

For Immediate Release

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**SUPERB EXAMPLES OF ROMAN AND GREEK ART
HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIE'S SPRING SALE OF ANTIQUITIES**



Antiquities

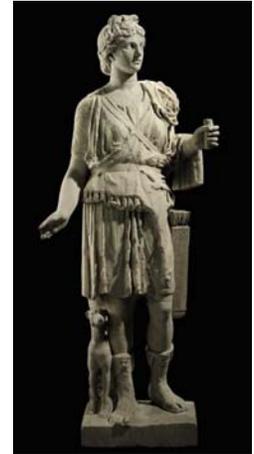
June 3, 2009

New York – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of *Antiquities* on June 3, which will offer nearly 200 lots with a particularly strong selection of Roman marbles, including a handsome marble herm bust of Menander and a massive red marble labrum. Other highlights include fine examples of classical Greek vases, both Athenian and South Italian alongside Egyptian and Near Eastern art.

Leading the sale is a massive Roman red marble labrum, circa 2nd-3rd century A.D. (*center image*-estimate: \$300,000-500,000). This impressive labrum is distinguished not only by its size, but also by its medium. The red marble, *cottanello antico*, is a rare variety of marl limestone that has high iron content and is thinly veined in calcite, which gives it the red and white coloration. The marble was only quarried from one location at Cottanello, approximately 40 kilometers northeast of Rome. A labrum is a basin for cold water in the caldarium or hot room of a Roman bath complex. They were

made of marble in order to maintain a cool water temperature. Elaborately carved with 58 deep petals radiating from the central base, this labrum is exceedingly rare and is only closely paralleled by an example in the Vatican Museums.

The cover lot of the sale is a handsome Roman marble herm bust of Menander, circa 2nd century A.D. (*left image on page 1*- estimate: \$125,000-175,000). Menander, a child of a distinguished Athenian family, wrote more than a hundred plays during his thirty year career. He was known as gifted playwright of New Comedy and won several prizes. The lifesized bust is exquisitely modeled depicting Menander's long wavy locks hair, slender nose, and full lips. Further Roman highlights include a marble portrait head of the Emperor Nero, circa 59-64 A.D., celebrating the fifth year of his rule (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) and a marble figure of the goddess Diana, circa 2nd century AD, formerly from Hever Castle (*right*- estimate: \$80,000-120,000).



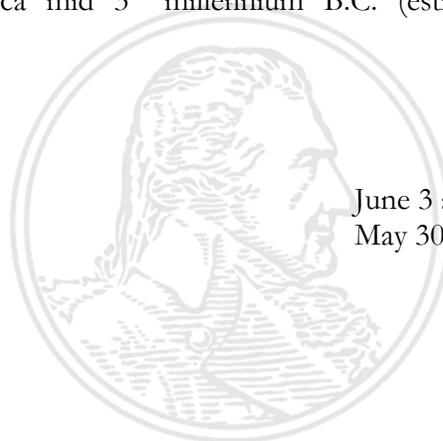
The sale is particularly strong in Greek vases including a large Attic red-figured pelike attributed to the Aegisthus Painter, circa 480-460 B.C. (estimate: \$80,000-120,000) and an Attic red-figured volute-krater attributed to the Niobid Painter, circa 460-450 B.C. (estimate: \$40,000-60,000). From South Italy there are two monumental red-figured volute-kraters attributed to the Baltimore Painter, circa 330-320 B.C. (*right image on page 1*- estimate: \$30,000-50,000 each); an Apulian red-figured calyx-krater attributed to the Darius Painter, circa 340-320 B.C. (estimate: \$15,000-20,000); and a Lucanian red-figured bell-krater attributed to the Amykos Painter, circa 420-400 B.C. (estimate: \$15,000-20,000). The sale also includes a kaleidoscope of colors of Roman glass vessels and bottles, with estimates ranging from \$1,200 to \$18,000 and a beautiful bronze hydria, circa mid 5th century B.C., exceptional for its beautiful ovoid body and craftsmanship (estimate: \$120,000-180,000)



Other highlights include an Egyptian green schist bust of an official, Middle Kingdom, Dynasty XII-XIII, 1991-1690 B.C. (*left*- estimate: \$80,000-120,000); a Canaanite warrior, Middle Bronze Age, circa 1900-1700 B.C. (estimate: \$80,000-120,000); and a Sumerian limestone bull-head protome, circa mid 3rd millennium B.C. (estimate: \$20,000-30,000).

Auction: Antiquities
Viewing: Christie's Rockefeller Galleries

June 3 at 10am
May 30 - June 2



About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totaled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 70 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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