

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S TO STAGE THE FIRST EVER LONDON SALE DEDICATED TO SCOTTISH ART

- Peploe still-life expected to realise up to £600,000

- Auction highlighted by *The Hunter Blair Colourist Collection*, the finest private collection of Colourist works to come to the market since 1979



Samuel John Peploe, R.S.A. (1871-1935)
Red Chair and Tulips
Estimate: £400,000-600,000



Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell (1883-1937)
Nude reflected in a mirror
Estimate: £150,000-200,000

Scottish Art

Friday 25 May 2007, King Street

London – Christie's announce that they will stage the first ever auction dedicated to Scottish Art to take place in London on 25 May 2007. The sale is highlighted by *The Hunter Blair Colourist Collection*, the finest private grouping of Colourist works to come to the market in over 25 years. A further highlight is a still life by Samuel John Peploe, R.S.A. which is expected to realise up to £600,000 and could establish a new world record price for a Colourist painting.

The auction will offer approximately 280 lots with individual estimates from £1,000 to £600,000, and is expected to realise a total in excess of £4 million. On the preceding day, Thursday 24 May, Christie's will offer *The Selected Contents of Two Great Scottish House; Scone Palace and Blairquhan* (see separate release).

Laura Lindsay, Director and Head of Scottish Art at Christie's: "Following on from the success of Christie's annual sale of Scottish Art in October 2006 at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh, we are excited to pioneer the first ever sale dedicated to Scottish art to take place in London in May 2007. The auction in October 2006 realised £3.7 million, a record total for a Scottish sale at Christie's, and we welcomed a noticeable number of private international bidders with 28% of the sold lots being acquired by overseas clients. We look very forward to the auctions at Christie's London in May, where we will offer two days of Scottish sales from our international headquarters, firstly with the selected contents of Scone Palace and Blairquhan and then, the following day, with the most valuable sale of Scottish art ever staged by Christie's."

Leading the sale is *The Hunter Blair Colourist Collection*, the finest private grouping of Scottish colourists to come to the market in over twenty five years (see separate release). Assembled by the late Sir James Hunter Blair, Bt. (1889-1983) during the 1960s and early 1970s when Colourist pictures could be bought for as little as £100, the collection consists of 20 paintings and 5 works on paper and is expected to realise in the region of £1 million, with individual estimates from £3,000 to £200,000. The highlight of the collection is *Nude reflected in a mirror* by Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell (1883–1937) which is expected to realise £150,000-200,000.

Red Chair and Tulips by Samuel John Peploe, R.S.A. (1871-1935) is one of the finest examples of the artist's work ever to appear at auction and could break the record price for a Colourist work when it is offered at Christie's in May. Peploe traveled to Paris in the 1890s where he was particularly influenced by Manet and the Impressionists. Having returned to Edinburgh, he met J.D. Fergusson and their shared appreciation of modern French painting saw them both return to France in 1910 and further absorb the influences of the post-Impressionist movement. The present work, painted circa 1919, is expected to realise £400,000-600,000. The current record price for a Colourist work at auction was established when *Still Life with Tulips* was sold in April 2006 for £523,200.

The auction will include three works being offered by the Glasgow Art Club in order to benefit the restoration fund: *Cheltenham Figures* by David Gauld (1865-1936) which is expected to realise £20,000-30,000, *The Road to the Farm* by Edward Arthur Walton (1860-1922) which carries an estimate of £20,000-30,000, and *Poster for the Art Ball* by Sir John Lavery, R.S.A. (1856-1941) illustrated right which is expected to realise £50,000-80,000. The Glasgow Art Club was founded in 1867 and moved to Bath Street in 1886 where it fast became a bohemian wellspring for the Glasgow School artists including Crawhall, Guthrie, Henry, Lavery and Hornel, who had his initial application for membership turned down. The hand of the young Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) is evident in the wonderful gallery in the fireplace mantle pieces and doors. The Club has welcomed a variety of guests over the years, including Oscar Wilde and Buffalo Bill, and will be open to the public on 2 and 3 May 2007 in order to present an exhibition of highlights from Christie's forthcoming sale of *Scottish Art*.





The auction will also feature a section devoted to works by contemporary Scottish artists including Andy Goldsworthy (b.1956), Archibald Dunbar McIntosh (b.1936), John McLean (b.1939), Gordon Mitchell (b.1952), Alexandra Gardner (b.1945), Leon Morrocco (b.1942) and Peter McLaren (b.1964), among others. Leading this section of the sale is *The Entrance II* by Stephen Conroy (b.1964) *illustrated left*. Conroy studied at the Glasgow School of Art from 1982 to 1987 and developed a style influenced by the draughtsmanship of the old masters and dependent on the effect of light and shade. The present example was painted in 1992 and is expected to realise £20,000-30,000.

Elsewhere, the sale will offer a strong selection of works from the 17th to the 20th centuries reflecting the artistic heritage of Scotland and including paintings by Allan Ramsay, Jacob More, Sir Henry Raeburn, Sir John Lavery, Joseph Henderson, Sam Bough, Joseph Farquharson, Sir David Wilkie, Anne Redpath, Elizabeth Blackadder, Alberto Morrocco and William McTaggart.

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

Notes to Editors:

- Selected highlights from the auction of *Scottish Art* will be on view at the following locations:

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| The Glasgow Art Club | 2 and 3 May, in support of <i>Play Scotland</i> |
| Christie's King Street, London | 20 to 24 May |

- *Scottish Art at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh* will take place on 25 October 2007.

- Since 1766, Christie's has established a rich history of selling British and Irish art and James Christie himself was the subject of a portrait painted by his good friend Thomas Gainsborough. In 2006, the *International British and Irish Art* department realised £93.1 million (\$173.2 million / €136 million), a 50% increase on the sales total for 2005, strengthening our market share for the category and setting records for the highest ever sale total for an auction of 20th century British art (£12.4 million in June and £12.5 in November), as well as the highest ever price for a British work on paper (J.M.W. Turner's *The Blue Rigi*, which sold for £5.8 million in June). The five sales of paintings during *British Art Week* at King Street in November realised a total of £29.1 realizing the highest ever total for a week of British art sales at Christie's and breaking the previous record of £28.3 million realised at *British Art Week* in June.