

# CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

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## VISIONS OF THE WEST: AMERICAN PAINTINGS FROM THE WILLIAM I. KOCH COLLECTION

**New York** – Christie's announces the sale **Visions of the West: American Paintings from the William I. Koch Collection**, which represents the breadth of Western Art with works spanning the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day. The dedicated sale will take place on May 21, at noon, following Christie's Spring sale of American Art, and will feature more than 65 paintings from Mr. Koch's superb collection. Highlights include the most important historic artists of the genre including Thomas Moran, Frederic Remington, Henry F. Farny, William Robinson Leigh, and Philip R. Goodwin, among others. The sale also features notable examples by many of the most important contemporary Western artists, including Howard Terpning, Martin Grelle, Tom Lovell and G. Harvey, among others. Representing a wide variety of Western subjects, the sale represents an excellent opportunity for new and established collectors alike.

William I. Koch discusses his passion for the West, stating: *"I am pleased to partner with Christie's in the sale of works from my personal collection. Over the years my passion for collecting has grown exponentially. Many works were purchased and intended for installation in my western town, but I am now just simply out of room! The treasures in the sale are among my favorites, but it is time to pass along these pieces of history to other collectors who share my passion for the west – a place of natural grandeur, simplicity, and codes that have strongly influenced my life."*



Thomas Moran (1837-1926), *Green River, Wyoming*, oil on canvas, painted in 1896  
Estimate: \$6,000,000 – 8,000,000

The cliffs of the Green River were the first western subjects painted by Thomas Moran, who depicted variations of this vista many times over his storied career. They remain among his most celebrated works. Painted in 1896, *Green River*,

*Wyoming*, spectacularly captures the brilliant light and vivid colors of the cliffs, which soar above the foreground. At lower right, a troop of Native Americans traverse the scene, which Moran depicts as an idealized, Edenic wilderness.

Thomas Moran traveled on the Union Pacific Railroad to Green River City on his first trip west in 1871, to join a surveying expedition of Yellowstone, Wyoming Territory, in order to illustrate an article for *Scribner's Monthly* magazine. Moran's depictions of these western vistas further fueled the American public's imagination, which was captivated by stories and images from this distant region. *Green River, Wyoming* was exhibited at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and has never appeared at auction.



**Thomas Moran (1837-1926)**

*Cliffs of Green River, Wyoming Territory*

watercolor on paper

Estimate: \$1,200,000 – 1,800,000

*Cliffs of Green River, Wyoming Territory* possesses all the qualities of Moran's best works on paper and demonstrates the artist's mastery of light, color and composition, as well as his ability to capture the spirit and essence of the Western landscape. *Cliffs of Green River, Wyoming Territory* is a powerfully composed, rare large-scale watercolor, in which Moran conveys the rugged beauty of the cliffs with a view of the commanding Castle Butte. Thomas Moran's watercolors of the American West rank among the most significant accomplishments in the history of American art.



**Frederic Remington (1861-1909)**

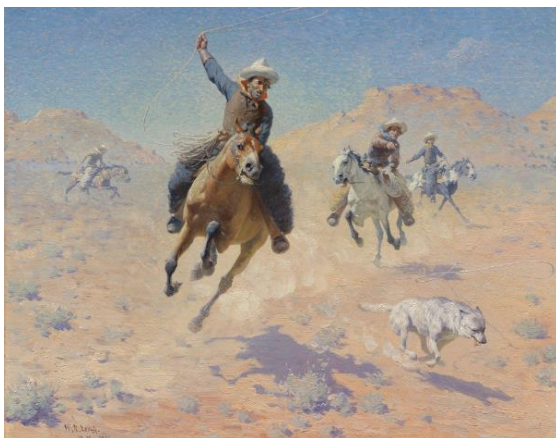
*Pretty Mother of the Night—White Otter is No Longer a Boy*

oil on canvas

Painted circa 1900

Estimate: \$1,200,000-1,800,000

*Pretty Mother of the Night—White Otter is No Longer a Boy* is a classic composition in Remington's oeuvre. The present work demonstrates Remington's talent in rendering nocturnal effects and also his ability to capture the pathos of the Native American. Remington created illustrations for stories in magazines such as *Harper's Weekly*, and he also wrote novels of his own inspired by his travels in the West. *Pretty Mother of the Night—White Otter is No Longer a Boy* was the signature image for Remington's second novel *The Way of an Indian*, which was first published as a serialized article in *The Cosmopolitan* in 1905, and subsequently as a book in 1906. The present work was used both as the cover for the magazine and the cover and frontispiece of the book.



**William Robinson Leigh (1866-1955)**

*Roping the Wolf*

oil on canvas

Painted in 1913

Estimate: \$600,000-800,000

*Roping the Wolf* is exemplary of Leigh's technical mastery, and his ability to capture the spirit of the West through his emphasis on detail and theatrical depictions of the people and settings that he experienced on his visits.



**Henry F. Farny (1847 – 1916)**

*Summoned by the War Chief*

gouache on paper

Executed in 1900

Estimate: \$800,000 – 1,200,000

*Summoned by the War Chief* is a study of a proud warrior and his family standing before a tepee on the plains. French by birth, Henry Farny emigrated and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life. Farny made his first trip to the West in 1881, and became an active participant in the life of the Indians who lived near Fort Buford. He returned to the West in 1883 and 1884 in order to witness the final laying of the Northern Pacific Transcontinental Railroad and to illustrate an article for *Century Magazine*. During these trips and possibly a few more into the early 1890's, Farny gathered artifacts and clothing from the Native Americans he came to know. He would later incorporate these objects in the compositions he created in his Cincinnati studio. Aided by additional on-site sketches and photographs, Farny's depictions of Native Americans are among the most accurate and sympathetic by any 19<sup>th</sup> century American painter.

## ADDITIONAL COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS



**Tom Lovell (1909-1997)**

*Marking the Crossing*

Oil on canvas

Painted in 1991

Estimate: \$200,000-300,000



**Howard Terpning (B.1927)**

*Leader of Men*

oil on canvas

Painted in 1991

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



**Philip R. Goodwin (1882-1935)**

*A Call to Action*

Oil on canvas

Estimate: \$60,000-80,000

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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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