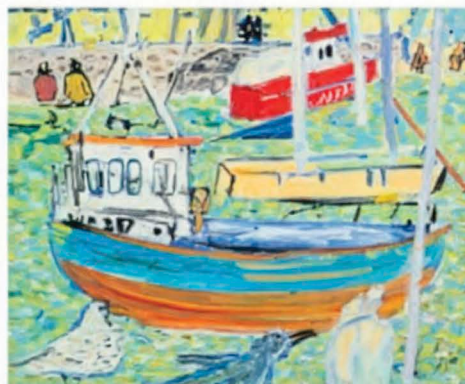




Charles Vincent Lamb's Cottages, Carraroe, Connemara



Boats in Courtown Harbour by Elizabeth Cope

Autumn sales showcase green in all its earthy and dazzling glory

Philip Carton



There is no denying that this was a glorious summer weather wise, lifting all our spirits after a very wet start to the year. Watching my garden turn from fresh, lush green grass to parched golden straw wasn't so enjoyable.

The artist and teacher Josef Albers wrote that 'foliage appears in innumerable shades of green'.

In homage to this most familiar yet endlessly varied colour, here are some lots falling under the hammer where green, in its many different shades, plays a starring role.

Western with Morgan O'Driscoll's Irish

art online sale, which closes on September 7.

Charles Vincent Lamb's Cottages, Carraroe, Connemara (€2,000-2,000), is a refreshing and breezy scene where the greens range from the deep blue-green of the central trees, to moor and darker tones along the shoreline, conveying both dampness and texture.

In Evening Fogland (€2,000-3,000), Dublin-born artist Sean McSweeney presents green in its earthier, peary form, becoming almost the subject of the landscape itself.

Elizabeth Cope uses green to animate the waters of Courtown Harbour (€1,000-€2,000), to great effect. With its impressionistic qualities, the work has all the energy and spontaneity for which her paintings are known.

Green becomes altogether more theatrical in Graham Knunef's impressive Aahueson tapestry. At Puch (€1,500-2,500) from an edition of six. The vibrant emerald green has an almost tactile quality, adding to the work's sense of drama and the characteristic mischief found in Knunef's work.

One of four works by John Behan in the sale is Celtic Warrior (€1,000-4,000). The attached figures, locked in battle, have developed a beautiful pale-green hazy patina, giving the sculpture a sense of age and presence.

It is perhaps not surprising to see green take centre stage in Adam's Irish vernacular online auction, which ends on September 7.

The fourth edition of the sale brings together an impressive 110 lots, among them a pinewood elbow chair (€200-€300) with a ladder back, finished in a muted blue-green.

Its beautifully worn surface reveals flashes of the warm timber beneath, giving it a wonderful patina. A softer, warmer sage green can be found in a painted cushion (€400-€600), with lovely carved detailing to the gallery back.

Green berries play a role in celebrated ceramicist John French's sea and mares greens on the exterior of a striped bowl, dramatically contrasted with a vivid plait and yellow interior (€600-€800).



A pair of cannisters with harps (€400-€600)



A ceramic bowl (€500-€800)



An emerald and diamond brooch (€5,000-€7,000)



A pair of pendant earrings (€2,200-€2,000)



An Hermis Mistigri brooch



An emerald and diamond ring

Moving from sea green to emerald, a pair of toleware canisters (€400-€500) are each decorated with a golden harp for a combination that is unmistakably Irish.

Some exquisite and rather more precious greens can be found in Adam's fine jewellery and ladies' watches sale, which takes place on September 15. A late 19th-century emerald and diamond brooch (€5,000-€7,000) takes the form of a salamander, brought wonderfully to life by a graduated line of circular-cut emeralds.

There is a touch of humour in a Hermes Mistigri brooch (€9,500-€9,500) designed after a drawing by Jean Cocteau. A pair of marquise-shaped emerald eyes brings the textured gold cat's head to life.

The colour becomes richer still in an impressive octagonal step-cut Colombian emerald of approximately four carats set within a cushion-shaped diamond frame (€15,000-€20,000).

The contrast between the intense green of the emerald and surrounding diamonds gives the stone an added brilliance.

More delicate is a pair of gem-set and diamond pendant earrings (€2,200-€2,800). A pair of emerald and green tourmaline suspend pear-shaped green prasiolite pendants, whose pale almost translucent green is a world away from the stunning emeralds in the sale.



A pinewood elbow chair with ladder back