

For Immediate Release

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STRONG RESULTS AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK SPRING IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART EVENING SALE

\$277.3 Million The Third Highest Christie's Auction Total For The Category

Six New World Auction Records Set Including Claude Monet, Alberto Giacometti, Auguste Rodin and Joan Miró

New York – This evening's sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* at Christie's New York totaled \$277,276,000/£140,749,239/€178,887,742, Christie's third highest result ever for the category. The auction featured particularly strong results for both 19th and 20th century paintings and sculpture created by some of the leading masters of art history. The sale was 82% sold by value, 76% sold by lot.

“We saw very strong prices in many areas this evening as the global market responded positively, and we are pleased with the overall result for the sale. Christie's set new auction records for major masters, and it was particularly gratifying to note sculpture continued its ascent in the marketplace, and now commands prices equivalent to great pictures,” said Marc Porter, President of Christie's Americas.

A new world auction record was set for a rare and luminous Claude Monet masterpiece of high Impressionist style from 1873 when *Pont du chemin de fer à Argenteuil* sold for \$41.48 million. One of the greatest Impressionist pictures left in private hands, it contained all the trademark themes of Monet's early work of the 1870s. The auction also featured *Nymphéas*, a 1908 canvas that dates to Monet's most creative and productive period of his late career that sold for \$11,689,000.

Sculpture had an exceptional evening at Christie's with two of the greatest masters of the period setting new auction records, one conceived in the 1880s, the other cast in the 1960s. *Eve, grand modèle-version sans rocher* by Auguste Rodin marks one of the great turning points in modern sculpture and was initially conceived in the 1880s for *The Gates of Hell* and sold for \$18,969,000, doubling the previous record for this revolutionary sculptor. The celebrated modern master Alberto Giacometti also had a superlative night, with the monumental nine-foot high bronze *Grande femme debout II*, 1959/60 realizing \$27,481,000, smashing the previous record for this legendary 20th century artist by \$9 million. Executed in response to a commission for the new Chase Manhattan Bank headquarters and public plaza in New York. The sale featured an impressive group of Giacometti sculptures and paintings to appear at auction since Christie's sale of the Lambert Collection in 1987, with five lots all selling for a total of \$49.2 million.

Elsewhere in the sale, a new world auction record was set for Joan Miró when *La Caresse des étoiles* realized \$17.1 million. Miró painted the work in 1938 during the Spanish Civil War and although appalled by the war, he filled it with elements conveying hope and optimism.

Tonight's buyers were 52% European, 32% American, 2% Asian, 2% Latin America and 12% others, and the Spring 2008 season for Impressionist and Modern Art at Christie's New York continues tomorrow with the Works on Paper sale in the morning, followed immediately by the Day Sale.

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/\$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. 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 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most 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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