

**For Immediate Release**

March 5, 2007

Contact: Sara Fox 212.636.2680 [sfox@christies.com](mailto:sfox@christies.com)

**CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK PRINTS & MULTIPLES LEADS WITH THE  
GUARDSMARK COLLECTION**

**Important Group of Toulouse-Lautrec Prints From A Private Collection**

**Prints and Multiples — May 1, 2007**

**New York** — Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of *Important Belle Époque Prints: The Guardsmark Collection* to be offered at auction on May 1 in New York. With an emphasis on rarity and condition, the Guardsmark collection brings some of the finest examples in late 19<sup>th</sup> century printmaking to the market. Some of the most important works by Toulouse-Lautrec from this private collection are at the core of the sale, including a comprehensive set of his posters, as well as important works by Vuillard and Bonnard.

Mr. Ira A. Lipman, the founder of Guardsmark, LLC, maintained the collection in Memphis in museum standard conditions, and used the same principles in his art collecting as he did in business: excellence and perfection, accepting nothing less than the best. Mr. Lipman cultivated his interest in prints through the advisement of the late Alfred Isselbacher, one of the pre-eminent New York print dealers whose gallery was on Madison Avenue.

Mr. Lipman commented, "My interest in art is untrained—like a person who plays the piano by ear. The work of Lautrec appeals to me through its colors and brilliance and through the keen social commentary it offers on turn-of-the-century Paris. His posters are extremely historical and provide great insight into life during that period. He truly captures the essence of the carefree era known as La Belle Époque."

Although Mr. Lipman's collecting habits started in 1958 when he purchased a Modigliani reproduction at a department store, Lautrec's *Le Divan Japonais* was his first purchase for the Guardsmark collection in 1975 (estimate: \$50,000-70,000). Bought from the Isselbacher Gallery, he

was attracted to the colors and considered the subject of Jane Avril watching Yvette Guilbert perform to be peaceful.

Lautrec defined Parisian night life with his advertisement posters which gained recognition for their aesthetic value during the Belle Époque period. A wonderful example of these theatre advertisements is *La Gitane* — an extremely rare poster in superb condition and one of only 11 exist in public collections (estimate: \$380,000-420,000). The complete set of *Elles* is offered in impeccable condition, from the edition of 100, depicting intimate interior scenes of women (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000).

From Vuillard is a rare and complete set of *Paysages et Interieurs* in which the artist skillfully portrays the epitome of printmaking technique with the beautiful colors in these interior scenes (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Bonnard's *Quelques Aspects de la Vie de Paris* is a series of 12 prints illustrating iconic Parisian imagery (estimate: \$200,000-300,000). Moving up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century is a complete unfolded set of Matisse's *Jazz* — the rarest condition to find at market, demonstrating the collector's eye for perfection (estimate: \$400,000-600,000).

**Auction:** *Important Belle Époque Prints: The Guardsmark Collection*

May 1 at 5:00pm

**Viewing:** Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

April 27 – 30

### About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totaled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. This 36% increase over 2005 marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's 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.

###

*Images available on request*

*Visit Christie's Web site at [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)*

More information about Christie's sale of *Important Belle Époque Prints: The Guardsmark Collection* can be found on [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com). All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

