

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S APRIL 2009 SALES IN DUBAI

EARLY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

DIAMONDS, PEARLS & SPECTACULAR WATCHES

WORKS BY FATEH MOUDARRES, MAHMOUD MOKHTAR & ABOLGHASSEM SAIDI



Jewels and Watches
Tuesday, 28 April, 2009 at 7pm
Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel, Dubai

The sale will include rare coloured gemstones and exquisite natural pearls crafted into jewels by many of the world's leading designers including Cartier, Van Cleef and Arpels and Harry Winston alongside watches by Patek Philippe, Rolex and Franck Muller. Early highlights include a pair of diamond ear studs, each set with a circular-cut diamond weighing 12.56 and 11.65 carats' with an

estimate of US\$150,000 - 200,000 (illustrated here) and a classic five-row natural pearl necklace estimated at US\$180,000-220,000

(illustrated here). A 9.38 carat, brilliant-cut diamond ring is also included with an estimate of \$35,000-50,000 alongside an emerald and diamond parure by Tabbah comprising a bracelet, a pair of earrings and ring with an estimate of \$180,000-220,000. Further highlights include a pair of yellow drop diamond earrings (estimate:

\$30,000-40,000); a pendant set with three yellow diamonds, 2, 3 and 5 carats respectively, (estimate: \$40,000-60,000); and a ladies Chopard diamond-set wristwatch with a white





gold bracelet (estimate: \$3,000-5,000). Also from Chopard is a 'Happy Diamond' wristwatch (illustrated here), so called because of the loose diamonds that 'rattle' around the watch face with an estimate of \$6,000-8,000.

**International Modern & Contemporary Art
Wednesday, 29 April, 2009 at 7pm
Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel, Dubai**

Around 150 lots of Arab, Iranian, Turkish and Western art will be offered at this sale, the sixth in this category to be held by Christie's in the Middle East, including several important works from private collections in the West which have not been seen in the region for many years.

An early highlight of the sale is a group of four paintings by the celebrated Syrian artist Fatch Moudarres, from the collection of the former German Ambassador to Syria, Rudolf Fechter and his wife Maria. While posted to Damascus between 1959 and 1963, the couple became close friends of the artist who taught art to one of their daughters. In 1977 Rudolf Fechter arranged an exhibition in Bonn called 'Art from Syria Today' where 70 of the artists' works were shown. When the couple died, Moudarres wrote "In Damascus they were my only parents".

The highlight of the group is *The Icons of Moudarres* (illustrated above) from 1962 with an estimate of \$30,000-40,000 showing a group of figures, arranged symmetrically with areas picked out in gold leaf. This important work by the artist symbolizes the three main monotheistic religions in Syria through the symbolism of the Cross, face of Christ, tablets of law and group of veiled faces. *Madonna with Dove*, depicts the mother and child with Moudarres' distinctive curved heads and bodies in pastel shades (estimate \$12,000-18,000) and two untitled works, one painted in 1963 (estimate \$20,000-25,000) and the other (shown below) in 1970 (estimate: \$7,000-10,000) completes this group.



Fateh Moudarres was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1922 and studied at Rome's Fine Art Academy and then in Paris. He was Head of the Fine Arts Syndicate in Damascus and his work has been exhibited all over the world in galleries, museums and private collections. Moudarres was also a published poet and essayist and died in Damascus in 1999.



A large bronze sculpture, *Au bord du Nil*, by Mahmoud Mokhtar (1891-1934), the much admired Egyptian sculptor and the father of modern Egyptian art, is also included with an estimate of \$60,000-80,000. From a private collection in Paris, the bronze measuring 63 cms., depicts a woman carrying a carafe on her head, her robe draped around her to the ground and a large bangle around her upper arm. Born in the Nile Delta region in a small village called Nesha, Mokhtar moved to Cairo in 1908 where he joined the newly founded School

of Fine Arts. In 1911, he was granted a scholarship to study art in Paris at the École des Beaux Arts. In France, he befriended members of the Wafd Party and was inspired to create the prototype of his famous statue, *Nahdit Misr* or "Egypt's Renaissance," which was initially unveiled in Ramses Square in 1928 and now stands opposite the Cairo University Bridge.



A final highlight of the sale is a large Triptych (above) showing the sun amidst a bank of trees, blown aside by the wind, the fine branches and leaves like peacock feathers filtering the glow of its vivid orange light, by the Iranian artist Abolghassem Saidi. Painted in 1982, the triptych is offered for sale from a private American collection and it is estimated at \$80,000-100,000. Saidi was born in Arak in Iran in 1926 but spent most of his life in France studying at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. He has received numerous awards and his works are represented in collections around the world.

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Images available on request
Visit Christie's Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

- Christie's auction of *Jewels and Watches; The Dubai Sale*, takes place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel on Tuesday, 28 April, 2009 at 7pm
- Christie's auction of *International Modern and Contemporary Art* takes place at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel on Wednesday, 29 April, 2009 at 7pm
- For catalogues and further information, please telephone +971 4425 5647