

# CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK | 7 APRIL 2015 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
IMPORTANT COURBET DISCOVERY AND FRESH TO THE  
MARKET WORKS HIGHLIGHT THE APRIL SALE OF  
19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY EUROPEAN ART



Lot 11 | Gustave Courbet (French, 1819-1877), *La Bohémienne et ses enfants*, oil on canvas  
Painted in 1853-1854  
Estimate: \$1,800,000 – 2,500,000

**New York** – Christie's announces the spring sale of **19th Century European Art** on **April 28**. This carefully curated auction boasts a superb selection of paintings by Federico Zandomeneghi, Gustave Courbet, and Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida, among others as well as a strong collection of Barbizon, French Academic, Victorian, Orientalist and Maritime pieces. The sale is primarily sourced from private collections, with additions from the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Seattle Art Museum.

Highlighting the sale is an important Gustave Courbet rediscovery, *La Bohémienne et ses enfants* (pictured above). Begun by Courbet in 1853, *La Bohémienne et ses enfants* is mentioned in letters from the artist to Alfred Bruyas as a continuation of his 'Highway' series. Because of the pressures to complete the monumental *L'Atelier du peintre* (Musée d'Orsay) for an exhibition, Courbet stopped his work on this very large canvas and told his assistants to clear the studio at which point his neighbor in Ornans offered to house *La Bohémienne et ses enfants*. In order to save space, the painting was kept under the floorboards of the neighbor's attic. It remained there, forgotten until it was discovered in 2001. The painting was taken to the Courbet Museum in

Ornans where the curator of the Museum and the son of the author of Courbet's *catalogue raisonné*, confirmed its authenticity.



**Federico Zandomenighi (Italian, 1841 – 1917)**

Lot 34

*Conversazione interessante*

oil on canvas

Estimate: \$700,000-1,000,000

Never before offered at auction, this trademark painting encapsulates all the qualities for which Zandomenighi is most highly prized: delicacy of touch, an acute sense of observation which draws the viewer in to the private world of women, and a unique palette which brings the scene vibrantly to life. Few paintings in the artist's oeuvre better exemplify his ability to capture nuances of gesture: the curl of the fingers, the gentle craning of the figures' necks and their carefully angled gazes brilliantly convey the intimate, yet animated nature of their conversation.

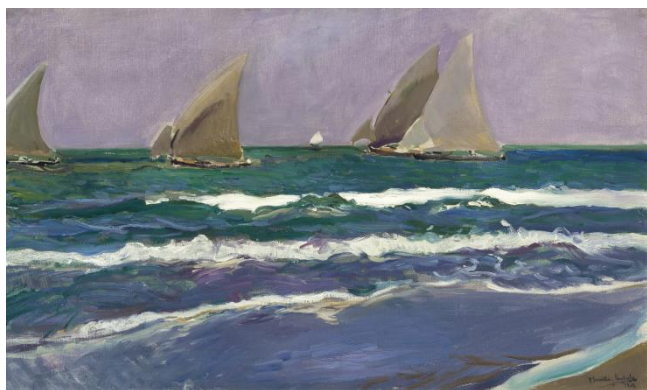
**Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida (Spanish, 1863-1923)**

Lot 33

*Velas en el mar, Valencia*

oil on canvas

Estimate: \$600,000-800,000



Fresh to the market, *Velas en el mar, Valencia* belongs to a series of paintings the artist executed in the summer of 1908 depicting beaches with boats and quantities of figures. Sorolla was at the height of his artistic powers. He had acquired such speed and dexterity that he was generally successful at any sea view he chose to tackle. Boasting a complete and distinguished provenance, the painting was purchased directly from the artist and was exhibited in New York at the wildly successful 1909 Sorolla exhibition at the Hispanic Society, which then traveled on to Buffalo, New York and Boston, Massachusetts.

**ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO**



The sale will also feature works with distinguished museum provenance including a group of seven paintings from the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), deaccessioned to benefit further art purchases at the AGO. A highlight of the group is *Fishing Boats at Sea* by the Dutch artist Henrik Willem Mesdag (1831-1915), which portrays the seascapes that were the basis of his work (pictured left; lot 26, estimate: \$70,000-90,000) and is a fine example of Mesdag's fluid Impressionistic style and a testament to his overriding interest in capturing the effect of light on water and sky. Among the other works sold by the AGO are five paintings by Henri Fantin-Latour and a collaborative work by Herman Johannes van der Weele and Willem Bastiaan Tholen.



## FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS



Lot 3 | Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot (French, 1796-1875)  
*L'étang au chien*  
 oil on canvas  
 Painted circa 1855-1860  
 Estimate: \$70,000 – 100,000



Lot 18 | Julien Dupré (French, 1851-1910)  
*The Reapers*  
 oil on canvas  
 Estimate: \$80,000 – 120,000



Lot 42 | William Adolphe Bouguereau (French, 1825-1905)  
*La petite Esméralda*  
 oil on canvas  
 Estimate: \$500,000 – 700,000



Lot 41 | Hugues Merle (French, 1823-1881)  
*Bathsebé*  
 oil on canvas  
 Estimate: \$150,000 – 250,000



Lot 56 | Jean Béraud (French, 1849-1936)  
*Sur la place de la Concorde*  
 oil on panel  
 Estimate: \$80,000 – 120,000



Lot 35 | Otto Friedrich (Austrian, 1862-1937)  
*Eitelkeit*  
 oil on canvas  
 Estimate: \$80,000 – 120,000



Lot 70 | Rudolf Ernst (Austrian, 1854-1943)  
*La Charité chez les derviches à Scutari*  
 oil on panel  
 Estimate: \$200,000 – 300,000



Lot 72 | Frederick Arthur Bridgman (American, 1847-1927)  
*Off for a Ride, Constantine, Algeria*  
 oil on canvas  
 Estimate: \$100,000 – 150,000

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#### About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2014 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$8.4 billion, making it the highest annual total in Christie's history. 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totalled £916.1 million (\$1.5 billion).

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, New Delhi, Mumbai and Dubai.

*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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*Images available on request*

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