

For Immediate Release

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**IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART & THE ART OF THE SURREAL
TOTAL £39,651,070 AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON TONIGHT**

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale & The Art of the Surreal

Christie's London

2 February 2004

London – Christie's evening sales of Impressionist and Modern Art and The Art of the Surreal were held in London tonight and achieved a combined total of £39,651,070 (\$72,244,249 /€57,930,213). The top price tonight was set by Paul Cézanne's Grand bouquet de fleurs, painted circa 1892-95, which realized £4,485,250(\$8,172,126/€6,552,950).

“Christie's sale this evening of Impressionist and Modern Art achieved one of the most successful totals ever in London, with vibrant bidding throughout,” commented Jussi Pylkkänen, tonight's auctioneer, International Director of 19th and 20th Century Art Department and Deputy Chairman of Christie's UK. “The market overall has great depth and we saw very strong activity throughout all the varied sections of the sale. Particularly sought after areas continue to be Modernist works, in particular for German paintings and the Surrealist market continues to develop with our strongest sale ever staged this evening. We also saw an encouraging number of newer collectors participating this evening and this bodes well for the upcoming sales in 2004.”

The total for the Impressionist and Modern Art Evening sale was £30,267,650 (\$55,147,658 /€44,221,036). Buyer activity was 73% from the UK and Europe, 21% from the Americas, 3% from Asia and 3% from others. The sale was 75% sold by lot and 69% sold by value. This is the fourth highest sale total ever achieved in London in the category at Christie's. Twenty lots, well over two thirds of the works offered in the Impressionist and Modern sale this evening, sold for over \$1 million, an unprecedented figures in London sales. Five further works sold for over £1 million in the Art of the Surreal sale.

A new world record was established at auction for Lyonel Feininger when his outstanding Zeitungsleser (Newspaper Readers II) sold for £2469,250 (\$4,498,974 /€3,607,574). Arguably, one of the most significant works from his mature years, it was painted at a critical time in the history of 20th century painting, and shows strong influences of Cubism and Futurism, the most

significant movements of the pre-war years. A new world record at auction was also established for the artist James Ensor tonight, when *Les bons juges*, an oil painted in 1891, sold for £733,250 (\$1,335,982/€1,071,278).

Building on Christie's ongoing successes in the field of German and Austrian art, this sale offered a number of high profile works from the property of The Wilhelm Reinold Collection. Highlights from the collection included Max Beckmann's *Frau mit Blumen*, an oil on canvas painted in Amsterdam in 1940 that achieved £1,517,250 (\$2,764,430 /€2,216,702), almost three times the pre-sale estimate. Pablo Picasso's *Dans l'Arène*, an oil on card bull-fighting scene, executed in Barcelona in 1900, was also offered from the collection and realized £946,050 (\$1,723,703 /€1,382,179), again well ahead of pre-sale expectations. Further highlights of German and Austrian works in the sale include *Danseuse aux bijoux (Anita)* by Kees van Dongen, an oil on canvas painted circa 1905 which sold for £1,461,250 (\$ 2,617,576/€2,098,945). The results this evening showed the continuing demand for the very best German works of art.

Further paintings by Picasso also sold strongly including the major canvas which marks the artist's reincarnation of his Cubist style in the 1920s. *Guitare sur un tapis rouge* sold for £1,797,250 (\$3,274,590 /€2,625,782).

The *Art of the Surreal* totalled £9,383,420 (\$17,096,591 /€13,709,177) tonight, the highest ever total for this category at Christie's. The sale was led by Max Ernst's *La fuite* which sold for £990,850 (\$ 1,805,329/€1,447,632). This was the fourth annual dedicated sale of *The Art of the Surreal* and demonstrates Christie's dominance in the category.

A number of important works by René Magritte were sold tonight with the highest price of £990,850 (\$ 1,805,329/€1,447,632) bid for the gouache, *Le retour*, establishing a record for a work on paper by the artist. Executed in 1950, the composition depicts a bird, painted sky blue with clouds, soaring over a tranquil night seascape. *Le trait d'union (hyphen)*, painted in 1942, realized £587,650 (\$1,070,698 /€858,557), and was another notable result for the artist this evening.

Hans Arp's *Configuration (Suivant la loi du hasard)*, executed in 1932, sold for £397,250 (\$ 723,790/€ 580,382). The relief was offered from the collection of the Basler Kunstverein in Switzerland and was sold in order to fund a major renovation of the exhibition spaces at the Kunsthalle Basel. Further works from the collection will be sold in the *Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale* tomorrow.

Buyer activity in *The Art of the Surreal* was 76.5% from the UK and Europe, and 13.5% other. The sale was 79% sold by lot and 75% sold by value.

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Images available on request

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