

## **For Immediate Release**

October 27, 2006

Contact: Bendetta Roux      212.636.2680      [broux@christies.com](mailto:broux@christies.com)

## **PICASSO'S *STILL LIFE WITH PORTRAIT* TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK**

### **Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale November 8, 2006**

**New York** – Picasso's beautiful *Still Life with Portrait*, 1906 (estimate: \$2.5 – 3.5 million), will be offered at Christie's New York evening sale of Impressionist and Modern Art on 8 November 2006. The painting comes to auction following a settlement between the current owner, Duncan V. Phillips, grandson of the legendary collector, Duncan C. Phillips, founder of The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., and the heirs of its pre-World War II owner, Ernst Schlesinger, a collector from Hamburg.

"We are honored to offer this work by Picasso in our evening sale this November," says Guy Bennett, Senior Vice President and Head of Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art department in New York. "Works from the Gósol period are rarely seen at auction and as such, a number of passionate collectors will actively seek out works from this period."

"We are delighted to offer the picture on behalf of Duncan V. Phillips and the heirs of Ernst Schlesinger," says Monica Dugot, Senior Vice President and Christie's Director of Restitution. "In such restitution cases, we are committed to working closely with clients, museums, dealers and the claimant community as well as organizations that represent them in finding clarity on such issues and in helping to find solutions when these arise."

Although not widely known, *Still Life with Portrait* is an exceptional Gósol period oil in which Picasso employed a soft rose and blue palette to create an allegory of his love for Fernande Olivier. Duncan

C. Phillips gave the painting to his wife, Marjorie Acker Phillips, and it hung prominently in their dining room from 1952, its date of acquisition, until her death in 1985. According to a member of the family, Duncan C. Phillips would challenge dinner guests to name the artist of this large unsigned still life, providing clues until they could identify it as a Picasso.

Sarah Jackson, Research Director of the Art Loss Register says of the settlement: “The Phillips family has set a benchmark for other private collectors who unwittingly own works of art tainted by the Holocaust in its readiness to recognize the claim of the heirs of Ernst Schlesinger. The willingness of all sides to agree so swiftly to a settlement on a picture of this importance and without recourse to litigation is encouraging. The family of Ernst Schlesinger is grateful to Mr. Phillips for the way in which he responded to their claim on a picture that his family had owned in good faith for over fifty years.”

Duncan V. Phillips expresses his pleasure at being able to see the Schlesinger claim through to a satisfactory result without litigation: “This painting has been very important to me and to my family for more than five decades. Nonetheless, I would not want to benefit from it at the cost of another family’s suffering. Our settlement benefits all participants, and also allows the public to see at Christie’s a painting that my grandfather and grandmother loved and that I have treasured. I will be delighted to finally see this painting have a clean start in a new home.”

This settlement, negotiated between the Art Loss Register on behalf of the heirs of Ernst Schlesinger and Thomas R. Kline of Andrews Kurth LLP on behalf of Mr. Phillips, is the culmination of five years of provenance research across eleven countries conducted by the Art Loss Register for the Schlesingers and Marion F. Houstoun, an art historian who conducted research on Mr. Phillips’ behalf.

**Auction:** Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale                      November 8 at 6.30 PM

**Viewing:** Christie’s Galleries at Rockefeller Center                              November 3 - 8

### **About Christie’s**

Christie’s is the world’s leading auction house, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie’s offers nearly 1,000 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie’s has 90 offices in 30 countries and 16 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv and Hong Kong. Most recently,

Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Mumbai, Dubai and the branded sale in Beijing. Christie's International worldwide auction sales totalled £1.17 billion (\$2.13 billion) for the first six months of 2006, an increase of 38% in £'s (39% in \$'s) on last year's figure of £888 million (\$1.65 billion) for the same period. This figure includes sales premium. In Christie's salesrooms around the world, 189 works of art sold for more than \$1 million, compared to 178 works sold during the same period last year.

### **About The Art Loss Register**

The Art Loss Register, based in New York, London, Amsterdam and Cologne, maintains the world's largest private database of stolen and looted art. Founded in 1990 by auction houses, art trade bodies and the insurance industry, its purpose is to trace missing artworks and provide a central checkpoint on title for private collectors, art dealers and law enforcement.

### **About Andrews Kurth LLP**

For more than a century, Andrews Kurth LLP has built its practice on the belief that "straight talk is good business." Real answers, clear vision and mutual respect define the firm's relationships with clients, colleagues, communities and employees. With more than 400 lawyers and offices in Austin, Beijing, Dallas, Houston, London, Los Angeles, New York, The Woodlands and Washington, DC, Andrews Kurth represents a wide array of clients in all areas of business law.

### **About Ms. Houstoun**

An essay by scholar Ms. Houstoun on 'Still Life with Portrait' is available upon request. In this essay, Ms. Houstoun identifies the portrait as a transformation of a print of a Virgin and Child, seen photographed in Picasso's studio in 1910, into his Mistress/Muse, and its inscription as a reference to Gauguin's 1897 masterwork *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?*

# # #

*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

More information about Christie's sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.