



For Immediate Release

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£25 MILLION OF HOME-GROWN TALENT - *British Art Week* at Christie's in June

British Art Week
Christie's, King Street
5 to 8 June 2007



London – From 5 to 8 June 2007 Christie's will host *British Art Week*, a series of auctions, lectures and events dedicated to the history of British art and furniture. This event will build on the strength of *British Art Week* and *British Art Week Autumn* which were held in June and November 2006 respectively and which realised a combined total of £64.9 million / \$121.2 million.

British Art Week presents a selection of paintings, watercolours, furniture and sculpture representing over 300 years of British art which will be offered over four sales held between 5 and 8 June. Highlights include

works by many renowned artists, including Bomberg, Gainsborough, Hepworth, Lowry, Rossetti and Waterhouse, as well as a selection of important English furniture. The sales are expected to realise in the region of £25 million and will be scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, 5 June at 2pm:

British Art on Paper

The first sale of the week will be led by an important rediscovered and unrecorded chalk pastel by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828-1882) *illustrated right*, a leading British artist of the 19th century and a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood. *Proserpine* depicts Rossetti's lover, Jane Morris, as the queen of Hades holding a pomegranate from which she has taken a fatal bite, ensuring that she remains a captive of Pluto in the mythological underworld. Jane Morris was married to Rossetti's close friend William Morris, and the present composition is thought to represent the lovers' own predicament. This study of Rossetti's famous composition is previously unrecorded and is expected to realise £200,000 to £400,000. Elsewhere, the sale will offer approximately 200 drawings and watercolours by artists including Joseph Wright of Derby, Thomas Gainsborough, Thomas Lawrence, Paul Sandby, Augustus John, Sir William Russell Flint and Edward Lear, with individual estimates ranging from £1,000 to £200,000.



Thursday, 7 June at 10.30am:
Important English Furniture



This sale will offer approximately 170 lots of selected furniture and works of art celebrating the proud heritage of English craftsmanship. Highlighting the auction is an exceptional set of 18 mahogany dining-chairs which were almost certainly supplied in 1808 to Charles Chetwynd-Talbot, 2nd Earl Talbot (1777-1849) for Ingestre Hall in Staffordshire *illustrated left*. The set is attributed to Marsh & Tatham and relates to a design by Thomas Sheraton of 1804 (estimate: £750,000-1,000,000). A further highlight is a near pair of George III rosewood serpentine commodes from the famous Geoffrey Blackwell Collection which are expected to realise £200,000-300,000. A George III musical and automaton table clock by James Cox *circa* 1770-1775 will be offered by The Duke of Westminster (estimate: £150,000-250,000), a set of twelve Irish embossed bird pictures by Samuel Dixon, *circa* 1755 carry an estimate of £100,000-150,000, and The Clive Suite of seat-furniture, made for Clive of India's Berkeley Square house under the direction of Sir William Chambers and probably made by Charles Arbuckle *circa* 1765, are estimated to realise £200,000-300,000. A further highlight is a pair of George III ormolu and bronze five-light candelabra by Matthew Boulton, a leading manufacturer and entrepreneur of the Industrial Revolution, which date to *circa* 1778. Depicting the classical figures of Diana and Apollo, the pair of candelabra is expected to realise £60,000-100,000.

Thursday, 7 June at 2.30pm:
Victorian & Traditionalist Pictures

Christie's auctions of *Victorian and Traditionalist Pictures* in June and November 2006 realised a combined total of £9.1 million illustrating a resurgent market for the category. This sale in June 2007 is led by an exceptional painting by John William Waterhouse (1849-1917), *The Soul of the Rose*, which is signed and dated 1908 and was exhibited at the Royal Academy in the same year *illustrated right*. It is expected to realise £1,000,000-1,500,000. Further highlights include two paintings from The Important Private Collection of the Isabel Goldsmith-Patiño Family; *Waiting to Cross* by Albert Joseph Moore (1841-1893) which is expected to realise £300,000-500,000, and *In Disgrace* by Charles Burton Barber (1845-1894) which carries an estimate of £200,000-300,000. Elsewhere in the sale, *May* by Frederick Morgan (1847-1927) is expected to realise £200,000-300,000; *The March Month* by Henry Herbert La Thangue, R.A. (1859-1926) carries an estimate of £200,000-300,000 and a selection of four works by John Atkinson Grimshaw (1836-1893) is led by *Greenock Harbour at Night* (estimate: £150,000-200,000).



Friday, 8 June at 11am:
20th Century British Art



Following on from the most successful sale of *20th Century British Art* ever held on 17 November 2006 which realised over £12.5 million, this auction will include approximately 150 paintings, drawings and sculptures by artists including Patrick Caulfield, Barry Flanagan, Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland. Leading the sale is the finest and most comprehensive private collection of pictures by L.S. Lowry ever to appear at auction. Consisting of six paintings and representing the work of the artist from 1944 to 1963, the collection is led by *Good Friday, Daisy Nook*, a masterpiece last seen at auction in 1970 when it sold for £16,800 and set a record price for the artist at the time. It will be offered at Christie's in June with an estimate of £1,000,000-1,500,000. The entire collection is being offered by a private collector and is expected to realise in the region of £3 million (see separate release). Further highlights of the sale include *Portrait de Jeanne* by Lucien Pissarro (1863-1944) *illustrated left* which is expected to realise £400,000-600,000; *Brown and Black*, a still-life composition by William Scott, R.A. (1913-1989) (estimate: £200,000-300,000) and representing the

sculpture section of the sale, *Forms on a Bow* No. 2 by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, R.A. (1924-2005) which carries an estimate of £50,000-80,000. 24 paintings by Alfred Wallis (1855-1942) from the collection of Dr William Dallas Doxford will be offered at the auction with individual estimates ranging from £12,000-35,000.

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Images available on request
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Notes to editors:

- Works of art to be sold during *British Art Week* will be on public view at Christie's, King Street, from 29 May to 1 June and between 3 and 7 June 2007.
- Since 1766, Christie's has established a rich history of selling British and Irish art and James Christie himself was the subject of a portrait painted by his good friend Sir Joshua Reynolds. In 2006, the *International British and Irish Art* department realised £93.1 million (\$173.2 million / €136 million), a 50% increase on the sales total for 2005, strengthening our market share for the category and setting records for the highest ever sale total for an auction of 20th century British art (£12.4 million in June and £12.5 in November), as well as the highest ever price for a British work on paper (J.M.W. Turner's *The Blue Rigi*, which sold for £5.8 million in June).