

**For Immediate Release**

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**PARISIAN COUNTESS LEADS CHRISTIE'S SPRING SALE OF  
19th CENTURY EUROPEAN ART**

**19<sup>th</sup> Century European Art**

April 8, 2008



**New York** – Christie's sale of 19th Century European Art on April 8 will showcase a full spectrum of genres and styles including the superb *Portrait of the Comtesse de Greffulhe* by Jacques Emile Blanche (*image above*); exquisite paintings by Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot and Jehan Georges Vibert; a stunning Italian marble carving; thirty carefully selected landscapes from the Barbizon School; and exciting Sporting Art paintings from the Los Angeles Turf Club, Inc.

*Portrait of the Comtesse Greffulhe* by Jacques Emile Blanche (estimate: \$400,000-600,000) is an exquisite portrait of a remarkable woman. Blanche was one of the foremost portrait painters of Belle Epoque Paris. Comtesse de Greffulhe was no exception as she was one of the most famous of women to

dominate the cultural scene in Paris. Born Princesse Elisabeth de Charaman-Chimay, she married to the scion of a Belgian banking family. The Comtesse was famous for her salons where she entertained Paris society in her beautiful home in the company of artists Rodin, Whistler and Sargent, composers Debussy and Stravinsky, and writers Proust and Maeterlinck. She is said to be one of Proust's models for the Duchess of Guermantes in *A la recherche du temps perdu*.



Another important highlight is a whimsical scene of *La ceinture du grand-papa* (Grandpa's Sash) by Jehan Georges Vibert (*image left*- estimate: \$150,000-250,000). Vibert was a master of painting anecdotal scenes such as this one that takes place in a Spanish courtyard on a theme of 'how things turn in the universe.'

### The Sleeping Child

Antonio Tantardini's *Two Children in a Crib - A Risogimento Allegory* (*image right*- estimate: \$150,000-200,000) is a rare example of Tantardini's exceptional carving skills. He is considered one of the best master carvers in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Italy. Lesser sculptors might never have attempted to carve a life size wicker crib out of marble, but Tantardini clearly relished the challenge. Although the identity of the two children in the sculpture is unknown, the carved initials *AR* on the crib may relate to the Realini family. They are meant to represent the future of the new united Italy.



### Barbizon, Realist and French Landscape Paintings



Among the important examples of the Barbizon School is Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot's *Un port de mer en Bretagne* (*image left*-estimate: \$300,000-500,000). Corot's panoramic painting reflects a late afternoon on the northern coast of France. The setting is serene yet colorful because of Corot's brilliant effect of bathing the small town in a clear silvery light.

### Property from the Los Angeles Turf Club, Inc.

A group of sporting paintings from the Los Angeles Turf Club Inc. is led by John Frederick Herring's *The Water Place* (estimate: \$25,000-35,000) and *The Farmyard* (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). Guiseppe Gabani's *The Derby Reale* (*image right*- estimate: \$80,000-120,000) is a complex derby scene with a beautifully detailed crowd. Gabani captured the exciting mood of the races by painting colored parasols for the women and enhanced the grandeur with the landscape receding towards the distant mountains.



**Auction:** *19th Century European Art*

April 8, 2008

**Viewing:** Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

April 4- April 7

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\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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*Images available on request*

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