

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S SALE OF *SCOTTISH ART* REALISES £3.5 MILLION

- *The Hunter Blair Colourist Collection* realises £1,162,380
- Elsewhere in the sale, Peploe still-life sells for £468,000
- This week's Scottish sales at Christie's realise a combined total of £6.1 million

London – Christie's auction of *Scottish Art including The Hunter Blair Colourist Collection* took place today, 25 May 2007, and realised £3,513,300. The top lot was *Red Chair and Tulips* by Samuel John Peploe, R.S.A. which sold for £468,000, while *The Hunter Blair Colourist Collection*, the finest private collection of Colourist works to come to the market since 1979, realised a total of £1,162,380.

Yesterday, 24 May, the auction of *The Selected Contents of Two Great Scottish House; Scone Palace and Blairquhan* realised £2,558,208, far exceeding pre-sale expectations. Together with the auction of *Scottish Art*, this week's Scottish sales have realised a combined total of £6,071,508.

The Hunter Blair Colourist Collection is the finest private grouping of Scottish colourists to come to the market in over twenty five years. 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 included 20 paintings and 5 works on paper, 22 of which sold at the auction. The top price of the collection was *Nude reflected in a mirror* by Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell (1883–1937) which sold for £258,000.

Red Chair and Tulips, circa 1919, by Samuel John Peploe, R.S.A. (1871-1935) set the highest price of the sale selling for £468,000, the fourth highest price for the artist at auction. Elsewhere in the sale, strong prices were seen for works from across the last 300 years; a portrait of a gentleman by Sir Henry Raeburn R.A. (1756-1823) realised £50,400, *The Tartar Messenger narrating the fall of Acre* by Sir David Wilkie, R.A. (1785-1841) sold for £102,000 and in the section of contemporary art *Composition* by William Johnstone (1897-1981) sold for £19,200 establishing a new record price for the artist at auction, and *The Entrance II* by Stephen Conroy (b.1964) realised £28,800.

Christie's annual sale of Scottish Art will take place on 25 October 2007 at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.

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

Notes to Editors:

- *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.