Christie’s is honoured to welcome you to its 15th exhibition in Russia to preview highlights from the forthcoming major international sales. Set against the beautiful 19th century mansion, Spiridonov House, this exhibition includes striking works by Claude Monet, Pierre Bonnard, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Lucian Freud, Cindy Sherman and a premier for Moscow; a hyperrealist sculpture by Ron Mueck.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is Ilya Repin’s monumental 1875 canvas ‘A Parisian café’, now exhibited in Russia for the first time. This painting stands as a masterpiece of the period, revealing both the influence of Western art on the Russian artist, and his own status as a trailblazing pioneer during that time in both Russian and Western terms.

As a centre of Russia’s burgeoning art scene, Moscow is a key location for Christie’s touring exhibitions, alongside New York, London, Paris, Dubai and Hong Kong.

We hope you will enjoy this preview and if you have any further questions you can contact Christie’s at its representative office, located opposite the Kremlin, on Mokhovaya Street.

Matthew Stephenson
Managing Director, Christie's Russia

Anastasia Volobueva
Director, Christie's Moscow

CHRISTIE’S
GIOVANNI BOLDINI

Madame Eugène Doyen
$2,000,000–3,000,000

GIOVANNI BOLDINI

Born in 1842, Giovanni Boldini enjoyed international fame as one of the most celebrated society portrait painters of his age. At the Paris Exposition in 1889 he was awarded the Légion d’honneur. By the turn of the century, he had become one of the most sought after portrait painters in Paris, his signature style is defined by an exuberant combination of swagger and dynamic movement. Boldini died in Paris in 1931.

PIERRE BONNARD

Le petit déjeuner
$6,000,000–9,000,000

PIERRE BONNARD

Born in 1867, while studying for a law degree, Bonnard attended the Académie Julian and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in 1888. In 1896 his first one-man show took place at the gallery Durand-Ruel in Paris. His compositions are both narrative and autobiographical. During the 1920s, Bonnard developed his mature artistic style, marked by unusually complicated compositions and delicately artful colorfulness.

CLAUDE MONET

Les peupliers
$20,000,000–$30,000,000

CLAUDE MONET

Claude Monet, the founder of the French Impressionist movement, was born on November 14, 1840 in Paris, France. In the late 19th century, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Alfred Sisley, and Frédéric Bazille joined Monet in his creation of an official artistic movement and exhibited with him in private Impressionist group shows. In 1883, Monet moved to Giverny where he produced his celebrated series of water lily paintings. Monet continued to paint and exhibit works until his death on December 5, 1926.

PABLO PICASSO

Les enfants et les jouets
$5,500,000–7,500,000

PABLO PICASSO

Born in 1881 in Malaga, Spain, Picasso came from an artistic family. After he moved to Barcelona in 1895 and studied at the Barcelona School of Fine Arts he opened his first studio where he pursued an innovative style that rejected traditional fine arts. He settled permanently in Paris in 1904. In 1973, at the age of 92, Picasso died in Mougins, France, leaving behind thousands of works, a large family, and an extraordinary legacy.
CINDY SHERMAN

Cindy Sherman burst onto the New York art scene in the late 1970s with her ground-breaking series of black and white photographs, Untitled Film Stills. In the 1980s, she began to focus on the staging of these images by exaggerating the use of color, lighting and facial expressions to question the ‘truthfulness’ of photography. Throughout her career, Sherman has appropriated various cultural genres including the film still, magazine centerfold, historical portrait and sexual imagery to fundamentally re-examine the way we look at ourselves.

“I feel I’m anonymous in my work. When I look at my pictures, I never see myself”
— Cindy Sherman, February 1990

ANDY WARHOL

Andy Warhol was one of the most important artists of his generation. As the pioneer of Pop Art he took his inspiration from what he saw around him including the eclectic cast of characters that congregated around his famous ‘Factory’. A central figure on the New York nightclub circuit, Warhol eventually became as famous as his celebrity friends, whom he depicted in some of his most celebrated work, Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and Jacqueline Kennedy.

““In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes.”
— Andy Warhol, March 1968

ILYA REPIN

Russia’s foremost painter of the late 19th century, Ilya Repin (1844-1930) was born in the small Ukrainian town of Tchuguev and received his initial training as an icon painter, before entering the St Petersburg Academy aged 19. Lauded by Tsars and Soviet leaders alike, his most celebrated works include Barge Haulers on the Volga (1870–1873), Religious Procession in Kursk Gubernia (1880–1883) and The Reply of the Zaporozhian Cossacks to Sultan Mahmoud IV (1880–1891).

“I love Art more than people, than my relatives, than friends, more than any happiness and the pleasures of life. I love it secretly, jealously like an old drunkard, — it’s incalculable. No matter where I am, it’s always and everywhere in my mind, in my heart, in my desires — the best, the most secret. The morning hours which I devote to it are the best hours of my life.”
— Repin writing to Vladimir Stasov
Lucian Freud (b. 1922) is a German-born, British painter who is arguably the most celebrated European artist of the 20th and 21st centuries. The works on paper on view embody his most detailed investigations into form, shape, texture and substance. Described by Robert Hughes as 'the turning point' in Freud’s career, the painting Woman Smiling (1958-1959) employs a coarse hog’s hair brush to create richly textured impasto that perfectly expresses the light and modulation of the face. This has been a hallmark of Freud’s art ever since.

“The picture in order to move us must never merely remind us of life, but must acquire a life of its own.”
— Freud, quoted in Lucian Freud, exh. cat., Milan 2005, pp. 41

“It can’t have been that I was abandoning something dear to me; it was more that I wanted to develop something unknown to me.”
— Freud, quoted in W. Feaver, Lucian Freud, New York, 2007, p. 20
MELCHIOR D’HONDECOETER

Fowls, a peacock, a turkey, doves and a swallow in a landscape
$400,000-550,000

Ron Mueck (b. 1958) is an Australian-born, London-based artist celebrated for his hyper-real investigations into the human form. One of the radical pioneers of Young British Art along with his contemporaries Damien Hirst and Marc Quinn, Mueck first rose to prominence in 1996. In Big Baby (1996) the artist creates a perfect child, wide eyed and rosy cheeked. Whilst others seek to explore irony in their strategies of realism, Mueck’s verisimilitude has a unique sincerity.

“Ron Mueck’s sculpture explains why man has felt the need to invent the idea of the soul”

RON MUECK

Big Baby
$1,300,000-1,900,000

ALMA-TADEMA

Alma-Tadema (1836–1912) was born in Holland, and studied at the Antwerp Academy. In 1870, he moved to London and began to paint scenes of Ancient Greece and Rome. These were remarkable for their archaeological accuracy. All his works were numbered sequentially with an ‘Opus’ number in roman numerals. He excelled at the depiction of Mediterranean light, and the depiction of silk, and marble. Such was his success that he built a house in London that emulated a Pompeian villa.

SIR LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA, O.M., R.A.

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