

*For Immediate Release*

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**EXTRAORDINARY WORKS BY EDWARD S. CURTIS, PAUL STRAND,  
ALEXANDER RODCHENKO AND OTHERS LEAD CHRISTIE'S SPRING  
SALE OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

*Photographs*

*April 22, 2003*

*New York – A nearly complete set of Edward S. Curtis' The North American Indian and a small selection of very rare Curtis orotones are among the highlights of Christie's Photographs sale on April 22 at Rockefeller Center. The sale also will bring to the market a number of other rare and important works, including prints by Paul Strand, Alexander Rodchenko, Frantisek Drtikol and Robert Frank.*

*Edward S. Curtis (1868–1954) began his career as a portrait photographer in Seattle in 1891, the same year that the U.S. Bureau of Census declared the frontier officially closed. His ambition to document in text and photographs every Indian tribe west of the Mississippi was realized in large part with the aid of President Theodore Roosevelt, whose children Curtis had photographed for a national magazine. Roosevelt arranged an introduction to the wealthy and powerful J.P. Morgan, who financed Curtis' enormous expedition and project, a five-year assignment that became a 30-year odyssey during which Curtis photographed 80 tribes and produced 40,000 negatives. The final result was The North American Indian, a massive effort that comprised 20 text volumes illustrated with approximately 1,500 images, and 20 corresponding portfolios each with approximately 35 plates.*

*Christie's is offering one of the very few nearly complete sets of The North American Indian, 1907-1930. Eighteen of the 20 portfolios extant are being offered separately, with estimates ranging from \$5,000-\$7,000 to \$60,000-\$80,000 each. Eighteen text volumes will be offered as one lot, estimated at \$60,000-\$80,000.*

*The sale also will include five exquisite Curtis orotones, including Chief of the Desert, c. 1904-5 (est. \$15,000-20,000), and The Oath, ca. 1908 (estimate: \$15,000-20,000), from the collection of environmentalist and popular author Harold Bell Wright.*

*Paul Strand, who was at the forefront of modernist photography in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, only to gradually find his ideal of beauty and decorum in images of artifact and nature more than half a century later, is represented in the sale by Corea, House on a Hill, New England, 1945, (estimate: \$70,000-90,000). A composition that betrays hints of his earlier modernist work, this unique print was made during a period in which Strand created emblematic images of New England's architecture and regional attributes. Another important Strand work, Mullen in Rain, Maine, 1927, (estimate: \$60,000-80,000), from a private collection, is one of only two known prints of the image; the other extant print is in the collection of the Paul Strand Archive.*

*Alexander Rodchenko, one of the most versatile Constructivist artists to emerge from the Russian Revolution and a leader of the Russian avant-garde, is represented in the sale by two important images. He often used bold and unusual perspectives to render images of daily life, as seen in the diagonally shot Sokolniki Park, Winter, Hockey, 1929 (est. \$90,000-120,000). Pushkin Square, Mayday illuminations, Tverskaia, 1932 (estimate: \$80,000-100,000) is a diptych that, like the previous image, was produced for the book Two Moscows, which combined Rodchenko's slice-of-life images of "new Moscow" with a series of classic caricature drawings of "old Moscow."*

*Czech photographer Frantisek Drtikol's work, mainly portraits and nude photographs, reflects the late 19th Century decorative style as well as the signs of a new age symbolized by geometric backgrounds and the movement of the age. His Step II, 1929 (estimate: \$30,000-50,000) is a rare pigment print that epitomizes his use of subject and angle.*

*The April 22 sale at Rockefeller Center will also include two rare, oversized Robert Frank prints: Charleston, South Carolina, 1956 (estimate: \$40,000-60,000), the well-known image of the black nurse holding a white baby from "The Americans," and Platte River, Tennessee, 1960 (estimate: \$25,000-35,000).*

*Twelve Irving Penn images from a Swiss private collection include Frozen Foods (With String Beans), New York, a printed-later dye-transfer print from 1977 (estimate: \$15,000-25,000), and*

*Girl in Bed, a 1949 printed later, platinum-palladium print mounted on aluminum (estimate: \$10,000-15,000).*

*Auction: Photographs April 22 at 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.*

*Viewing: Christie's Los Angeles March 26-29*

*Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza April 16-21\**

*(\*Christie's will be closed on Sunday, April 20)*

*Important Daguerreotypes by Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey from the Archive of the Artist  
20 May at 6:30pm*

*Christie's King Street*

*The sale will comprise 86 daguerreotypes, selected to represent the range of countries, sites and subjects explored by the artist as well as showing the different formats he adopted. Each daguerreotype will be offered as a single lot, with estimates ranging from \$1,000-1,500 to \$150,000- 200,000.*

*Viewing: Christie's New York, 16-21 April*

*More information about Christie's sales of Photographs and Important Daguerreotypes by Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey from the Archive of the Artist 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.*

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*Images available on request*

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