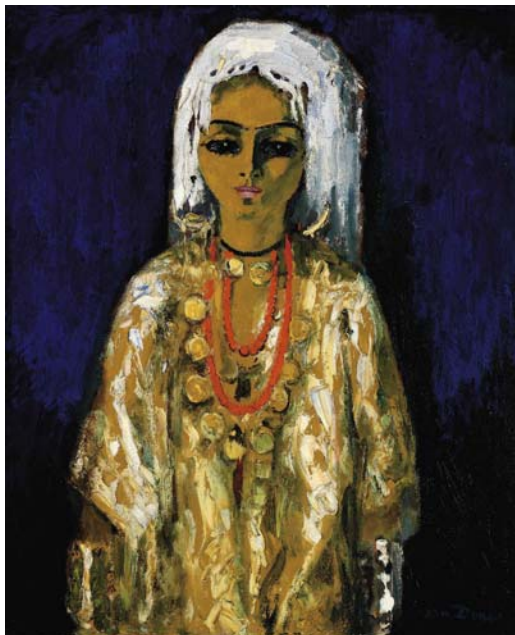


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CHRISTIE'S LONDON SALES OF IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART IN FEBRUARY 2008



Kees Van Dongen (1877-1968)
L'Onled Nail, 1910 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000)



Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)
Femme au chapeau, 1938 (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000)

**Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale including The Art of the Surreal
Christie's King Street ~ 4 February 2008 at 6pm**

London – Christie's **Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale including The Art of the Surreal** on 4 February 2008 will offer exceptional works by leading Impressionist, Modern, Surrealist, German & Austrian as well as Russian artists. Led by a number of important private collections including **The Collection of Maurice and Vivienne Wohl** and **A Collection of Works by Egon Schiele Sold to Benefit the Neue Galerie New York**, the week of Impressionist & Modern Art sales is estimated to fetch in excess of £120 million, the highest value series of sales in this category Christie's has ever staged in Europe.

"Christie's continues to lead this market with an exceptional selection of artworks by some of the masters of Impressionist and Modern art. This sale will offer no less than five private collections led by the Collection of Maurice and Vivienne Wohl which we are very honoured to have been entrusted with, and followed by the great group of eight Egon Schiele works on paper as well as the Schmidt-Rottluff paintings and sculpture from the Collection of Dr Wilhelm Niemeyer" says Olivier Camu, Head of Impressionist & Modern Art, Christie's London. "The sale includes the largest Surrealist section we have offered to date which, combined with all the Impressionist and Modern sales, is estimated to fetch in excess of £120 million."

THE COLLECTION OF MAURICE AND VIVIENNE WOHL

Leading the sale are 9 works from **The Collection of Maurice and Vivienne Wohl**, which have

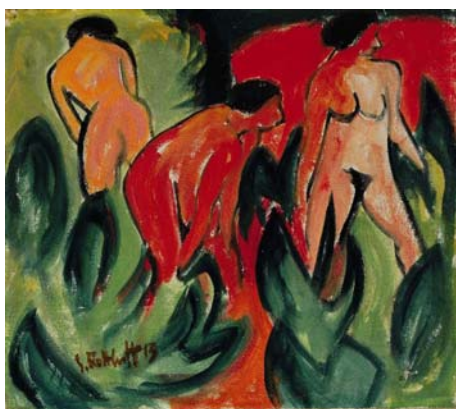


not been seen on the market for 40 years and are being sold to raise funds for The Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Philanthropic Foundation. Highlights from the collection include two paintings by **Kees van Dongen** (1877-1968) painted five years apart. The vibrant *Anita aux fleurs*, 1905 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000) dates from the highpoint of Fauvism and shows a Parisian dancer who was the artist's muse, model and perhaps his lover. The theme of women, Van Dongen's favourite subject, is also celebrated through the use of rich and dense colours in *L'Ouled Nail*, 1910 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) (illustrated above), a depiction of a beautiful Ouled Nail dancer from Algeria. The collection also features Russian artist **Alexej von Jawlensky's** (1864-1941) *Hélène*, 1911 (estimate:

£1,700,000-2,500,000), a portrait of the woman who would later become his wife and *Mädchen mit roter Schleife*, 1911 (estimate: £1,800,000-2,500,000) of a young girl with a red bow (pictured left). See separate press release for further information.

GERMAN & AUSTRIAN ART

Leading the German & Austrian section is a selection, the largest ever mounted by Christie's in London, is a collection of eight works by **Egon Schiele** (1890-1918) which are being sold to benefit the Neue Galerie in New York. Inspired in part by the monumental paintings of his mentor, Gustav Klimt, *Mutter und Kind*, 1910 is one of Schiele's earliest studies on the subject that, he believed, stood as a metaphor for the cycle of birth, life and death (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000). With their bruised colouring and waif-like forms, the figures in *Liegende Frau mit roter Hose und stehender weiblicher Akt*, 1912 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) (illustrated right) suggest both a certain vulnerability and a powerful desire for love. For Schiele, the human figure was the main vehicle through which he conveyed both passion and belief and in *Stehender Mann*, 1913 he has created an image that is filled with tension (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000). See separate press release for further information.



Also from the German section are two private collections including The Property of a Gentleman which consists of 10 works highlighted by **Wassily Kandinsky's** (1866-1944) bold *Herbstlandschaft mit Baum* made by the artist in 1910 whilst staying in the small market town of Murnau, near Munich (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000). Four works by **Karl Schmidt-Rottluff** (1884-1976) which are offered from **The Collection of Dr Wilhelm Niemeyer** include not only *Akte im Freien (Drei badende Frauen)*, 1913 (estimate:

£1,000,000-1,500,000) (*illustrated above*), which is one of the finest of the artists' paintings to have come onto the market, but also *Gruner Kopf*, 1916-17 (estimate: £ 250,000-350,000), a very rare and beautiful carved and painted wood sculpture by the artist.

IMPRESSIONISM AND POST-IMPRESSIONISM

Impressionism and Post-Impressionism are well represented by important works from some of the leading masters including two paintings by **Claude Monet** (1840-1926): the absorbing landscape *L'Yerres près de Montgeron*, 1876 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000) and the striking *Allée de sapins à Varengeville* painted in 1882 when the artist made frequent visits to paint along the Normandy coast (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000).

Painted in 1879, the imposing *Portrait de Georges Roman* dates from the highpoint of **Gustave Caillebotte's** (1848-1894) involvement with the Impressionists (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). It comes to the market for the first time after spending over a century in the family of the sitter. **Edgar Degas** (1834-1917) was fascinated by every aspect of the ballet, both on and off-stage and in *Scene de ballet, circa 1885* he communicates with extraordinary precision and subtlety the spectacles of the Parisian ballet (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000). Also from Degas is the beautiful pastel *Femme se coiffant, la lettre, circa 1888-92* (estimate: £1,400,000-1,800,000)

From **The Estate of a New York Collector** are two works by **Camille Pissarro** (1830-1903): *Poiriers en fleur, Eragny*, 1894 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000); and *Statue d'Henri IV, matin, soleil (2e série)*, 1902, (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000) (*illustrated right*). Another very large view of Paris is **Paul Signac's** (1863-1935) vibrant, light-filled view of the French capital *Pont des Arts (Paris)*; one of only a handful of oils he created in 1925 (estimate: £3,500,000-4,500,000). Depicting four youths bathing at twilight, *Badende* is an important work painted in 1897-1899 by **Edvard Munch** (1863-1945) (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000).



MODERNISM

Highlighting the Modern section is a superb selection of eight works spanning almost seven decades of **Pablo Picasso's** (1881-1973) career. Amongst the highlights is *Danseuse espagnole*, which was painted in 1901 when the artist was only 20 years old, and appears to combine the exotic flair of the artist's Spanish roots with the love of the demi-monde and the Parisian nightlife that was becoming an increasing source of fascination to him (estimate: £3,000,000-4,000,000). Painted in 1938 is the powerful portrait of his then lover, the photographer Dora Maar: *Femme au chapeau* (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000) (*illustrated above*). Lastly, *Homme*

assis au fusil, a playful composition painted in September 1969, represents the artist's late and bold work portraying his early vibrant masculinity (estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000) (illustrated above).

Spanish artist **Juan Gris's** (1887-1927) *Violon et journal* is an exceptional and large example of the artist's synthetic cubism, painted in November 1917 (estimate: £3,500,000-4,500,000) (illustrated right). *Intérieur à Nice*, 1918 by **Henri Matisse** (1869-1954) a colourful and elegant composition is filled with the combination of winter light and the blue of sky and sea in Nice and is estimated between £2,800,000 to £3,500,000. Made at the height of **Piet Mondrian's** (1872-1944) career and consisting solely of three straight lines and two primary colours on a white background, *Composition with Yellow and Red*, 1927 is a very rare oil painting (estimate: £1,300,000-1,800,000).



THE ART OF THE SURREAL

The annual **The Art of the Surreal** sale will offer 35 works by prominent artists of the genre including Magritte, Miró, Dalí, Ernst, de Chirico, Delvaux, Man Ray, Tanguy, Dominguez, Matta, Lam, Masson, Brauner and Picabia. It is Christie's largest Surrealist sale yet.



Leading the selection of three works by **René Magritte** (1898-1967) is *Le Printemps - 'Spring'*, circa 1965, which has been in a private collection for over 40 years (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) (illustrated left). It is an iconic image of the 'bird series' by the artist which is visually powerful but also highly poetic. Magritte is also represented in the sale by an early painting of a clouded sky; *La malédiction*, 1931, (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000) and one of his largest gouaches *Le jockey perdu* (estimate: £350,000-550,000). Spanning **Francis Picabia's** (1879-1953)

career from the Dada years to the 1940s is a selection of seven works highlighted by a large and beautiful 'transparence' *Mi*, 1929 (estimate: £400,000-600,000).

An extremely rare and jewel-like 'grattage' based jungle work by **Max Ernst** (1891-1976), *La conversion du feu* depicts a Prometheus-like figure, part human part beast, in a jungle filled with strange animals and beautiful fruits and flowers (estimate: £750,000-1,000,000) (illustrated right). The sale will also offer a myriad of works by **Joan**



Miró (1893-1983) from all periods and mediums; **Marc Chagall's** (1887-1985) surrealistically poetic *L'accueil*, 1911 (estimate: £250,000-350,000) and *Tête au miroir*, a bronze conceived *circa* 1934 by **Julio González** (1876-1942) (estimate: £400,000-600,000).

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Visit Christie's at www.christies.com

A selection of images is available on request

Notes to Editors

Exhibition Tour

- 15 to 17 January 2008: Christie's New York
- 22 & 23 January 2008: 140 Royal Palm Way, Suite 103, Palm Beach, Florida, USA
- The Impressionist and Modern Art sales will be on public view from 31 January 2008 at Christie's 8 King Street, SW1Y 6QT.

Christie's London Auctions in February 2008 of Impressionist & Modern Art and Post War & Contemporary Art:

- Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale including The Art of the Surreal: 4 February 2008
- Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale: 5 February 2008
- Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper: 5 February 2008
- Post War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale: 6 February 2008
- Post War & Contemporary Art Day Sale: 7 February 2008
- The Collection of R.B. Kitaj: 7 February 2008

Christie's Impressionist & Modern Art

- Christie's is the leading marketplace internationally for Impressionist & Modern Art with global sales in 2007 of approximately £700 million / \$1.4 billion.
- Christie's New York *Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale* in November 2006 became the highest ever art auction in history totalling \$491,472,000.
- In June 2007, Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale realised £121,127,200 / \$239,952,983 / €178,056,984, a record total for any auction ever held in Europe, with market share of 60%. It established 23 new artist records and witnessed at the time of sale, the second highest price ever for Monet with *Waterloo Bridge, temps couvert*, 1904, at £17.9 million (\$35.5 million)
- Christie's New York Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale in November 2007 totalled \$395 million, with market share of 59%, and witnessed a new record price for Matisse of \$33,641,000 with *L'odalisque, harmonie bleue*, 1937.

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$600 to over \$80 million*. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access

to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service. *Estimates do not include buyer's premium.