

For Immediate Release

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TWELVE MUSEUM QUALITY WORKS LEAD THE FEBRUARY EVENING SALES OF *IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART* AND *THE ART OF THE SURREAL*



Chaim Soutine's *Le pâtissier de Cagnes*
(estimate: £3,000,000-4,000,000)



Pierre Bonnard, *Bord de mer, sous les pins* (estimate:
£2,000,000-3,000,000)

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale

The Art of the Surreal Evening Sale

7 February 2005

London – Christie's prestigious evening sales of *Impressionist and Modern Art* and *The Art of the Surreal* will take place on 7 February 2005, offering a number of important works at auction to an international audience of collectors. The sales are highlighted by twelve works of museum quality that will excite private collectors as well as institutions, including three works by Bonnard, Bernard, Caillebotte, Picasso, Severini and Soutine in the *Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale* and works by Ernst, Magritte, Miró and Tanguy in *The Art of the Surreal Evening Sale*. Collectively, the sales are expected to fetch £36 Million.

The *Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale* is led by eight museum quality canvases, the majority of which have not been seen on the auction market for decades. Chaim Soutine's *Le pâtissier de Cagnes* (estimate: £3,000,000-4,000,000), an oil on canvas painted *circa* 1922-1923, carries the highest estimate in the sale. This work is the last of Soutine's paintings of baker boys left in private hands. Soutine painted three versions of the celebrated seated baker boy between 1922 and 1923, which were all owned, at some point, by Paul Guillaume. It was in Guillaume's house that the American Collector and patron Albert Barnes first saw the baker boy paintings, and his rapturous delight in what he saw

determined Soutine's sudden fortune and new-found status as an acclaimed painter. Although all three canvases present different sitters, all share the same pose, including the features, most notably the extravagant ears, the red handkerchief held in tightly clenched fists and an expression of deep anguish and loneliness. The present painting was sold by Guillaume to the famous British novelist William Somerset Maugham by the early 1950s, before it was sold to another British collection, that of Lady John Hope and Sir Alexander Korda, prior to its acquisition at auction by the present owner in 1962.

Pablo Picasso's *Homme à l'épée*, painted in 1969 (£2,500,000-3,500,000) leads a group of five important works by the artist in the evening sale (please see separate press release)

The evening sale boasts three canvases by Bonnard, dating from the early Twentieth Century to 1940, that bear witness to the continuous advances that Bonnard made in the post-Nabi period of his career and his unique sensitivity to colour. *L'arbre près de la rivière* (estimate: £600,000-800,000) painted around 1910, occupies a rare position between his Nabism and full-blown colourism: brimming with foliage, the tree occupies almost all of the canvas, predicting the more colourist compositions that would mark his work from 1920. At the same time, there is a muted delicacy to some of the colouring, subtly evoking some of the smoky atmosphere of his Nabi interiors. Bonnard was acutely conscious of his compositions, and often favoured strong verticals and horizontals which appear to break his pictures up into fields. In his magnificent 1921 painting *Bord de mer, sous les pins* (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) the horizon itself, highlighted by the electric yellow sand, plays counterpoint to the verticality of the trees. In *Le dessert* (estimate: £600,000-800,000), painted in 1940, Bonnard relishes in depicting, arguably, his most sensuous of subjects, food.

Gustave Caillebotte is represented by *Portrait de jeune femme dans un intérieur*, an oil on canvas painted in 1877 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000). This painting shows Caillebotte as a modern artist at the cutting edge of the Impressionist movement. His departure from the traditional idealization of feminine mystique is radical – the sitter is defined by her character and posture rather than by accoutrements. It is thought that this sitter is Charlotte Hagen, Caillebotte's mistress.

The magnificent *Bretonnes entrant à l'église* (estimate: £700,000-900,000), painted in 1892, is a masterpiece from the end of Emile Bernard's Breton phase of painting. Bernard enjoyed a rich artistic relationship with Brittany, the setting for almost all his greatest works. There he forged his friendship with Paul Gauguin, resulting in the founding of the School of Pont-Aven. In its theme and bold use of colour it is a quintessential Pont-Aven painting. The bright wall of the church and the dark outfits of the Breton women are sheer and intense. Works by the artist scarcely appear on the market—only five 1892 oils have been sold at auction in over forty years. This work is all the more sought-after as shortly after finishing this painting, Bernard's art underwent a crisis as he sought to deny and exorcise Gauguin's art and influence, creating paintings that eschewed all his Pont-Aven theory.

An impressive private collection of 20th century Modern art will also be offered in the evening sale. Highlights include Delaunay's *Les trois Graces* (estimate: £400,000-600,000), executed in 1912. This

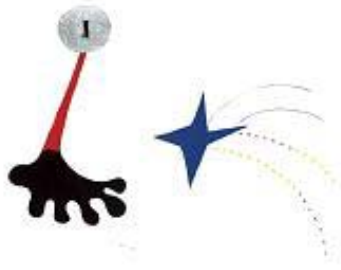
picture focuses on the Graces that would feature as the centerpiece of one of Delaunay's greatest masterpieces, *La ville de Paris*, now in the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris. Similarly graceful, *Gondolier* is one of Archipenko's most celebrated and successful sculptures, conceived in 1914, the most important period, and arguably year, of his career. *Gondolier* exemplifies an interest in high quality sculpture that pervades this entire collection, featuring other Modernist masters such as Lipchitz, Modigliani and Zadkine, among others, which will be sold across a range of sales in London in February. Jawlensky's serene and contemplative *Abstrakter Kopf: Ostern*, painted in 1933, and Pablo Picasso's *Tête d'homme au tricot rayé*, executed in 1939 will also be offered.

The collection of Adolphe Friedmann is a highlight of the evening sale. Mr Friedmann belonged to a discreet group of bourgeois Parisian collectors whose financial success at the beginning of the Twentieth Century enabled them to pursue their passion for art, quietly assembling collections of superior quality. Friedmann settled in Paris with his wife and together they began collecting paintings and drawings by Degas, Renoir, Boudin and Jongkind, with a number of their pieces purchased from the second posthumous studio sale of Edgar Degas in 1918. After Mr Friedmann died in 1922, Mrs. Friedmann pursued her late husband's passion for the arts by actively lending works from the collection to important exhibitions and retrospectives held in Paris and abroad, often making these paintings visible to the public for the very first time.

Christie's will offer six works from the collection on 7th February 2005. Degas' fine charcoal and pencil drawing of *Madame Camus* (estimate: £50,000-80,000) shows the sitter in an intimate, domestic setting. She was the wife of Dr Camus, one of Degas' close friends and, like the artist, a collector of Japanese art. The finished oil, *Madame Camus en rouge*, which was accepted for the *Salon* of 1870 and for which the present work is a preparatory study, now hangs in the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. The portrait of *Mlle Malo* (estimate: £300,000-450,000), a dancer with whom Degas formed a close friendship, is perhaps most characteristic of Degas portraits of the 1870s and relates to the oil of the same title also in the National Gallery of Art Washington, D.C. Exhibited by Madame Friedmann for the first time at the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris in 1931, Degas' *Femme assise sur un canapé* depicts another of the artist's distinguished circle from Parisian society (estimate: £200,000-300,000). Reflecting a similar interest in *la mode* is Eugène Boudin's '*Honfleur, la jetée*', painted in the artist's native town in 1863-64 while Renoir's *Petite fille au chapeau*, circa 1895, an excellent example of the artist's paintings of girls and young women or fashion.

The Art of the Surreal Evening Sale will take place directly after the *Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale* on 7 February," A superb oil on canvas by Yves Tanguy, *Les derniers jours* (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) leads the sale. "Museum quality works by the artist are rarely seen on the market and '*Les derniers jours*', painted in 1944, is thought to be one of the last important and rare large scale paintings by Tanguy still in private hands." says Olivier Camu, specialist in charge of the auction. "We have not seen a Tanguy as important as that on the market for twenty years. It will certainly set a new record for the artist at auction." The title

of this work is both poignant and timely as it was painted towards the end of World War II in 1944, when Tanguy was living in exile in the United States, the year that Allied forces finally began the liberation of Europe, freeing the artist's beloved Paris. The painting features his highly distinctive imagery, a part marine and part lunar landscape in which amorphorous, nameless objects proliferate in a dream-space.



Joan Miró. *L'étoile*, 1927 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000)



Yves Tanguy, *Les derniers jours*, 1944 (estimate: (2,000,000-3,000,000))

The sale features seven works by Joan Miró, the highlight of which is *L'étoile* (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000), an oil on canvas painted in May-June 1927, a museum quality canvas by the artist and, arguably, the best work in the series of 16 white background 'dream paintings' that the artist produced in the late 1920s. Miro's dream paintings marked the beginning of his aim to 'escape' the conventional limitations of painting and to create work that related to and existed within what he referred to 'the absolute of nature'. *L'étoile*, a poetic painting of great visual power has been enjoyed by a number of celebrated collectors, including Rene Gaffé, Roland Penrose and later, the film director Billy Wilder, who kept it for 25 years until he died. *Peinture*, a large oil on celotex painted in 1937 (estimate: £500,000-700,000), the year of the Spanish Civil War, is a further highlight by the artist.

Profondeurs de la terre (estimate: £500,000-700,000), painted in 1930 and offered from a private European collection is a highly poetic rendition of a landscape by René Magritte, which leads a group of seven works by the artist in this auction. *Le baiser* (estimate: £250,000-350,000), a beautiful gouache by the artist depicting a bird enclosing a starry night-sky flying over a day-light seascape is expected to create excitement as these works are the most sought-after images by Magritte.

Seven works by Max Ernst are offered in the sale including *Trois jeunes filles en de belles poses*, painted in 1927 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and *Poire*, 1925, a rare early gouache and frottage (estimate: £50,000-80,000). Jean Arp is represented by a hand-painted wood relief of 1934, *Rencontre* (estimate: £150,000-200,000). Other Surreal works by Dalí, Delvaux, Dominguez, Richier, Bellmer, Fini, Klee, Man Ray, Wols and three wonderful early works on paper by Matta also feature.

The ***Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale*** on 8 February is led by number of important works offered from a Private Swiss Foundation. Highlights include Corot's *Chemin conduisant vers une maison dans la campagne* (estimate: £100,000-150,000), Klimt's *Donna anziana*, 1909 (estimate: £250,000-350,000) and a self-portrait by Vuillard, dated 1889 (estimate: £80,000-120,000). The sale features a strong Finnish art section, boasting works by all three of the great 20th century Finnish artists, Schjerfbeck, Edelfelt and Gallen-Kallela, with estimates ranging from £15,000 to £150,000. This sale will also offer a good selection of sculpture, from Rodin and Bourdelle to Archipenko and Miró.

Also on 8 February Christie's will offer a single owner sale, ***Property from the Dr Georg and Josi Guggenheim Collection, sold to benefit Charities and Institutions***. This collection is a testament to an 'adventure in art' over a period of 70 years by the Zurich based couple, Dr Georg and Josi Guggenheim, and is expected to fetch in the region of £2 million for causes supporting young artists. During their lifetime, the Doctor and his wife collected assiduously in the field of twentieth-century art. Important works from their collection have been donated to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, as well as museums in Basel and Zurich. Highlights from the 50 works offered in this sale include an Oskar Schlemmer canvas from 1935, *Kleine Sitzende in Schwarz* (estimate: £40,000-60,000), a pure white relief by Jean Arp, *Flocons aux rayons jaunes* (estimate: £70,000-100,000) and a Ben Nicholson collage of 1933, *Le petit provençal* (estimate: £150,000-250,000).

The ***Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper*** auction on 10 February is highlighted by an extremely sought-after Picasso crayon on paper. Witnessing his children playing with crayons in the 1940s and 1950s inspired Picasso to experiment with the medium and *Femme au Chapeau*, executed in the 1960s, demonstrates how Picasso brought this childhood medium to a new nobility, combining cubist elements with the spontaneity and vitality of a child's drawing (estimate: £150,000-200,000). Chagall's *The Ebony Horse*, a work on paper from 1946 in preparation for his series of works dedicated to the fable of the *Arabian Nights*, is an important offering in this sale (estimate: £150,000-200,000). The continuing strength of the modernist market has brought attention to a number of artists who have been overlooked in recent times. Perhaps the most important 'rediscovered' artist to feature at auction this season is Léon Spilliaert, the master of Belgian modernism. Renowned for his domestic scenes charged with suspended atmosphere, *Jeune femme de dos assise sur un tabouret*, executed in pastel, is a large-scale work and particularly notable for its evocative sense of stillness and mystery (estimate: £80,000-120,000).

Impressionist and 20th century art at Christie's London in February 2005

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening sale, 7 February

The Art of the Surreal Evening Sale, 7 February

Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale, 8 February

Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale, 9 February

Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper, 10 February

Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale, 10 February