

For Immediate Release

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**EXCEPTIONAL WORKS BY IMPRESSIONIST, MODERN,
GERMAN, AUSTRIAN & SURREALIST MASTERS LEAD
CHRISTIE'S FEBRUARY SALES**



Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920)
La fille au beret, 1918
Estimate: £3,000,000-4,000,000



Egon Schiele (1890-1918)
Prozession, 1911
Estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000



René Magritte (1898-1967),
La prêtre marié, 1961
Estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000

Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale

Christie's King Street

Tuesday, 6 February 2007 at 6pm

London – Following Christie's record-breaking Impressionist & Modern Art sale in New York in November 2006, the world's leading art business will present the largest ever London Evening Sale of **Impressionist & Modern Art** on 6 February 2007. Incorporating a section dedicated to The Art of the Surreal, the sale features 130 exceptional and highly-coveted works from the seminal masters of Impressionism, Modern, Surrealist, German & Austrian Art and is estimated in the region of £75 million.

"In 2006, Christie's led the Impressionist & Modern Art market with record sales in New York and London," said **Jussi Pylkkänen and Olivier Camu, Co-Heads of Impressionist & Modern Art, Christie's London.** *"We begin 2007 with the largest Evening Sale of Impressionist & Modern Art ever staged at Christie's in London which presents to the market one of the finest and most comprehensive overviews of this collecting field."*

Leading the German & Austrian section is Egon Schiele's (1890-1918) *Prozession*, 1911 (estimate: £5,000,000-7,000,000). This painting is one of a great series of quasi-religious paintings that Schiele produced at the height of a period of mystical revelation between 1910 and early 1912. Common to all of them is the oppressive autumnal atmosphere of death and decay that shocked many of Schiele's contemporaries and saw him considered the enfant terrible of his generation. Schiele's self portrait, *Selbstbildnis mit gespreizten Fingern* (estimate: £4,000,000-6,000,000) was painted in 1909, the year of Schiele's great breakthrough to artistic maturity. Although only nineteen years old Schiele's prodigious talent had already asserted itself to the point where he had become recognised by Gustav Klimt and many others as one of the greatest hopes for the future of Austrian art

Schiele's colourful 1911 study of his youngest sister sleeping in *Die Träumende (Gerti Schiele)*, 1911 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000) combines bold colourful design with a closely observed scrutiny of his sister's delicate features; revealing a powerful psychological portrait of the inner life of a human being as expressed through the exterior contours of their body. In *Bildnis einer Frau mit schwarzem Haar* executed in 1914, smouldering sexuality seems to underpin every brush stroke (estimate: £750,000-950,000).

Further German Art highlights include two significant works by Alexej von Jawlensky (1864-1941). *Blasse Blüten*, 1911 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,600,000) shows a woman who is adorned with blossom, her eyes almost closed and her head bowed and *Kopf einer Italienerin mit schwarzem Haar von vorne* from circa 1910 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000) is a striking colourist depiction of Alexej von Jawlensky's favourite subject-- the human face.

Leading a selection of three works by Wassily Kandinsky (1896-1944), *Diagonale* was painted in May 1930 (estimate: £850,000-1,200,000) and is a masterfully executed composition made at the height of his involvement with the Bauhaus in May 1930. Two further watercolours by the artist include *Ohne Titel*, 1915-1916 (estimate: £300,000-400,000) and *Schweres zwischen Leichtem*, executed in June 1924 (estimate: £300,000-500,000).

Other celebrated German artists in the sale include two works by Christian Schad (1894-1982). *Fräulein Mulino von Kluck* is the very first of Schad's portraits of the 1930s (estimate: £450,000-600,000). Painted in Berlin in 1930, it depicts the aspiring film star Mulino von Kluck, the attractive 18 year-old daughter of the well-known Prussian General Alexander von Kluck. An important painting which established the pattern that most of Schad's work would follow, *Frau aus Pozzuoli* (estimate: £500,000-700,000) depicts an unknown proletarian woman from Pozzuoli in Naples. Also offered is Emil Nolde's (1867-1956) *Junges Paar*, 1918 (estimate: £700,000-1,000,000), a work that epitomises his philosophical and aesthetical reflection on the antithesis of gender - a subject which lay at the core of his work in 1918.

Leading the Impressionist & Modern Art section of the sale is the beautiful pastel by Edgar Degas (1834-1917), *L'épine (Femme se soignant le pied)*, circa 1883-1885 which captures a woman

in one of her most intimate moments alone in her softly-lit bedroom attending to her pedicure (estimate: £700,000-1,000,000). Paul Cézanne's (1839-1906) superb watercolour *Sous-bois (recto)*; *Chapeau et fleurs dans une bouteille (verso)* (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000) will be offered alongside his 1879 painting *Femme assise* (estimate: £2,300,000-2,800,000) which appears at auction for the first time.

The sale also includes two magnificent portraits by Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920) which both appear at auction for the first time. *Homme au chapeau, circa 1915* (estimate: £2,700,000-3,400,000) recalls the portraits of Cézanne, whose influence was felt by many artists active in Paris at the beginning of the twentieth century. Contrasting against the slightly rough and non-conformist air of the young man who would have been perfectly suited to the atmosphere of Modigliani's notoriously hedonistic life in Paris, *La fillette au béret* (estimate: £3,000,000-4,000,000) painted in 1918 by the artist, attempts to capture the essence, purity and emotion of childhood. Celebrating Paris at night, the rich colours and extravagant clothing depicted in Kees van Dongen's (1877-1968) *Le chapeau bleu, circa 1910-1912* hints that this may be one of the dancers or other women of this infamous section of society (estimate £1,000,000-1,500,000).

The themes of childhood and family were a constant source of fascination for Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) who painted *La leçon (Bielle, l'institutrice et Claude Renoir lisant)* in circa 1906. The painting depicts a young female teacher reading together with two children, one of whom is believed to be Claude or Coco, the third son of Renoir who was born in 1901 (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000). In the work Renoir explores his love of family life and the theme of women, for which he is most celebrated. This is particularly evident in *Madame Thurneysen, 1908* which is a rich and absorbing portrayal of womanhood (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). The painting marks the beginning of a long friendship between Renoir and Dr Fritz and Barbara Thurneysen who later possessed one of the two most important collections of Renoir in the world. Elsewhere in the sale, Renoir's exuberant celebration of life and nature is demonstrated in two lively landscapes *Saules et personnages dans une barque* (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000).

From the celebrated Art Foundation of Doctor Gustav Rau is Gino Severini's (1881-1966) bold landscape *Paesaggio di Civray, 1908* (estimate: £750,000-950,000). Another vibrant river landscape in the sale is Maurice de Vlaminck's (1876-1958) *Le Remorqueur à Chatou* painted circa 1907 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) which is an explosion of primary colours. Aristide Maillol's (1861-1944) beautiful bronze of a reclining female nude, *La Rivière, sans socle* (estimate: £900,000-1,300,000) was commissioned in 1938 as a monument to the writer Henri Barbusse (1873-1935). Painted in 1872, *Le repos sous les arbres* (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) dates from the height of Camille Pissarro's (1830-1903) early Impressionism. This masterpiece of a landscape is suffused with a cool and crisp light, filled with the freshness of the countryside.

Fernand Léger (1881-1955) is represented in the sale with one of his rare and iconic *contraste de forme* paintings. Reinventing and challenging the landscape, *Les maisons dans les arbres*, 1914 (estimate £2,800,000–3,500,000) reflects the artist's interest in the dynamic world of modernity and abandons the aesthetics and sentiment of earlier ages which were rife in Paris at the time.

For Pablo Picasso (1881-1973), the act of artistic creation was an addiction, a necessity. The large selection of works offered in the sale provide milestones from throughout his life exploring a variety of themes and emotions. Fusing order with the informality of Cubism, Picasso's large still-life *Compotier et guitare*, painted in 1927-1929 (estimate: £1,100,000-1,600,000) reflects his interest in the Purism of Léger amongst others. His 1937 night-time still-life *Nature morte* was painted the day before the planes of the German Condor Legion bombed the Basque town of Guernica (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000). The bold fields of colour in *Femme dans un rocking-chair* painted in 1956 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) recall the late cut-outs of Matisse, who had died only two years earlier. Completing the Picasso selection is *Mousquetaire assis* painted in Mougins in April 1967 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000).

The sale also features a superb work filled with rhythm and colour by Henri Matisse (1869-1954), *La danse* which was executed in 1938 just one year after he had first embarked on a new course using paper cut-outs (estimate: £1,800,000-2,500,000). From Joan Miró (1893-1983) is an extraordinary gouache on paper composition which is approximately 6 metres long and was the project for the façade of the Willhelm - Hack Museum in Germany (estimate: £1,400,000-1,800,000).

A selection of 9 works by René Magritte (1898-1967) leads **The Art of the Surreal** section of the Evening Sale on 6 February 2006. The mysterious and looming *Le prêtre marié* by Magritte appears at auction for the first time (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000). Painted in 1961, Magritte depicts two masked apples which appear to consort together in a barren and treeless desert. Magritte first explored the theme of the masked apple in 1946 and found it fascinating, revisiting it several times. Showing a rare attachment to the present picture, Magritte voiced his hope to Harry Torczyner that the intended buyer of the painting would not come and collect it; Torczyner subsequently relayed to the buyer that the painting was finished, upon which the work was quickly collected to Magritte's dismay. Another painting by Magritte is the exciting rediscovery, *Le promenoir des amants* (estimate: £300,000-500,000), an early and fascinating painting from 1929-1930 by the Surrealist master.

A group of four works by Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1978) is led by *Fin de combat I; Combattimento (Gladiatori)*, painted 1930-31 (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000) which is one of the last of a series of gladiatorial paintings that recurred throughout de Chirico's work of the late 1920s and early 1930s. The gladiatori works were often intended as a satire on the characters of the art world who, since his violent split with Breton and the Paris Surrealists, had also

turned against him. Other works by de Chirico's include *Il trovatore*, 1960 (estimate: £400,000-500,000) and an extremely rare *Canto d'Amore*, painted in the early 1960s (estimate: £250,000-350,000) which is a later version of the subject which influenced so many Surrealist artists.

The sale includes two works from one of the major exponents of Surrealism in Belgium, Paul Delvaux (1897-1994). *Les filles de la forêt*, 1928 (estimate: £300,000-400,000) is an early poetic forest landscape with nude women and *La ville des sables*, 1977 (estimate: £350,000-550,000), a striking work which evokes many of the mysteries and central themes of Delvaux's oeuvre.

Also offered is a very large *transparence* by Francis Picabia (1879-1953) *Lodola* from 1930-31 (estimate: £250,000-350,000) and a fantastic selection of works by Man Ray (1890-1976) including *L'arbre est une rose*, 1938 (estimate: £200,000-300,000); *The Artificial Florist*, 1943 (estimate: £150,000-200,000) and *The Wall*, 1938 (estimate: £200,000-300,000). A group of works by Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) are led by *Le voyage fantastique*, 1965 (estimate: £240,000-340,000) and a selection of work by Max Ernst (1891-1976) are led by *Fleurs sur fond vert*, painted in 1928 (estimate: £250,000-350,000).

Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale: Wednesday, 7 February 2007 at 2.00pm

“As the New York sales in November demonstrated there continues to be high demand for good quality works in the mid-range price brackets in the day sale,” said **Jay Vincze, Head of Sale**. *“The Impressionists and their followers continue to attract high levels of interest, while early twentieth century modernism generates competition at all levels of the market. In addition, the emergence of new buyers in Russia, the Middle East and the Far East continues to fuel interest in the sale.”*

Highlights include Marc Chagall's *Les musiciens*, circa 1980 (estimate: £350,000-450,000), Fernand Léger's *Nature morte aux deux poissons*, 1947 (estimate: £300,000-400,000) and Chaim Soutine's *Portrait de Madame X* (estimate: £300,000-400,000). Forming the core of the Modernist section of works is a superb group from the collection of Christian Fischbacher, a Swiss art collector and connoisseur. Leading this collection is Ben Nicholson's, *Still Life (Mount's Bay)*, 1947 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and Georges Rouault's exceptional work *Théodora* (estimate: £150,000-250,000); as well as *Neo-plastic composition, no.5* (estimate: £100,000-150,000) by César Domela and László Moholy-Nagy's *LII*, 1936 (estimate: £80,000-120,000).

Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper: Thursday, 8 February 2007 at 10:30 am

“The niche market for Impressionist and Modern works on paper continues to be very strong with dedicated private collectors who value high quality masterpieces that are frequently fresh to the market,” said **Liberté Nuti, Head of Sale**.

Leading the sale is an outstanding collection of seventy drawings by Marc Chagall, originally owned by the artist's son, including a striking portrait of Chagall's wife and muse, *Bella*, from circa 1920 (estimate: £40,000-60,000) and costume designs such as *Etude de costume pour le ballet opera 'Nidjinska' (Le corsaire)*, 1967 (estimate: £18,000-22,000). This collection offers a wide variety of early works which are not only rare but fresh to the market, with estimates starting at just £5,000.

Other highlights in the sale include Pablo Picasso's portrait of Dora Maar, *Femme allongée*, 1938 (estimate: £200,000-300,000); Joan Miró's *Personnage*, 1981 (estimate: £200,000-300,000), which is one of three playful works to be offered by the artist and Paul Gauguin's *La Bretonne de profil à droite*, 1886 (estimate: £80,000-120,000). In the Surrealist section of the sale works by Yves Tanguy, Paul Delvaux, Hans Bellmer and Salvador Dalí will be offered including his *Feuille d'études*, 1937 (estimate: £40,000-60,000).

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A selection of images is available on request

Notes to Editors

International Exhibition Tour of Select Highlights

- 17 & 18 January 2007: Deutsche Bank AG, Adolphsplatz 7, Hamburg
- 20 & 21 January 2007: Christie's, Giesebrechtstrasse 10, Berlin
- 23 & 24 January 2007: The Brazilian Court, Café Boulud, 301 Australian Avenue in Palm Beach, Florida, USA
- 26-28 January 2007: Christie's Rockefeller Centre, New York

Christie's London Auctions in February 2007 of Impressionist & Modern Art and Post War & Contemporary Art:

- Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale followed by The Art of the Surreal : Tuesday, 6 February 2007 at 6:00 pm
- Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale: Wednesday, 7 February 2007 at 2.00pm
- Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper: Thursday, 8 February 2007 at 10:30 am
- Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale: Thursday, 8 February 2007 at 7:00 pm
- Post-War and Contemporary Art Day Sale: Friday, 9 February 2007 at 10:30 am

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global sales in 2005 that totaled \$3.2 billion. It is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.