



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **DAME BRIGITTE KRUSE BECOMES FIRST AUCTIONEER KNIGHTED BY A ROYAL FAMILY**

*THE AUCTIONEER TO THE ROYALS IS RECOGNIZED FOR HER GLOBAL  
PHILANTHROPY AND LEADING EDGE ADVANCES IN AUCTIONEERING*

**Los Angeles, California – (January 23, 2020)** – Brigitte Kruse, founder of the Los Angeles based, world-record-breaking Kruse GWS Auctions, has become the first auctioneer knighted by a Royal family.



In a ceremony filled with traditions and poise, Principe Lorenzo de’ Medici of the Italian Royal family conferred on Brigitte Kruse the title of *Cavaliere*— the Italian equivalent of an English knighthood—and as an additional honor and distinction, named her an “*Ambasciatore delle Arti*” (Ambassador of the Arts).

The knighting took place at Rome’s historic San Silvestro al Quirinale, whose origins date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Church clerics and Principe Lorenzo de’ Medici presided over the stunning ceremony. The church was also filled with guests from around the world. The dual accolades recognize Kruse’s outstanding work globally on behalf of charitable causes. Her distinguished, forward thinking leadership within the auction and appraisal industry, has set a new global standard.

As part of the ceremonial proceedings, Kruse read an oath where she promised to continue to give back and to uphold the highest standards. During the ceremony she was anointed with the blade of a ceremonial sword and then adorned with the knight’s robe. To earn this honor, Kruse had to first be nominated by a member of the de’ Medici family and then win approval from the rest of the House of Medici and the *Cavaliere* board. Ms. Kruse was selected because she has represented 16 Royal families. She is respected around the globe as a distinguished lady in the auction business.



An ambassador of the auction industry, Kruse is the first female auctioneer to get into the Guinness Book of World Records, and now, the first to attain knighthood. The fashionable, multi-lingual auctioneer that can conduct professional auctions in five languages is set to receive another honor— the Multicultural International Motion Picture Association’s Lady in Red Diamond Rose Award—for her philanthropic works. The organization’s 11th annual gala will take place on February 21, at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles.



A fierce advocate for children with autism, she has raised millions of dollars to provide services and research. Kruse and her husband have also donate to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and MusiCares. Along with her husband Mike Sislyan, Kruse regularly visits orphanages for disabled children in high conflict zones around the world, delivering food, toys, medications and clothing.

*“I am beyond humbled by such an honor. The de’ Medici royal family bestowed a monumental honor upon me and for that I will always be thankful. I am so*

*very privileged to do the work I do and to be recognized in such a magnificent ceremony and accolade in Rome was a moment I will truly never forget.” - Brigitte Kruse*

During most of the period from 1434 to 1737, the powerful de’ Medici family dominated Italy’s political, religious and cultural landscape, ushering in the Renaissance and serving as patrons of artists and scientists like Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo. Today, the de’ Medici family remains an influential force in business and the arts and humanities. The de’ Medici royal family had three Popes in power and remain one of the most influential royal families in the entire world. As a part of her responsibilities and oath to the *Cavaliere*, Brigitte Kruse will feed the homeless with the Pope each year in Rome, during the holidays. This is what she says she looks forward to the most, because she wishes to take her children and family.

Hi res images available by emailing [caroline@m2mpr.com](mailto:caroline@m2mpr.com)

## **ABOUT KRUSE GWS AUCTIONS, INC.**

Kruse GWS Auctions is the world-record breaking auction house specializing in Hollywood memorabilia, fine jewelry, luxury timepieces, Royal artifacts, affluent estates. Kruse GWS Auctions also created what is now known as “Runway Fashion Show Auctions.” Founder, and fifth generation auctioneer Brigitte Kruse was the first woman auctioneer to set Guinness World Record. She is also a member of the Forbes Los Angeles Business Council. The auction house has been featured in press around the globe and has sold such notable items as Elvis Presley’s personal jet, Marilyn Monroe’s black wool dress, Marlon Brando’s Rolex watch, a Royal family owned one-of-a-kind, diamond encrusted Rolex, Elvis & Priscilla Presley’s mobile home and much more.



Kruse GWS Auctions offers a wide range of global experience in every phase of the auction business, including research, advertising, inventory management, security services, liquidations, exhibition management, cataloging and sales. With a dedicated team of experts worldwide, they offer the highest level of service. The auction house has featured items from Marilyn Monroe, Prince, Elvis Presley, Steve McQueen, Whitney Houston, Marlon Brando, The Beatles, and much more. The auction house has also featured iconic fashion designers and extensive collections of vintage, haute couture.

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