

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S ANNUAL TEL AVIV SALE

19th and 20th Century Art

Tel Aviv, Hilton Hotel, 10 April 2007 at 8.30pm

Tel Aviv - Christie's, the world's leading art business, announces that the annual Christie's Tel Aviv sale of **19th & 20th Century Art** will be held on 10 April 2007 at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel. The sale features over 143 works of art by international and Israeli artists spanning from the 19th century to the present day and is led by an exceptional group of 19th century paintings depicting sights from the Holy Land together with rare works by some of Israel's most important artists.

Amongst the sale highlights are two glorious panoramic views, *Jerusalem, seen from the Mount of Olives* (estimate: \$90,000-120,000) by Belgian born artist Pierre Tetaer Van Elven, who visited the Holy Land in 1874, and *Temple Mount, Jerusalem* by prominent American Orientalist painter Edwin Lord Weeks, who visited Palestine in 1872 (estimate: \$75,000-95,000). Other early works include an exceptionally rare painting of a man thought to be a court jester, *Portrait of a Man with a Turkish Hat*, by the Polish Jewish artist Maurycy Gottlieb (estimate: \$80,000-100,000). During his short lifetime, Gottlieb was hailed as the most significant Jewish artist and his most important painting, *Jews Praying in the Synagogue on the Day of Atonement*, is presently in the collection of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

An outstanding selection of important paintings by Israel's greatest painter, Reuven Rubin, will also be featured in the auction. Leading the selection is the rare and impressive *Pomegranates on my Window*, painted circa 1970 (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). This monumental canvas depicts a still life on the ledge of the artist's window in his Caesarea home with the Roman aqueduct and the blue sea in the background. *Jerusalem seen from Mount Scopus*, 1939 (estimate: \$180,000-240,000) depicts a panorama of Jerusalem and *By the Sea Shore*, 1931 (estimate: \$90,000-120,000) is a naïve, colourful still life of fruits and flowers alongside a

stuffed poodle doll on a table overlooking the Tel Aviv seaside. Rubin's colourful and dynamic rendition of Bryant Park in New York was painted in 1928, when Rubin lived and worked in New York in a small studio overlooking the Park. The work resonates with Rubin's fascination with the rapid pace of New York life (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). Four paintings by leading Israeli artist Mordecai Ardon are included in the sale. *Salute to Morning*, 1961 (estimate: \$200,000-300,000) was widely exhibited in New York, London, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem between 1962 and 2003. Ardon immigrated to Israel in 1933 and was fascinated by the new realities of life in Israel, which is apparent in the rare and early double-sided canvas, *Landscape (recto); Jerusalem Hills (verso)* which depicts a cluster of trees and houses on the outskirts of Jerusalem on one side and an earlier landscape with a tomb and a bell tower on the other side (estimate: \$60,000-80,000). Further works by Ardon include *Gambit of Yellow*, a 1970 abstract composition (estimate: \$100,000-150,000) and a double-sided study of Bethlehem and Ein Karem (estimate: \$30,000-40,000).

Works by artists of the Jewish École de Paris are well represented in the sale and amongst the highlights is a lively gouache on paper by Marc Chagall, *Personnages de cirque*, 1966 (estimate: \$100,000-150,000); Chaim Soutine's colourful still life composition *Nature morte aux poivrons et aux carottes*, circa 1918 (estimate: \$120,000-160,000) and Jules Pascin's delicate depiction of a seated girl, *Jenne fille aux bas blancs* (estimate: \$70,000-90,000). Additional works from artists of this school include paintings and sculptures by Joseph Pressmane, Mané-Katz, Ossip Zadkine, Chana Orloff and Mela Muter.

A group of paintings and works on paper by the members of the 1960s avant-garde Israeli 10+ group were acquired directly from the artists by the present owners in the 1960s and 1970s. Amongst the artists whose works are represented in the group are Arie Aroch, Aviva Uri, Raffi Lavie, Michael Druks and Henry Shelesnyak; estimates range from \$4,000 to \$12,000.

Leading the selection of contemporary Israeli art is a photograph by New York-based Israeli photographer Michal Rovner, *Blue Rain*, 1998 (estimate: \$15,000-20,000) and Adi Nes's *Untitled*, which is based on the famous cover of *Life Magazine*, 13 June 1967, of Yossi Ben Hanan crossing the Suez Canal during the Six Day War (estimate: \$15,000-20,000). Other contemporary Israeli artists whose works are represented in the sale are: Tsibi Geva, Moshe Gershuni, Jan Rauchwerger, Ori Reisman, Daniel Enkaoua, Moshe Kupferman, Sigalit Landau, Tal Matzliach and David Reeb.

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

Auction: 10 April 2007 at 8:30pm at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel

Viewing at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel:

- Saturday, 7 April noon – 6pm
- Sunday, 8 April 10am – 3pm
- Monday 9 April 11am – 9pm
- Tuesday 10 April 10am – 3pm

Note to Editors

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totaled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. This 36% increase over 2005 marks the highest total in company and in art auction 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, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 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.