelabra possess an Adamesque grace on grand Victorian scale. The four branches springing from the elongated central stem, decorated with medallions and draped swags. The circular base with rosettes within round medallions and a beaded rim. A statement pair made by Garrard, supplier to the Royal household at the time.



A George I Taperstick

Silver

London, 1726

Maker's mark of Nicholas Clausen

Height: 4 3/8 in.11.1 cm

Weight: 160 gr, 5.14 oz

£ 3,500

Few things make a more elegant desk accessory than an 18th century taperstick. This one is a beautiful example as its minute proportions embody the perfect harmony of shape and weight.



A Set of Four George II Candlesticks

Silver

London, 1756

Maker's mark of Frederick Kandler

Height: 27cm, 10.6 in

Weight: 3,560 gr, 125.57 oz

£ 35,000

Frederick Kandler is regarded as one of the most important silversmiths of the 18th century. His pieces possess an incredibly substantial presence as well as an extraordinary attention to detail. The condition of this set is impeccable and a full set of four is highly sought-after due to their rarity. The spectacular quality of this set is confirmed by the importance of the crest that each candlestick bears on its base, that of Lord Graham, Duke of Montrose.



A Pair of Superb Rococo Candlesticks

Silver

London, 1744

Maker's mark of Peter Archambo

Height: 26cm, 10.2in.

Weight: 1,909.5g, 61 oz 10 dwt

£ 34,500

The importance of the work of Peter Archambo within the development of the English rococo style is widely known and appreciated and these candlesticks provide an excellent example of the bold "*à la française*" decoration that the Huguenot silversmith introduced, leading the naturalistic revolution that spread within the decorative arts in the 18th century. The superb condition of this pair is truly impressive, as the intricate decoration retains an extremely crisp and sharp feel to the touch.



Four Elegant Georgian Neoclassical Candlesticks

Silver

Sheffield, 1786

Maker's mark of John Parsons & Co

Height: 29cm, 11.4in

£ 12,500

This set of candlesticks displays the iconic neoclassical elegance: the elongated stem, the swirling bat wing pattern and the urn-shaped sconces are some of the most typical elements employed by the designers of the Georgian period.



A Pair of George III Candlesticks

Silver
London 1763
Maker's mark of Elizabeth Godfrey
Height 24.5cm
Weight 57oz.

£ 18,000

These candlesticks represent a very interesting and rare example of the French Régence style, that influenced the English decorative arts for a brief period. Their immaculate condition allows full appreciation of the decoration on the square bases and along the stem. Crisp cartouches with shells populate the bases, against a scale-work background, whilst classical busts enrich the stems along with wags and vegetation. A superb pair of candlesticks for any collection.



A Pair of George I Silver Candlesticks

Silver
London, 1718
Maker's mark of Matthew Cooper
Britannia standard
Height: 21cm, 8.2in.
Weight: 915g, 29oz 8dwt

£ 22,000

These candlesticks are another variant of the traditional early Georgian model. Their octagonal domed and faceted base is engraved with a crest within a scroll foliate cartouche, a classic collector's item.



A Pair of George V Six-Light Candelabra
Silver
Sheffield, 1930
Maker's mark of Thomas Bradbury & Sons
Retailed by A & J Smith of Aberdeen
Height: 73.8cm, 29in.
Weight: 18669g, 600oz 4dwt

£ 38,000

These highly important candelabra display an unusual design, based on 17th century Dutch examples of brass chandeliers. The inscription in their bases is most romantic. 'To my wife Hildreth, from George Cole Scott / May these candelabra / A replica of those at Lickleyhead Castle Scotland be a reminder of happy memories to which our children have added so large a share 1905-1930'. What a great anniversary gift!



A Superb Pair of Rococo Revival Candlesticks

Silver-gilt
London, 1806
Maker's mark of Thomas Pitts
Height: 10.5in, 26.5 cm
Weight: 85oz 16dwt, 2,668g

£ 17,500

The Regency period is an era of unprecedented creativity and designers indulged in the most rich and detailed decorations, giving life to pieces conceived in a variety of different styles. These candlesticks draw inspiration from the rococo style, incorporating floral details in their beautifully cast bases and stems. We can see them bringing a touch of luxury and refinement to any interior.



A Pair of George II Candlesticks

Silver

London, 1727

Maker's mark of John Le Sage

Height 17cm, (6 3/4in)

Weight 25oz, (777.5g)

£ 12,500

The maker of this pair of candlesticks, John Le Sage, is one of the most famous silversmiths of the 18th century. Of Huguenot background he was one of the artisans responsible for the rococo modernisation of English plate. These perfectly formed candlesticks have square bases with canted corners and are engraved with a heraldic armorial.



A Pair of George III Candlesticks

Silver

London, 1815

Maker's mark of Benjamin Smith

Height: 23.5cm (9.3in)

Weight: 1,194g (38oz)

£ 4,500

Benjamin Smith is one of the most prestigious silversmiths of the Georgian period, supplying the Royal household with majestic pieces in the purest neoclassical taste. These candlesticks boast a wonderfully elegant decoration of acanthus leaves and Corinthian capital around the sconce.



An Elegant George III Four-Light Three Branch Candelabrum
Silver
London, 1814
Maker's mark of Benjamin Smith
Height: 61cm, 24in
Weight: 4540g, 145oz

£ 12,500

This bold candelabrum is the companion to the previous pair of candlesticks. It stands tall at 61 cm and its elegant neoclassical design makes it a statement piece on any elegant dinner table.



A Magnificent Royal Pair of Figural Candlesticks made for the Duke of York

Silver

London, 1823

Maker's mark of Edward Farrell

The architect and retailer Kensington Lewis

Height: 29.4cm, 11.6in

Weight: 3,420g, 109oz 18dwt

£ 165,000

These magnificent figural candlesticks were made by the silversmith Edward Farrell, one of the royal suppliers to King George IV, a man renowned for his extraordinary taste and love of luxury. Farrell's inventive genius conceived this pair of sculptural candlesticks to sparkle with life and movement in the magic light of candles. These candlesticks are a real museum-quality work of art, a statement of elegance and a true treasure.



A Pair of Queen Anne Candlesticks

London, 1706

Maker's mark of Richard Syng

Height 6.25 ins (15.5 cm)

Weight 16.08 oz (500 gr)

£ 11,500

This elegant pair of Queen Anne candlesticks bears the mark of Richard Syng, a great maker of the early 1700's. Their beautiful shape would enrich any interior, from those with a more traditional décor to those with a modern one. Their beautifully architectural shape resembles ionic columns, a decorative element much in vogue during the Palladian Baroque period.



A Pair of George III Square-based Neoclassical Candlesticks

Silver

London, 1762

Maker's mark of John Parker I & Edward Wakelin

Each base with scratch weights 'No. 1. 24-12' and 'No. 2. 25-8'

Height: 23.5cm, 9.3in

Weight: 1,510g, 48oz 10dwt

£ 7,500

Dating back to 1762, this pair of candlesticks was made by the firm of Parker and Wakelin, a very successful and prolific one. Their archives are now in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum and represent an extraordinary resource for decorative arts historians around the world. The delicate egg and dart décor represent the early stage of the classical revival, present on the rims of the square bases and echoed by the specular drip pans.



A Pair of French Louis XVI Style Three-Light Candelabra

Silver

Paris circa, 1890

Maker's mark of Bointaburet

Height: 19.75in, 50.1cm

Weight: 267oz, 8,303g

£ 19,000

This pair of French candelabra display the neoclassical elegance of the Louis XVI's period in its 19th century reinterpretation. The fluted central column, surmounted by a moulded urn, is combined with delicate floral elements making the design of these candelabra truly iconic.

The background image is a reproduction of the painting 'Judith and Her Maidservant' by Artemisia Gentileschi. It depicts Judith in profile, looking towards the left, wearing a white headscarf and a dark, patterned dress. She is holding a sword in her right hand, which is raised. Her maidservant is seated in front of her, looking down at a book or scroll. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a table in the foreground holding various objects, including a glass and a small box. The overall tone is dramatic and somber.

Many thanks for taking the time to browse our curated selection of objects. We hope you found the inspiration and beauty that are so needed to get us through these unsettling times.

Koopman Rare Art will donate 10% on any sale from the objects in this catalogue to the Royal Free Hospital in London, an emergency fund to support staff at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our gratitude goes to our clients and supporters that allowed us to make a significant donation to this charitable trust, following the sales generated by our previous catalogue, Thirty under Thirty.

(Background image: Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith and Her Maidservant, 1623. Detroit Institute of Arts)

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