

*For Immediate Release*

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**FROM THE ELUSIVE TO THE EROTIC: OLD MASTER AND 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
DRAWINGS AT CHRISTIE'S IN NEW YORK**

*Old Master and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Drawings*

*January 22, 2004*

*New York – On January 22, a fine selection of works on paper will be presented in the Old Master and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Drawings sale at Christie's Rockefeller Center. Works by Italian, Dutch, French and German draftsmen will cover a wide range of subject matter, including religious scenes, cityscapes, nudes and studies.*

*The sale commences with Italian works, led by the black and white chalk drawing Christ carrying the Cross, by Sebastiano Luciani, called Sebastiano del Piombo (1485-1547) (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). The drawing is a study for Sebastiano's painting Christ carrying the Cross, now in the Prado in Madrid. The painting was possibly commissioned by Luis Fernandez di Cordoba, Duke of Sessa, who was Emperor's Charles V's ambassador at the Papal court from 1522 to 1526. The drawing bears the characteristic inscription of the Viti-Antaldi Family Collection, a group of drawings that is thought to have been formed by Timoteo Viti, Raphael's last chief assistant and the executor of his estate.*

*Two very fine mountain views are Girolamo Muziano's A rocky gorge with a mill (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) and Domenico Campagnola's A town in a mountainous landscape (estimate: \$30,000-40,000). Both drawings reveal a sensitive hand and superb observation of detail, depicting roughness with an extreme velvety touch.*

*An arresting image is Il Parmigianino's A seated male nude and seated female nude (estimate: \$50,000–80,000). This drawing is one of a small group of erotic scenes that Parmigianino executed in the last decade of his life. Although this group was drawn in the 1530s, the inspiration for these scenes probably stems from his earlier years in Rome.*

*Guercino is represented by a small group of drawings including Saint John the Baptist (estimate: \$40,000–60,000), a study in red chalk; Cleopatra bitten by the asp (estimate: \$30,000–50,000); and the pen and brown ink drawing A man in a hat (estimate: \$10,000–15,000).*

*The cover lot of the sale is Pierre Puget's Two umbrella pines (estimate: \$30,000–50,000), a subtle drawing in pen and black ink. The depicted trees are typical of the Southern French vegetation and Puget possibly drew this work on his property in the Estaque, just outside Marseilles. Intertwined trunks as shown in this drawing, are a recurrent theme in Puget's oeuvre.*

*The sale offers two works by Jean Baptiste Greuze: A standing man leaning to the right (estimate: \$20,000–30,000), which is a study of the bridegroom for Greuze's painting The Marriage Contract, and A nude woman standing by an urn (estimate: \$40,000–50,000), a study for his painting The Two Sisters.*

*Several examples of Dutch draftsmanship will be presented, and one of the most intriguing examples is a recto/verso pen, ink and wash drawing by Abraham Bloemaert that depicts a very intricate and detailed view of the interior of a stable on one side, and a strikingly simple and lone-standing tree on the verso (estimate: \$30,000–50,000). Apart from the splendid technique, it is the juxtaposition of the crowded interior with the solitary tree that gives this drawing a special attraction.*

*By Abraham Rutgers is the View of Gouda with the Janskerk in the center and the Tiendwegspoor to the right (estimate: \$20,000–30,000). Although a textile merchant by profession, Rutgers was a fine topographical draftsman and the majority of his views, datable from 1680 to 1700, depict the southern part of the Vecht region where his family owned property. The Dutch section further includes an important unpublished drawing of a landscape by Rembrandt's pupil Philip Koninck (estimate: \$20,000–30,000).*

*The sale will end with a fine collection of bodycolor landscapes and watercolors of birds. This very attractive group of bird drawings was drawn in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century by Aert Schouman (estimates from \$3,000 to \$5,000). Most of the drawings depict exotic birds that Schouman would have seen in private zoos in Holland. The group probably stayed together since Schouman's studio sale in 1793, which explains the mint condition.*

*Auction: Old Master and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Drawings*

*January 22 at 10 a.m.*

*Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center*

*January 17 - 21*

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*Images available on request*

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