

*For Immediate Release*

7 January 2004

Contact: Clare Roberts 020 7389 2117

[croberts@christies.com](mailto:croberts@christies.com)

**CHRISTIE'S FEBRUARY 2004 EVENING SALES TO MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION IN LONDON**

*Week of Sales Collectively Expected to Fetch £75 Million*



From left to right: Lyonel Feininger, *Zeitungsleser (Newspaper Readers II)* (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000) and Amedeo Modigliani *Portrait de Jeanne Hébuterne* (estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000).

**19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art Evening Sales**

2-4 February 2004

London – Christie's prestigious evening sales of 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century art will take place in early February 2004, offering a number of important works which have never appeared at auction before to an international audience of collectors. Impressionist and Modern Art and the Art of the Surreal will both take place on the evening of 2 February 2004, with Post-War and Contemporary Art on 4 February, and collectively are estimated to fetch in the region of £75 million.

“We have seen a distinct new pattern of buying over the last two seasons”, says Jussi Pylkkänen, director of the Impressionist and Modern Department. “While Impressionist works have continued to perform well and achieve successful prices, the most exceptional sums being paid are for the modern masters. The February 2004 Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale is rich in works central to the modern movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and, together with the fact that such a high proportion of works are totally fresh to the market, we expect demand to be strong this season”.

*The Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale comprises 44 lots and is set to achieve £38 million. The auction boasts a number of works that are totally fresh to the market, one of the finest of which is Lyonel Feininger's *Zeitungsleser (Newspaper Readers II)* (estimate: £2,500,000–3,500,000) an oil on canvas from 1916. This is, arguably, one of the most significant works from his mature years and is undoubtedly poised to establish a new world record for the artist (currently standing at £2,423,750 for *Die Grüne Brücke* sold at Christie's London in June 2001). Painted at a critical time in the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century painting, it shows strong influences of Cubism and Futurism, the most significant movements of the pre-war years. An infectiously happy work, the vibrant bright colours belie the fact that *Newspaper Readers II* was painted during the First World War. This was a period of great uncertainty and difficulty for Feininger, who as an American citizen living in the German Reich, felt increasingly nervous at the likelihood of the United States entering the war.*

*A highly prized painting offered in the evening sale is Amedeo Modigliani's *Portrait de Jeanne Hébuterne*, an oil on canvas from 1919 (estimate: £5,000,000–7,000,000). Never before seen at auction, this painting dates from the period during which Modigliani painted some of the greatest works of his entire career. This is especially true of those canvases that feature Jeanne and the poise and elegance with which the present work has been rendered show the artist's love and tenderness towards the sitter. Modigliani had met the young Jeanne, an art student, in 1917, and Jeanne was credited with tempering much of the artist's self-destructive passion. When Modigliani died in 1920 Jeanne was devastated and the very next morning, deciding that life without the artist was not a life at all for her, she threw herself from the window of her parent's flat.*

*The Evening Sale also boasts a major Henri Matisse 'cut-out', *La danse* (estimate: £3,000,000–4,000,000). Executed in 1938 and offered from a private collection, this cut-out dates from the period in which he produced his most iconic collages. *La danse* makes reference to the artist's masterpiece of the same name from 1910, yet presents it in a new form, celebrating his achievements of the past and his pioneering advances in the present.*

*Offered from a private European collection is Alfred Sisley's *La route de Marly-le-Roi* an oil on canvas painted in 1875 (estimate: £1,000,000–1,500,000). Sisley moved to Marly-le-Roi, a small town close to the Seine earlier that year and this is a classic plein-air painting executed at Sisley's prime. The provenance of the painting is distinguished, having been owned in its early years by two very significant collectors. It originally belonged to Léon Clapisson, the son of a composer of comic-operas and a patron of other Impressionist artists, including Renoir. Following Clapisson's death in 1894 it was acquired by François Depeaux, the Rouen industrialist who was Sisley's most prominent patron of the 1880s and 90s.*

*A highlight of the evening sale is Paul Cézanne's *Grand bouquet de fleurs* (estimate: £5,000,000–7,000,000) which was painted circa 1892–95, a period when he was beginning to gain recognition*

*from outside the limited bounds of the Impressionist circle and their friends. Most importantly, a relatively new dealer called Ambroise Vollard, through whose hands this painting first passed, began to take an interest in his work. Cézanne's experimental nature is clearly apparent in Grand bouquet de fleurs. During this period, he was painting many works indoors, benefitting from the perfect control of the environment that a studio afforded. However, he painted only about three dozen flower pictures during his life, and almost none of the others received the same painterly treatment as this. This museum quality canvas is also notable for the fact that it is totally fresh to the market.*

*Building on Christie's successes in the field of German and Austrian art, this sale will offer a number of high profile works from the property of The Wilhelm Reinold Collection. Wilhelm Reinold (1895-1979) lived in Hamburg and was a banker by profession. On his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday he received a Paul Klee drawing as a gift which inspired him to collect in the field of modern art. Over the next 19 years he acquired works with insight and knowledge, building an enviable collection and becoming an important art donor to Hamburg's most prestigious museums. Three works by Max Beckmann are highlights; *Frau mit Blumen* (estimate: £600,000-800,000), an oil on canvas painted in Amsterdam in 1940 which was acquired for the collection in 1967. Two earlier works offered are *Frühstückstisch (blau)*, painted in Berlin in 1934 (estimate: £180,000-250,000) and *Pic de l'Aigle*, painted in 1938 (estimate: £300,000-400,000). *Einschiffung* by Emil Nolde, an oil on canvas painted in 1911 (estimate: £200,000-300,000) and Pablo Picasso's *Dans l'Arène* (estimate: £400,000-600,000), an oil on card bull-fighting scene, executed in Barcelona in 1900, is also offered from the collection.*

*A major canvas by Pablo Picasso that marks the artist's reincarnation of his Cubist style in the 1920s is a major highlight. *Guitare sur un tapis rouge*, signed and dated 'Picasso 22' (estimate: £1,400,000-1,800,000), is one of a number of works executed when Picasso was holidaying in Dinard with his wife Olga and their son, Paolo. In the aftermath of the First World War, many artists encouraged a retour à l'ordre, and as a result Picasso honed his vision into a more restrained form of Cubism. The painting also reflects the fact that it was executed during a happy and stable period in his life; his marriage was unusually tranquil and he was enjoying newly found respect, wealth and fame as an artist. The intense and pure modernism of *Guitare sur un tapis rouge* is also reflected in its provenance—one of its earliest owners was Walter P. Chrysler, Jr, who had met Picasso during his travels in Europe. Chrysler was one of the greatest early pioneers and advocates of modern art in the United States, and also essentially founded the formidable Chrysler Museum of Art.*

*Following the successful results achieved for works from the collection of the Israel Phoenix Assurance Company over the past two years, the Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale will offer two major works from the collection. The highlight is Maurice de Vlaminck's Fauvist *Portrait de femme dans Le Rat Mort*, an oil on canvas painted circa 1905-6 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000). Also offered is *Buste de femme (Dora Maar)* an oil on canvas dated 1923 by Pablo*

*Picasso (estimate: £2,500,000–3,500,000). Two other important Fauve works are offered; Robert Delaunay's L'homme à la tulipe (Portrait de Jean Metzinger), an oil on canvas painted in 1906 is offered from a Private American collector (estimate: £1,500,000–2,500,000) and Danseuse aux bijoux (Anita) by Kees van Dongen, oil on canvas painted circa 1905 (estimate: £1,200,000–1,600,000)*

*Also featured is James Ensor's Les bons juges, an oil on panel painted in 1891, and a favourite painting of the artist which he hung in his own home for many years (estimate: £500,000–700,000). This museum quality painting has been housed in the same private collection for over 50 years.*

### *Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale*

*3 February*

*A group of paintings belonging to the Basler Kunstverein in Switzerland will be offered in the 3 February Impressionist & Modern Art day sale. The works are being sold by the Basler Kunstverein in order to fund a major renovation of the exhibition spaces at the Kunsthalle Basel. The Kunsthalle Basel, which opened in 1872, is one of the world's most renowned and proactive public cultural institutions dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art. The works to be offered include an important picture by Heinrich Campendonk, Innenraum (estimate: £180,000–240,000), painted in Germany in the aftermath of the First World War, and depicting a humble interior with a disconsolate central figure – quite possibly a self-portrait. Another picture from the Basler Kunstverein is James Ensor's Chou rouge et masques (estimate: £100,000–150,000), a riotous celebration of his favourite theme of carnival masks.*

*The Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale boasts a strong section of German and Austrian works. Foremost amongst these is a group of six paintings by the Viennese secessionist Koloman Moser, ranging in estimate from £8,000–12,000 to £80,000–120,000. Moser, also a celebrated designer, illustrator and teacher, was a friend of Gustav Klimt and a leading figure in the Austrian Jugendstil movement. The pictures have been consigned from the estate of Evelyn R. Press in San Francisco, having been originally acquired in Vienna in the 1920s and not seen in public since then.*

*A long-lost study by Max Liebermann for his masterpiece Laren Flachsscheuer in Laren of 1887 (Berlin, Nationalgalerie) will be included in the sale. Entitled Spinnerin (Estimate: £25,000–35,000), is a thrilling piece of extemporary modelling dealing with the central figure in the Berlin picture. An exquisite winter landscape by Gabriele Münter, Hütte im Schnee bei Kochel (estimate: £100,000–150,000), will also feature in the sale. Painted in February 1909, when Münter travelled to the Alpine town of Kochel with her lover Wassily Kandinsky. It has been in a private Californian collection since its purchase.*

*An early work by Helene Schjerfbeck Shadow on the Wall from 1883 (estimate: £300,000–400,000) is a further highlight. Painted in a park in Concarneau, just along the coast from Pont-*

*Aven, it is a rich and vibrant example of Schjerfbeck's early work which was executed when she was only twenty-one years old. The sale will also include a further charming work by Helene Schjerfbeck, a pencil and gouache drawing of a young girl reading (estimate: £50,000-70,000).*

#### *19th & 20th Century Works on Paper Day Sale*

*5 February*

*Christie's is the only UK auction house to offer dedicated sales of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century works on paper and the February 2004 sale will feature 137 lots, estimated to fetch in the region of £5 million. The sale boasts works from the masters of the period, from Giacometti and Léger to Signac and Vuillard, with estimates ranging from £3,000 to £280,000. A highlight of the auction is a private single owner collection of eleven works, collectively estimated to fetch £300,000. Amongst the most prized of the lots offered is Camille Pissarro's *La gardeuse d'oies* (estimate: £150,000-250,000), a stunning fan-shaped gouache on silk dating from 1890, which can be placed in the larger context of the japonisme movement which inspired the Parisian avant-garde from the 1860s onwards. Edouard Vuillard's *Jeune femme assise sous l'arbre dans le parc*, executed circa 1907 (estimate: £25,000-35,000), Fernand Leger's *Les femmes au vase*, circa 1952 (estimate: £50,000-70,000) and a gouache by Marino Marini, *Cavallo e cavaliere*, 1951 (estimate: £25,000-35,000) are all notable works in the collection.*

*A special section of the sale dedicated to works on paper by Picasso and Matisse, that explores their friendship and artistic collaboration, is a highlight. As early as 1918, the works of Matisse and Picasso polarized public opinion; while the recent exhibition of their works at the Tate Modern revived interest in the links between the artists, it was eighty five years earlier that an exhibition was first arranged explicitly to compare these two artists. The section will include a delicate drawing by Picasso *La femme au manteau*, 1919 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) (offered as part of the private single owner collection), a Picasso gouache, *Faune à moustache* from 1946 (estimate: £120,000-150,000), and a Matisse, ink on paper, portrait of a woman (estimate: £140,000-180,000) executed in Nice in October 1938.*

*The sale also features a superb work by Paul Cézanne, *Baigneur au bras écartés*, (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and a beautiful selection of Joan Miró watercolours and gouaches, with estimates ranging between £15,000 and £280,000.*

#### *Viewing*

*The Impressionist and Modern Art Evening and Day Sales will go on view from 30 January onwards.*

*\*\*\*Separate press releases are available for *The Art of the Surreal* on 2 February and *Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening and Day Sales* on 4 and 5 February 2004\*\*\**

*###*

*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's on the web at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*