

For Immediate Release

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IDYLLIC SCENES AND IMPORTANT WORKS TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S BRITISH ART SALES IN JUNE



The Golden Valley by Samuel Palmer (estimate: £500,000-800,000)



La Cheminee, circa 1869 by James Jacques Joseph Tissot (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000)

British Art Week at Christie's, 5-11 June 2003

Important British and Irish Art (evening sale)

11 June 2003

London – Three significant landscape watercolours and a stunning work by James Jacques Joseph Tissot are amongst the highlights of Christie's **Important British and Irish Art** evening sale on **11 June 2003**. The auction will offer a range of works depicting various themes and subjects by important and influential British artists including Palmer, Turner, Girtin, Millais, Leighton and many more.

One of three important landscape watercolours to be offered, *The Golden Valley* by Samuel Palmer (estimate: £500,000-800,000) is beautifully executed and one of the finest examples of the visionary landscapes Palmer painted towards the end of the Shoreham period of his early career. Works from this period rarely appear on the market as virtually all examples are now housed in museum collections. Representing an idyllic and timeless vision of the English countryside, the watercolour has been identified as the view from Poll Hill, near Shoreham, and is painted from a raised viewpoint. It is possibly the earliest and most accomplished of three related watercolours painted by Palmer in the early 1830s; the other two are already in the Yale Center for British Art in Connecticut, America.

Also featured is the detailed landscape watercolour *Lake Albano, circa 1828* (estimate: £100,000-150,000) by Joseph Mallord William Turner depicting a tranquil view looking down over the lake with the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo represented in the distance. The beautiful *Mynydd Mawr, North Wales, 1799* (estimate: £80,000-120,000) by Thomas Girtin painted looking west from the road between Beddgelert and Caernarvon completes a triumvirate of important watercolours. The precise location of the view remained unknown for many years and was often mistaken for Yorkshire or the Lake District. The work was painted during one of his many sketching tours around England and is a finely executed landscape; a wonderful example of the naturalistic work he produced during this time.

The elegant *La Cheminee, circa 1869*, by James Jacques Joseph Tissot (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000), is part of his series of pictures which featured elegant ladies in 18th century costume of the French *Directoire* period. This painting is a tour-de-force, showing Tissot at the peak of his career. Highly regarded for his technical brilliance, precise draughtsmanship and high finish, Tissot artfully depicts the sumptuous fabrics of the model's dress, the rich marbles of the fireplace and the deep hues of the oriental carpet. It is likely that the interior depicted is that of his fashionable Parisian home on Avenue de l'Imperatrice, where he lived after 1868.

The hustle and bustle of Victoria Station is recorded in the watercolour, *The Departure Platform, Victoria Station*, (estimate: £200,000-300,000) also by James Jacques Joseph Tissot. Painted in the early 1880s, the picture is a superb example of one of the many scenes of travel and departure which Tissot produced during his later years in London. His mistress, Kathleen Kelly Newton, is the model for the young woman who stands on the platform, veiled and wearing a heavy travel coat, waiting for her companion as he hails a hansom cab.

Two beautiful works by Sir John Everett Millais which capture the innocence of childhood are further sale highlights. *Sleeping* painted in 1865-66 by Millais (estimate: £1,200,000-1,800,000) is an intensely personal portrait of his youngest daughter, Alice Sophia Caroline, always known in the family as Carrie. Painted in exquisite detail, the picture depicts Carrie fast asleep with the Millais family maid, Berthe, sewing beside the bed, waiting for her to wake up. *Early Days* (estimate: £200,000-300,000) is a portrait of the painter's youngest daughter painted in 1873. Carrie, who would have been around 11 years old, is pictured sitting outside on the ground holding a black cat and staring directly at the viewer. A delightful early example of Millais's 18th century costume paintings, this picture has been in a private family collection since it was given to the present owner over 60 years ago.

Works by other important and influential British artists also featured in the sale include Sir Frank Dicksee's *The Symbol*, 1881 (estimate: £300,000-500,000). Offered from a private collection, this impressive painting illustrates a man and woman, possibly newly weds, leading a procession and typifies Dicksee's lush style, exemplified in the detailed and glorious costumes of the characters. Arthur J Elsley's *The Punch and Judy Show*, 1912 (estimate: £400,000-600,000) which was painted at the

height of his career is also offered alongside Sir George Clausen's *In the Street*, 1880 (estimate: £100,000-150,000) which depicts a demure young girl.

Other works to be offered include Sir William Orpen's self-portrait, *The Artist*, 1907 (estimate: £150,000-250,000) and **a harbour scene by** Henry Scott Tuke *Return from fishing* (estimate: £80,000-120,000) which was originally purchased by the Indian Prince and test batsman Ranjitsingh for the palace at Jamnagar. A colour sketch by Frederick Lord Leighton for *Cimabue's Celebrated Madonna is Carried in Procession through the Streets in Florence* (estimate: £60-100,000) is offered alongside John William Godward's *Reverie* (estimate: £200,000-300,000), William Powell Frith's pensive and detailed *Hope*, 1869 (estimate: £70,000-100,000) and Arthur Hacker's, *La Musicienne du Silence*, 1900 (estimate: £50,000-70,000).

The **British Art on Paper** sale on **5 June 2003** is led by an exceptional group of sixteen watercolours by Francis Towne, from the collection of Sir A. William Worsley, depicting a range of subjects from Lugano and Tivoli to Devon and Windermere (estimates range from £3,000-100,000). Other highlights include an elaborate vignette *The Garden: An illustration to 'The Epicurean'* by Joseph Mallord William Turner (estimate: £60,000-120,000), a watercolour by Sir William Russell Flint, *Rococo Aphrodite* (estimate: £15,000-25,000) and a wonderful collection of over thirty Golden Age watercolours from the collection of John Byng Kenrick. Three works by the John family are also featured including the vivid *Portrait of Iris Tree* (estimate: £12,000-16,000) and *Dorelia with folded arms* (estimate: £15,000-20,000) both by Augustus Edwin John and Gwen John's, *Black Cat on Blue and Pink* (estimate: £8,000-12,000).

The **Twentieth Century British and Irish Art** sale on **6 June 2003** will offer the Collection of the late Sir Duncan Oppenheim comprising seventy works including Henry Moore's, *Family Group*, 1945 (estimate: £120,000-180,000), as well as paintings and drawings by William Scott, Patrick Heron, Edward Lear, Christopher Ward, Walter Sickert and other artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Other highlights include Sir Stanley Spencer's, *The Wharf, Cookham*, (estimate: £150,000-200,000), which has not been seen publicly since the present owner's family bought it directly from the artist in 1936. Spencer was described in 1980 by the President of the Royal Academy as 'one of the most remarkable artists of our time' and this quietly calm landscape depicts the harbour of Spencer's hometown in Cookham, Berkshire. Other paintings offered include *Child Reading II* (estimate: £20,000-30,000) by Lucien Freud, the distinctive *Dice Players* (estimate: £40,000-60,000) by Sir William Russell Flint and a still life, *The Silver Vase* by Mark Gertler (estimate: £25,000-35,000). Sculpture highlights include Dame Elisabeth Frink's bronze cast, *Soldier's Head II* (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and Lynn Chadwick's, *Maquette Diamond Wing*, (estimate: £25,000-35,000) a bronze cast from a series of six.

Victorian Pictures to be held on **10 June 2003** includes a magnificent example of the work of Henry Dawson, *The Wooden Walls of England* (estimate: £30,000-50,000), in which the British Navy is depicted against a dramatic Turnerian sky. A view of the *Palace of Westminster* by John MacVicar Anderson (estimate: £50,000-80,000), who designed the façade of Christie's King Street is also

offered. Other notable lots include Arthur Hacker's, *A woodcutter and his daughter*, (estimate: £30,000-50,000), and two pictures by Frederic Lord Leighton, *The Mimbar of the Great Mosque of Damascus* (estimate: £12,000-18,000) and *A portrait of a girl from Capri* (estimate: £30,000-50,000).

British Pictures 1500-1850 to be on held on **10 June 2003** includes a striking range of portraits from the 16th to 19th centuries. Amongst the highlights is an interesting group of 17th century portraits, including *Portrait of a young gentleman, in richly embroidered dress and a lace collar* by the Anglo-Dutch School, circa 1640 (estimate: £25,000-35,000), which provide a wonderful record of the ornate costumes worn by the nobility of the period. The late 17th century *Portrait of Dorothy, Countess of Westmorland* and second wife to Charles, 2nd Earl of Westmorland (estimate: £15,000-20,000), by the Swedish artist Michael Dahl is another notable work.. Other portraits to be offered include *Portrait of John Prideaux Basset* of Tehidy Park, Cornwall (estimate: £50,000-80,000), who is depicted by the celebrated Scottish portrait painter Allan Ramsay in fashionable, highly elegant Van Dyck dress and a particularly charming work by the French painter Philip Mercier, *Portrait of a young woman holding a tea tray* (estimate: £25,000-35,000).

A further sale highlight, *A view of Crewe Hall, Cheshire*, attributed to the topographical artist Jan Griffier (estimate: £100,000-150,000), depicts a fascinating panoramic view of Crewe Hall, Cheshire. Also offered is the striking *A Demoiselle crane, a pheasant, a duck and other birds in an Italianate garden with lake* by the sporting artist, Pieter Casteels (estimate: £40,000-60,000). Further works include the charming *Plymouth Fish Market*, from the early 19th century by the local artist Nicholas Condy (estimate: £8,000-12,000) and a *View of Arundel Castle from the River* by Frederick William Watts (estimate: £15,000-20,000).

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editors:

British Art Week, 5-11 June 2003

British Works on Paper, 5 June

20th Century British and Irish Art including the Collection of the late Sir Duncan Oppenheim, 6 June

British Pictures 1500-1850, 10 June

Victorian Pictures, 10 June

Important British and Irish Art, Evening Sale, 11 June

Lectures

Tuesday, 3 June, 6.30pm

'Were we ever as mad as that?' Naturalism and Nature in late 19th Century British Art by Professor Kenneth McConkey, renowned author of *Impressionism in Britain*

Tuesday, 10 June, 6.30pm

The Visionary Landscape in Romantic England by Andrew Wilton, former Keeper at The Tate Gallery

Viewing

British Art Week sales will go on view on selected days at London, King Street from Friday 30 May onwards.