

*For Immediate Release
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**CHRISTIE'S SPRING SALE OF 19th CENTURY EUROPEAN ART OFFERS
VAST ARRAY OF RARE & IMPORTANT WORKS FROM THE ERA'S MOST
IMPORTANT MASTERS**

*19th Century European Art
April 19, 2006*

New York – Christie's will offer an array of magnificent works by the 19th century's premier painters in this spring's 19th Century European Art sale on April 19 at Christie's Rockefeller Plaza saleroom. Included are rare and exquisite examples encompassing the full spectrum of genres and styles that distinguished one of the most prolific eras in the history of painting.

*Chief among the highlights is *La Vague* by William Adolphe Bourguereau (estimate: \$800,000-1,200,000). Painted towards the end of his career, *La Vague* is a masterful representation of the theme of women in water that permeates Bourguereau's oeuvre. *La Vague's* unabashed nudity, coupled with her serene gaze, combine to make this incredibly provocative and exquisitely rendered masterpiece one of the artist's most famous works.*

*Emile Munier's *Best Friends* (estimate: \$250,000-350,000) is a perfect example of the artist's outstanding mastery of the Academic technique. Having studied under William Adolphe Bourguereau, the incomparable master of Academic painting, Munier's handling of the child's hair, as well as the complicated composition of her hands, is a true testament to his excellence of form and technique, placing him in a very elite category of 19th century painters.*

*Exquisitely drawn and beautifully colored, Pierre-Edme-Louis Pellier's *Patroclus handing Briseis to the Heralds of Agamemnon* (estimate: \$12,000-18,000) was the artist's presentation at the Salon of 1814. Only recently rediscovered, the painting strongly argues that this little known artist should claim a significant place in the history of Neo-classical painting. Very little is known of Pellier beyond his participation in several Salons between 1800 and 1827. Of the two history paintings by Pellier long in French collections, one has disappeared, making the present work a particularly important find.*

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The Faithful Gaurdian by Arthur John Elsley (estimate: \$250,000–350,000) is an exciting rediscovery within Elsley’s oeuvre, having not appeared on the market since it was painted in 1911. This painting was commissioned, for reproduction, by an American calendar company and has remained in private ownership ever since. After completion it was shipped directly to America where it has remained. It was not exhibited and has never appeared on the open market.

Other highlights include James Jacques-Joseph Tissot’s Le banc du jardin (estimate: \$200,000–300,000), an oil sketch study for the painting Le Banc de Jardin, in the collection of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. The central figure in this work is Tissot’s beloved mistress, Kathleen Newton. Devastated by her death, the importance that Le Banc de Jardin had for him was indicated in the painting’s central location in his house, where it remained in a prime position on the main stairway during Tissot’s lifetime.

From Jean-Bapiste-Camille Corot comes L’abreuvoir; vue prise pres des ramparts avec la Tour de la Lanterne, La Rochelle (estimate: \$200,000–300,000). Executed in a cool tonality that sets it apart from the rest of his paintings, this work is a unique highlight from the group of La Rochelle images executed in the 1851, a group largely regarded as the most Impressionistic of Corot’s oeuvre. Other highlights include an unusual work from Daniel Ridgway-Knight entitled Awaiting the Return of the Fishing Fleet (estimate: \$300,000–400,000).

Property from the Collection of Joan B. Kroc

Christie’s is proud to offer for sale a selection of works from the estate of Joan B. Kroc, noted philanthropist and wife of Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald’s. Among the works offered is Autumn Flowers by Adelheid Dietrich (estimate: \$150,000–250,000), a complex composition that is an excellent example of the artist at the height of her career; Jacques-Emile Blanche’s Punts at Henley (estimate: \$40,000–60,000), and Lucien Lévy-Dhurmer’s Adam and Eve in the Garden (estimate: \$100,000–150,000), an impressively complex composition depicting a myriad of beasts and foliage that depict the Fall of Man within a melodic atmosphere.

Auction:	19th Century European Art	April 19
Viewing:	Christie’s Rockefeller Plaza Galleries	April 12–18

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Images available on request
Visit Christie’s Web site at www.christies.com

More information about Christie’s sale of 19th Century European Art can be found on 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 provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie’s international auction calendar.