

## For Immediate Release

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Contact: Bendetta Roux 212 636 2680 [broux@christies.com](mailto:broux@christies.com)  
Rik Pike 212 636 2680 [rpik@christies.com](mailto:rpik@christies.com)

## CHRISTIE'S SALE OF IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART REALIZES \$180.3 MILLION

- **Christie's Highest Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale Total Since 1990 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Total in Company History**
- **Sales %s Reflect A Strong and Steady Market in All Sectors**
- **Van Gogh's *L'Arlésienne, Madame Ginoux* Sells for \$40,336,000, 4<sup>th</sup> Highest Price for a Work by the Artist**
- **Pablo Picasso's *Le Repos* Soars Over Estimate to Realize \$34,736,000**

**New York** – Christie's sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* totaled \$180,280,000 (£98,513,661 / €143,079,365) tonight, and was 95% sold by value and 86% by lot. The figures represent the highest total for an Impressionist and Modern Art Evening sale since 1990, and the second highest in company history for this category. The highlights of the evening were Vincent van Gogh's portrait of Madame Ginoux which realized \$40,336,000, the fourth highest price ever obtained for painting at auction by the artist and *Le Repos*, 1932, Pablo Picasso's portrayal of his wife, the Russian ballerina Olga Khokhlova, that sold for \$34,736,000. Of the buyers 51% were American, 35% European, 5% Asian and 9% other.

*"Christie's results this evening reflect a strong, solid and successful market – there were some very high prices but participating collectors remain focused and controlled,"* said Christopher Burge, Honorary Chairman of Christie's and the evening's auctioneer. *"In the crowded saleroom, the spirited bidders in the room competed with the international telephone lines as passionate collectors sought their chosen works."*

*L'Arlésienne, Madame Ginoux*, painted by Vincent van Gogh in 1890, led the sale this evening selling for \$40,336,000, the fourth highest price for the artist at auction. A sublime portrait and a powerful and moving document of the artist's final years, *L'Arlésienne* is above all a homage to Gauguin, whose departure in 1888 had deeply depressed Van Gogh and was described by him as having created an 'aching void'. Part of a series of six *Arlésiennes* paintings, the present painting was the only one left in private hands.

*Le Repos*, 1932, Picasso's portrayal of his wife, the Russian ballerina Olga Khokhlova, fetched \$34,736,000, well above pre-sale expectations of \$15 – 20 million. The work is the first, largest and most historically important of three great paintings executed by the artist at the end of January 1932. *Le Repos* deals with many elements of Picasso's life, including his fear of his own mortality and the relationship with his bi-polar, superstitious and temperamental wife Olga.

*Portrait de Germaine*, from a Distinguished New York Collection, is a haunting 1902 portrait also by Picasso and sold for \$18,608,000, on its high estimate. In it, a young Picasso masterfully exposes his own searching soul, through the image of a woman who would continue to appear in his work during his blue period.

Further highlights this evening included Wassily Kandinsky's *Pfeile (Arrows)*, 1927, which exceeded pre-sale expectations when it sold for \$3,880,000. Tamara de Lempicka's *Groupe de quatre nus* – described by a contemporary art critic as 'perverse Ingrism' – attracted determined bidding and realized \$3,152,000 against a pre-sale estimate of \$2 – 3 million. Inspired by Ingres' *Le bain turc*, the work also pays tribute to Lempicka's two teachers, Denis and Lhote.

From Claude Monet's fabled *Nymphéas* series, *Nymphéas, temps gris* from a Private European Collection represents one of the bolder and more challenging versions that the artist created in 1907. It sold for \$11,216,000. Other highlights of the sale included classic examples of Impressionism such as Alfred Sisley's *La route de Hampton Court*, 1874 (\$1,920,000) and Camille Pissarro's *L'Eglise Saint-Jacques, Dieppe, matin, soleil*, 1901 (\$2,256,000). Maurice de Vlaminck's *Les arbres sur la place* (\$2,592,000) and Picasso's *Femme se coiffant*, a portrait Picasso painted on January 3 1956 of his second wife Jacqueline Roque were further highlights (\$3,376,000).

The series of sales will continue tomorrow with *Impressionist and Modern Art* and *Works on Paper*.

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