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THE BEST OF BRITISH

CHRISTIE'S TO HOST A WEEK OF SALES IN JUNE TO CELEBRATE THE BEST OF BRITISH ART

British Art Week
Christie's, King Street
5 to 9 June 2006

London – In June 2006 Christie's will host *British Art Week* comprising auction sales, events and lectures dedicated to the history of British art and furniture. A selection of paintings, watercolours, furniture and sculpture - estimated to realise over £25 million and representing over 500 years of British art - will be offered over five sales held between 5 and 9 June. *British Art Week* will include works by many renowned artists, including Gainsborough, Lowry, Reynolds, Stubbs, Tissot and Turner, as well as important English furniture. The sales will be scheduled as follows:

Monday, 5 June:

British Art on Paper



The first sale of the week will be led by an exceptional work by J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851), the most important watercolour to appear on the market for over 50 years and one of the most impressive ever painted by the artist (see separate release). *The Blue Rigi: Lake of Lucerne, Sunrise* is a remarkable work of art by the universally acknowledged master of watercolour and the 'precursor of Impressionism' which could become the most expensive British watercolour ever sold at auction. It is expected to realise in excess of £2 million. Other highlights include *Bows, Birds and Beads* by Frances MacDonald MacNair

(1873-1921) which carries an estimate of £60,000-80,000, *A Post Rider*, a figure drawing by Sir David Wilkie (1785-1841) expected to realise £20,000-30,000 and *Villefranche* by Edward Lear (1812-1888) (estimate: £15,000-20,000). This sale will also offer a selection of drawings from The Garrity Collection, including *The Bouquet* by Frederick Walker, A.R.A. (1840-1875) which carries an estimate of £60,000-100,000 and a group of thirteen works by Myles Birket Foster, R.W.S. (1825-1899) with estimates ranging from £3,000 to 25,000.

Thursday, 8 June:

British Pictures 1500-1850



A celebration of early British painting, this sale is led by a very rare self-portrait of the famed equestrian artist George Stubbs (1724-1806) which carries an estimate of £300,000-500,000. Measuring just 13.9 x 10.8 cm. and painted *circa* 1760, this is one of only three known self-portraits and the last remaining in private hands. Other highlights include a landscape painting, a copy after Teniers, by Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) expected to realise £150,000-200,000, *Ignorance, Envy and Jealousy* by James Ward, R.A. (1769-1859), a rare example of an allegorical painting by the artist that encapsulates the emotive style of romanticism (estimate: £150,000-200,000), a Welsh landscape by Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-1797) (estimate: £120,000-180,000) and an elegant portrait of a gentleman in his office overlooking the Thames by Francis Wheatley, R.A. (1747-1801) (estimate: £100,000-150,000).

Thursday, 8 June:

Victorian & Traditionalist Pictures



This sale is led by an exceptional painting by James Tissot (1836-1902), the most glamorous painter of Victorian society. *Preparing for the Gala* (estimate: £1.8-2.4 million) is set in the garden of Tissot's house at 17 (now 44) Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London and depicts a figurative group hoisting flags in anticipation of a celebratory event (see separate release). Tissot contracted the space to include his newly built colonnade and enlarged pool in the background of the picture, and the work is highlighted by his mastery in portrayal of fabric as demonstrated in the flags and dresses. Tissot's house was renowned among Victorian society, as noted by 19th century writer Edmond de Goncourt: 'He has a studio with a waiting room where, at all times, there is iced champagne at the disposal of visitors, and around the studio, a garden where, all day long, one can see a footman in silk stockings brushing and shining the shrubbery leaves.'

The sale will also include six works by John Atkinson Grimshaw (1836-1893) from a private European collection including *The last gleam* (estimate: £180,000-250,000) and eighteen works by Edward Seago (1910-1974) depicting a range of subjects including Norfolk views and London scenes, highlighted by *Richmond Bridge* (estimate: £20,000-30,000).

Thursday, 8 June:

Important English Furniture



This sale will offer approximately 150 lots of selected furniture, celebrating the proud heritage of English craftsmanship. Highlighting the sale are *The Cannons Armchairs*, an extremely important pair of George I gilt-wood open armchairs attributed to James Moore and expected to realise £500,000-800,000. A rare survival from this age, this pair was supplied to the 1st Duke of Chandos in the early 18th century for Cannons in Middlesex. Also included is property from the Garrity Collection, highlighted by a George II burr-walnut cabinet-on-chest (estimate: £50,000-80,000). Further items on offer include a small group of George III ormolu-mounted bluejohn objects by Matthew Boulton, including a pair of candlesticks (estimate: £60,000-90,000) and a rare pair of ewers

(estimate: £200,000-300,000), and property from a private collection assembled during the 1940s and 1950s, highlighted by a George II walnut Union Suite formerly in the Collection of Percival Griffiths, the great 20th century connoisseur (estimate: £70,000-100,000).

Friday, 9 June:

20th Century British Art (see separate release)



Following on from the most successful sale of *20th Century British Art* ever held on 18 November 2005, which realised over £7.5 million, this auction will include 236 paintings and sculptures by artists including Patrick Caulfield, David Hockney, Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland. Leading the sale are three outstanding paintings by L.S. Lowry. These three pictures are selected works from the Collection of the late Robert Sangster and are estimated to realise in the region of £1 million. A portrait of American art collector and benefactor Herschel Carey Walker painted by Graham Sutherland (1903-1980) in 1961 carries an estimate of £25,000-35,000. *Sun Lounge* by Patrick Caulfield (1936-2005) and *Ronda: in the Gorge of the Tajo* by David Bomberg (1890-1957) carry estimates of £200,000-300,000 and £250,000-350,000 respectively and *Brown Still Life* by William Scott (1913-1989) is expected to realise £250,000-350,000. *Mill Scene* by L.S. Lowry (1887-1976), which was painted in 1959 and presented by the artist to Glossopdale Parent Teacher Association in 1960, is being sold on behalf of Glossopdale Community College in order to raise funds for an arts centre and is expected to realise £100,000-150,000. Also included in the sale is the collection formed by the American businessman, J. Brooks Buxton. This eclectic group of 64 lots includes oil paintings, works on paper and sculpture including *A Nude* by Ivon Hitchens

(1893-1979) which has an estimate of £20,000-30,000 and *Small Orange and Ochre (Baroque)* (estimate: £3,000-5,000), an attractive gouache still-life by Patrick Heron (1920-1999).

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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, between 30 May and 8 June 2006.

- The annual auction of *Irish Art* will take place at Christie's, King Street on Friday 12 May. This sale will offer a strong selection of works from the 18th to the 20th centuries and is led by *The Honeymoon* by Sir John Lavery RA (1856-1941) which carries an estimate of £500,000-800,000. The auction will also include a portrait of Irish Nobel Prize winner Samuel Beckett by Ireland's most famous living artist, Louis le Brocqy. Representing the cultural friendship of two of the greatest creative minds of the 20th century, and to be offered in the centenary year of the birth of the famous playwright, the portrait carries an estimate of £60,000-80,000 and is offered alongside a watercolour study of James Joyce from the same collection (estimate: £10,000-15,000).

- The annual London sale of *Sporting Art* will take place at King Street on 19 May, and is led by the exceptional *Tom and Luke Parsons on their ponies, Champagne and Squirrel, Exmoor* by Sir Alfred James Munnings, P.R.A. (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). Also included in the sale are approximately 80 works by artists including John Ferneley Snr., J.F. Herring Senior and Archibald Thorburn.