

# CHRISTIE'S

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## JACQUES-LOUIS DAVID *PORTRAIT OF JEAN-PIERRE DELAHAYE* TO LEAD OLD MASTER PICTURE SALE IN PARIS

**Old Master and 19th Century Paintings**  
**22 June 2006, Paris**



**Paris** –Christie's is pleased to announce the auction of the *Portrait of Jean-Pierre Delahaye* by Jacques-Louis David (1748-1825) which will take place in Paris on June 22, 2006. Estimated between €1.5 million and €3 million, this painting (oil on panel, signed and dated L DAVID/1815, 62 X 49 cm.) is in exceptional condition and has never before been offered for sale. Jean-Pierre Delahaye was the solicitor and friend of the artist, and this portrait has remained in the family of the sitter ever since it was painted.

David painted *the Portrait of Jean-Pierre Delahaye* in 1815, just before he went into exile. The Empire had broken down in April 1814 leaving David in a delicate political situation. He gave his vote to Louis XVI's death and moreover was Napoleon's official painter. Following the defeat of Waterloo, David fled France for Belgium in January 1816. He entrusted his solicitor, Jean-Pierre Delahaye, with the care of his business in Paris. This portrait would have been given to the model by the artist in exchange of his services.

Born in 1757 in Paris, Jean-Pierre Delahaye was "Procureur au Châtelet" and then became a solicitor of the Courts of Paris. In 1811 he sold his office to his son, Jean-Louis Delahaye, and registered as a lawyer at the Royal Court of Paris. Much appreciated by his peers and at the head of a prosperous office, Delahaye had many prestigious customers, among them Bernardin de Saint-Pierre, the Prince of Conti, the General Rapp, the Prince of Monaco, the Duchess of Fleury, the Prince of the Tower of Auvergne and the painter Jacques-Louis David. After Jean-Pierre Delahaye's death in 1819, his son dealt with a number of transactions between Louis XVIII and David, having represented the artist's legal matters since 1816.

The format and attitude of the *Portrait of Jean-Pierre Delahaye* shows the artist's wish to portray a very personal image of his friend. In fact, the model poses without specific attributes related to his high professional position and directly faces the viewer. Painted on a panel of oak prepared by

the artist, this portrait remains in an exceptional and original condition with the brushstrokes still visible, and particular detail in the hair and the chin.

This is one of very few portraits painted by David remaining in private ownership, and its appearance on the market is a remarkable event in Paris.

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*Images on request*

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**Notes to editors :**

**Exhibition:**

30 March-6 April, Christie's New York

17, 19, 20 & 21 June 2006, Christie's Paris

**Auction:** Old Master and 19th Century Paintings, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2006, Christie's Paris

**Christie's Paris, 9 avenue Matignon - 75008 Paris**

- The last two auction prices established for portraits by David were 3,741,500 GBP (euros 5.4m) for the *Portrait of Suzanne Peletier de Saint Fargeau*, sold in London, June 11, 1997, and 15,000,000 Francs (euros 2.3m) for the *Portrait of Ramel de Nogaret*, in Paris, 18 October 1995.