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STRIKING AN IMPRESSION AT CHRISTIE'S

Christie's Evening Sale Totals £61.6 Million / US\$108.2 Million / €90 Million

- Strong German and Austrian Art and Surrealist Art Sections Contribute to Success
- Christie's Sets 7 New World Auction Record Prices

London – Christie's evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* tonight incorporating two dedicated sections, *German and Austrian Art* and *The Art of the Surreal*, achieved a total of £61,645,200 (\$108,186,970/€90,063,637). The top selling lot was Chaïm Soutine's powerful *Le boeuf écorché, circa 1924*, which realised £7,848,000 (\$13,773,240/€11,465,928), and set a new world auction record for the artist. A further seven new world auction record prices and five new world auction record prices for the medium were also set during the evening.

"Christie's evening sale was the strongest of its type for many years and clearly reflects the current continued strength of the market," commented Jussi Pykkänen, President of Christie's Europe and tonight's auctioneer. "The market is strong yet still selective, with outstanding quality and works fresh to the market fuelling fierce competition. While European collectors continue to dominate, we are also seeing bidding activity from collectors in America as well as Asia, the Middle East and Russia, making this a particularly exciting and lively marketplace."

Registered buyer activity in the *Impressionist and Modern Art* sale including *German and Austrian Art* and *The Art of the Surreal* was 74% from the UK and Europe, 24% from the Americas and 2% from Asia. The sale was 74% sold by lot and 85% sold by value. Twenty-seven works sold for over \$1 million in the *Impressionist and Modern Art* evening sale.

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Christie's was the first auction house in 1993 to hold a themed sale dedicated to German and Austrian Art and the section this evening reaffirmed Christie's strength in this area realising £24.5 million. Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's double-sided canvas *Frauenbildnis in weissem Kleid* (Woman in a white dress) 1908, considered to be one of his finest early paintings and on the reverse, *Adam und Eva*, painted by Kirchner in 1911, was the top lot in the *German and Austrian Art* section, and selling for £4,936,000 (\$8,662,680/€7,211,496) and setting a new world auction record for the artist. A masterful drawing by Egon Schiele's *Kniender weiblicher Halbakt* (Kneeling female half-nude), 1917, sold for £4,152,000 (\$7,286,760/€6,066,072), setting a new auction record for the artist in this medium while a large and colourful painting by Heinrich Campendonk's *Kub Mit Kalb*, 1914, made £1,688,000 (\$2,962,440/€2,466,168), and set a new world auction record for the artist. Other notable lots were Alexej von Jawlensky's portrait of his partner, Helene Neznakomova, *Dunkle Augen*, 1912, which sold for £3,144,000 (\$5,517,720/€4,593,384) and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's powerful and energetic painting *Strassenszene*, 1914/1922, which made £2,136,000 (\$3,748,680/€3,120,696). A newly discovered oil and one of George Grosz's first oil paintings *Caféhaus*, 1915, realised £904,000 (\$1,586,520/€1,320,744).

Christie's commitment and focus to Surrealist art continues. Christie's has held annual sales of *The Art of the Surreal* since February 2001, establishing current auction records for many major surrealist artists. The top lot in *The Art of the Surreal* section that totalled £10.7 million was Salvador Dalí's *Galatée*, 1954-1956, which sold for £1,464,000 (\$2,569,320/€2,138,904), and portrays Dalí's wife and muse, Gala, in the guise of a classical Greek beauty Galatea. Another world auction record was established for André Masson's *Vue emblématique de Tolède*, 1933-39, considered one of the most important paintings by the artist to come up at auction, which made £1,016,000 (\$1,783,080/€1,484,376). Other notable lots include Giorgio de Chirico superb early metaphysical painting, *I pesci sacri*, 1919 (The Sacred Fish), which realized £1,240,000 (\$2,176,200/€1,811,640), and Joan Miró's spectacular *Untitled*, circa 1934, which sold for £792,000 (\$1,389,960/€1,157,112).

A total of seven world auction records were established for works by Chaïm Soutine, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Heinrich Campendonk, Felix Vallotton, André Masson, Georg Kolbe, Oscar Domínguez, and five world auction records for the medium for works by Egon Schiele, Gino Severini, Kathe Kollwitz, Hans Bellmer and Auguste Macke.

Sales continue tomorrow.

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Images available on request

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