
Unique sculpture at Christie's



In the online auction on Christie's from old paintings, drawings and sculptures (5 – 22 November 2024) this unique sculpture of a colfing boy was sold.

It was not uncommon for boys, until age 6 or 7, to be dressed like girls and portrayed in their long dresses. After that age, boys started to wear trousers. It explains why many authors see these painted children as girls instead of boys.

(Philippe Marchand, *'Pride and Joy. Children's portraits in the Netherlands, 1500-1700'*, 2009)

Netherlandish painters made many paintings of young children holding colf clubs in their hands in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The rich attire and the often far too big colf clubs (from their fathers) show that the depictions are a kind of 'stately portraits' of rich men's children rather than sporty children. This boy has a club for his size.



Back to the auction. Here are some details given by Christie's:

Dutch school, 17th century

Dummy board of a child holding a colf kliek

Oil on panel cut and assembled in the shape of a child, with later additions

Price Realised EUR 11,970

Estimated EUR 10,000 - EUR 15,000

<https://onlineonly.christies.com/s/maitres-anciens-peintures-dessins-sculptures-online/ecole-hollandaise-du-xviiie-siecle-136/237247>
