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CHRISTIE'S

Contact: Rhiannon Broomfield

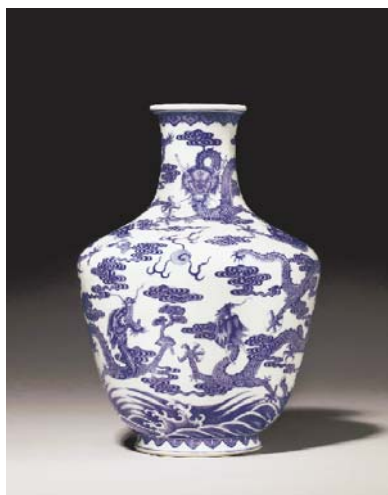
+44 (0) 207 389 2117

rbroomfield@christies.com

EASTERN PROMISE: CHRISTIE'S LONDON ASIAN ART SALES IN MAY

London – Following the strong results of Christie's New York Spring 2007 Asian Art sales, the world's leading art business is pleased to announce the London sales of Asian Art in May 2007. The sales herald the return of Modern and Contemporary Indian Art sales to London and for the first time, offer clients around the world the opportunity to bid online in real-time via Christie's LIVE™ in the King Street sales of Indian, Chinese and Japanese works of art.

Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art, Including Export Art: 15 May 2007 at 10.30am & 2.00pm – Bid via Christie's LIVE™



Ushering in Christie's London Asian art sales in May, the sale of *Fine Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art* on 15 May will offer over 430 lots including superb sculptures, bronzes, ceramics, furniture and paintings which are estimated to fetch in excess of £4 million.

Amongst the exquisite selection of ceramics are two rare blue and white porcelain pieces decorated with Imperial dragons. The first is a vibrantly painted stem bowl dating to the Xuande reign (A.D. 1426-35) (estimate: £150,000-200,000), and the second is a *Nine Dragon* vase from the Qianlong period (1736-95) (estimate: £100,000-150,000) (*illustrated left*), which may have been made to celebrate an Imperial birthday. Made for the Iberian market, is a rare late Ming blue and white armorial flask, which may have been

ordered by a knight either of the Order of Aviz or the Order of Christ during the Spanish occupation of Portugal in *circa* 1610-20 (estimate: £180,000-220,000).

Another exceptional piece is an exquisitely carved and painted Imperial ivory figure of a seated Asian lady in Western dress from the Qianlong period (1736-95) (estimate: £150,000-200,000), which appears to have been based upon a portrait painted by one of the European Jesuit missionaries at the Chinese court. Also from the Qianlong reign is a very rare aloeswood *Seven-Buddha* bowl inscribed with the year 1786 (estimate: £120,000-180,000), which was in the de Jonge Family Collection for over a century and is the only known example of this type made from aloeswood. A rare early Ming gilt-bronze figure of the Buddha Maitreya, from the Yongle reign (1403-



1425) is a superb example of the exceptionally fine Tibeto-Chinese sculptures made in the late Yuan and early Ming dynasties under the influence of Lamaist Buddhism (estimate: £100,000-150,000) (*illustrated above right*).

A private collection of timelessly elegant Chinese furniture, predominately from the 17th and 18th centuries, which is surprisingly contemporary in the simplicity of its lines, is also included in the sale (estimates range from £1,500-20,000).

Japanese Art and Design and The François Stormo Collection of Netsuke: 16 May 2007 at 10.30am & 2.00pm – Bid via Christie’s LIVE™



Hidden away in a private collection for over fifty years is a rare and important five-coloured Ko-Kutani porcelain from the Edo period (estimate: £200,000-300,000) (*pictured left*) which leads Christie’s *Japanese Art and Design* sale on 16 May 2007. Depicting a Chinese scholar offering tea to his guest, the nine-lobed dish was last exhibited publicly in the 1950s and is amongst 450 lots of lacquer, netsuke, ceramics, swords and Meiji period (1868-1912) works of art to be offered in the sale.

Further sale highlights include two elegant Kakiemon figures of ladies in colourful kimonos which have only recently been discovered in an English country house (estimates: £80,000-100,000 & £70,000-90,000 respectively) and *The François Stormo Collection of Netsuke* from Switzerland of over 160 lots which is estimated to fetch in excess of £500,000. The lacquer market continues to be strong and a number of superb examples from the 16th century through to the 20th century will be offered including a 20th century paper storage box depicting grasses, with a vibrant red lacquer interior (estimate: £8,000-10,000) (*illustrated right*). The sale concludes with an impressive group of 50 swords including some certificated Juyo, combining the private collection from Europe and further swords from Japan and America; estimates range from £1,500 to £80,000.



Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art at Christie’s South Kensington: Friday, 18 May 2007 at 12 noon – Bid via Christie’s LIVE™



A decorative selection of Chinese ceramics and works of art alongside classical and contemporary paintings will be offered in this sale with estimates ranging from £500 to £25,000. Highlights include a pair of ‘Palace workshop’ lacquer display cabinets, Qianlong (1736-95) (estimate £10,000-15,000); a selection of fine jade carvings including a rare pale celadon jade two handled octagonal cup, Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) (from the Collection of the Yijin studio) (estimate: £10,000-15,000); and a gold

perfumer flattened heart-shaped box and cover decorated in open-work repousse, Ming dynasty (1368-1644) (estimate: £3,000-5,000) (*illustrated above left*).



Modern & Contemporary Indian Art including Art from Pakistan and Sri Lanka: 21 May 2007 at 2.00pm – Bid via Christie’s LIVE™ (separate press release available)

In 2006, Christie’s marked an exceptional year in the contemporary art market, with Modern and Contemporary Indian art becoming one of the art market’s fastest growing areas. As market leader in the field, Christie’s is pleased to announce the return of *Modern & Contemporary Indian Art* sales to London on 21 May 2007. Showcasing the scope of Modern & Contemporary Indian Art from established through to up-and-coming artists, the sale includes important works by masters of the field such as the revered Syed Haider Raza, Francis Newton Souza, Vasudeo S. Gaitonde (*illustrated left*), Maqbool Fida Husain, Tyeb Mehta and Akbar Padamsee. The sale of 105 lots is estimated to fetch in the region of £4 million, with estimates ranging from £1,000 to over £450,000.

New Master’s Programme in the Arts of China: September 2007, Christie’s Education, London

From September 2007 Christie’s Education is offering a new full-time Master’s qualification dedicated exclusively to Chinese art and culture, a unique academic programme in the UK. The new degree is designed for post-graduate students who wish to gain a thorough knowledge of Chinese art and culture, and will benefit those with hopes of careers in the art market. No prior knowledge of the culture and language of China is required.

Christie’s Education M.Litt Programmes, accredited by the University of Glasgow, have an international reputation for their innovative approaches to study and the professional success of their alumni. This new Arts of China course will complement the already well-established Master’s options in:

- Early European Art (Antiquity, Middle Ages, Renaissance)
- Fine and Decorative Arts (Renaissance to 1960)
- Modern and Contemporary Art (1860 to Present Day)

The fee for the Arts of China Master’s Programme is £16,350. A range of scholarships, student bursaries and awards are available to potential students. For further information, please contact: Lucy Marshall, tel: 020 7665 4354, lucymarshall@christies.com

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Images available on request

Visit Christie’s Web site at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors

About Christie's

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.

About Christie's LIVE™

Christie's LIVE™, the real-time multi-media auction service which allows clients to bid via their computers regardless of location, was first launched in July 2006 in New York, with \$13 million sold online in the first nine months of operating. With over 20,000 online bids accepted in 220 sales, the combined value of winning bids and direct underbidding online totaled an impressive US\$41.8 million. 11% of all bidders at these sales utilized Christie's LIVE™ to register and bid. During the first nine months, Amsterdam and Christie's King Street in London were added to the Christie's LIVE™ roll-out network that initially comprised select sales in New York and Christie's South Kensington in London. Christie's LIVE™ has recently been introduced in Paris in April, and in May 2007 will be available in both Geneva and Hong Kong. By the end of 2007, all Christie's International sale centers will be utilizing Christie's LIVE™.