

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART DAY AND WORKS ON PAPER SALES AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK THIS FALL



New York – On November 6, Christie's New York will hold the Fall 2008 *Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale*, followed by the *Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper Sale* on November 7. Offering approximately 350 lots over the course of two days, both sales will feature works by leading Impressionist and Modern masters such as Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Gabriele Münter, Paul Klee, René Magritte, Paul Delvaux, Joan Miró, Henry Moore and Henri Matisse. Christie's remains the only international auction house to hold sales dedicated exclusively to *Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper*.

Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale- November 6

The 240-lot Day Sale is led by important private collections. The first, from the Estate of Mr. and Mrs. Klingenstein, includes an oil on canvas by Marc Chagall entitled *La femme en rouge* (illustrated left on page 1- estimate: \$750,000-950,000). As a frequent attendee of the *Cirque d' Hiver* in Paris, Chagall often depicted lovers, flowers, animals and performers, forming a symbolical composition that fulfilled Chagall's desire to create an art of joy, hope, and love. Here, Chagall positioned the musical performers as if floating towards the lovers, linking these symbols of passion and the arts.

The cover lot of the sale is Joan Miró's *Femmes devant la lune* (estimate: \$600,000-800,000), coming directly from the family of Pierre Matisse, the artist's dealer who launched the artist's career to America. Executed in 1944, Miró arranges biomorphic and cosmological forms in richly colored media to create a dense, fantastical and complex composition. The sale also includes two paintings by Gabriele Münter, *Gasse im Murnau* (estimate: \$500,000-700,000) and *Dorfstrasse im Murnau* (estimate: \$400,000-600,000). Both painted in 1908, Münter's work expresses her deep affection for Murnau, a small town south of Munich. Also noteworthy is René Magritte's bronze sculpture of *Les grâces naturelles* (estimate: \$700,000-900,000). Conceived and cast in 1967, Magritte creates four elegant, distinctly surreal birds with leaf wings outstretched in a harmonious arrangement, demonstrating his interest in the intimacy and quiet beauty of the natural world.

Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper- November 7

The Works on Paper Sale cover lot is *Portrait de femme* (illustrated right on page 1- estimate: \$400,000-600,000), a gouache on paper by Pablo Picasso. Executed in 1942, the portrait depicts Dora Maar, Picasso's lover from 1936-1944. He gifted this work to his friend and artistic rival Henri Matisse and it was part of Matisse's personal collection until his death in 1954 and has remained with his family ever since.

Another important Picasso drawing on offer is *Guitare* (estimate: \$500,000-700,000). Drawn in 1911-1912, pivotal years in both his career and personal life, *Guitare* is a clear and elegant charcoal on paper example of the artist's final stage of analytical cubism.

The sale also includes Paul Klee's iconic *Kurze Seereise*, 1930 (estimate: \$600,000-800,000); twenty-one beautifully rendered drawings by Henri Matisse from the Estate of Pierre-Noel Matisse with estimates ranging from \$20,000 to \$250,000; Marc Chagall's *Vase de fleurs dans la fenêtre* (estimate: \$500,000-700,000), a traditional still life subject injected with emotion and nostalgia from the Collection of Joan Fontaine; and an illustrious suite of works on paper by Salvador Dalí, who was known for his innovative and eccentric imagination from the Property of the Del Mintz Collection with estimates ranging from \$20,000 to \$300,000.

Auction: Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale
Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper

November 6 at 10am
November 7 at 10am

Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

October 30- November 4

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totalled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totalled £1.8 billion / \$3.5 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as 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, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, 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 in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

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