

For Immediate Release

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**CHRISTIE'S ANNUAL ROCKEFELLER CENTER EXHIBITION AND AUCTION OF
VINTAGE MOTOR CARS TO TAKE CENTER STAGE JUNE 3 - 5**

*Frank Sinatra's Metallic Orange Lamborghini Miura and Greased Lightnin' from the 1972 Broadway
Production of Grease*

Christie's Collectors' Car Auction and Exhibition at Rockefeller Center

June 5, 2003

New York, NY – Christie's will once again partner with Rockefeller Center to exhibit more than 40 exceptional vintage motor cars on the plaza streets, before auctioning off millions of dollars of automobile history at Christie's saleroom at 20 Rockefeller Plaza on June 5. Prior to the auction, the public will be able to attend a red-carpet exhibition of a rare and outstanding selection of automobiles, ranging from a c.1900 Clément-Panhard Dogcart to a 2003 Segway HT Electric Human Transporter, all illustrating the best of automotive ingenuity, power and elegant style.

Celebrity motor cars that will take the stage include Frank Sinatra's 1970 Lamborghini Miura P400S, chassis 4407 (estimate on request). This great performer's legendary status will attract a legion of fans to view this fabulous motor car, which is distinguished by its unforgettable metallic orange paintwork, the wild boar skin interior, the orange shag carpeting and the 8-track stereo player—all specifically requested by Mr. Sinatra, and still in remarkable original condition (please see separate release). Also in the limelight is Greased Lightnin', the promotional vehicle used in the 1972 Broadway production of Grease. The Chrysler New Yorker Convertible (estimate: \$40,000-60,000) appeared in TV advertisements, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parades as well as on the cover of the record album cover entitled "Songs from the Movie Grease."

A stunning French tourer and class winner at the 1999 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the 1939/46 Delage D8/120 Cabriolet Grand Luxe, (estimate: \$700,000-900,000), will be a major attraction on the red carpet. The D8/120 was introduced in 1937 and is based on Delage's creation of the ultimate status

symbol, the glamorous D8, which was heralded as a fast car with superb road handling. One of the stars of the D8/120 production was chassis No. 51980, whose design emanated from the famous coachbuilding establishment Henri Chapron of Paris. Its luxurious flowing fender lines and subtle curvatures blend along the entire length of the Delage, which is further accented by its Valentine Capri blue paintwork and red fender skirts.

A phenomenal discovery made recently after a 40 year disappearance, that will astonish car enthusiasts, is the 1952 Abarth 1500 Biposto Coupe, designed by Franco Scaglione with coachwork by Bertone (estimate: \$80,000–120,000). Considered a post-war design marvel, the 1952 Abarth 1500 was the precursor to the legendary series of Scaglione designs for Bertone called the B.A.T.s (Berlina Aerodinamica Technica). It was Franco Scaglione's first design for Bertone and was the centerpiece of Bertone's exhibit at the XXIV Turin Motor Show in 1952. When the Packard Motor Company executives visited the Turin Show, they immediately purchased the Abarth in an effort to convince company management that the car was the embodiment of modern Italian automotive design and should be emulated by the manufacturing giant. Later, Packard's President, James Nance, gifted the car to Richard Austin Smith, where it has remarkably remained with the family ever since, sympathetically used and preserved for over 50 years.

A muscle car once available to anyone with twenty dollars, is the 1966 Shelby Mustang GT350H (estimate: \$45,000–55,000). Originally a Hertz rental car in 1966, the Shelby Mustang could be rented for only \$17 a day and 17 cents per mile. Out of the 1000 Shelby Americans produced, this particular example is number 475, and has been in continuous private ownership since its days with Hertz.

A unique advertising vehicle offered in the sale is the 1957 Chevrolet 210 Ambulance "Rolling Billboard" (estimate: \$40,000–60,000). Combining rarity and practicality into one imaginative creation, the "Rolling Billboard" is one of only two 1957 Chevrolet ambulances known to survive in operating condition, and has an electronic L.E.D. Message Center, which is programmable to display moving and stationary messages.

More information about Christie's sale of Christie's Collectors' Car Auction and Exhibition at Rockefeller Center can be found on www.christies.com. All lots from the sale can be viewed online along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®, which also allows clients to leave absentee bids. www.christies.com provides information on more than 80 sale categories, buying and selling at auction, complete auction results, and Christie's international auction calendar.

Rockefeller Center is co-owned and managed by Tishman Speyer Properties and is the site of numerous public exhibits and events, including the New York International Orchid Show and the upcoming Centennial of Flight exhibit that will take place July 29 - August 18. Each day an estimated 250,000 people walk through the Rockefeller Plaza complex, which is home to the most famous Christmas Tree in the world.

Auction: Christie's Collectors' Car Auction and Exhibition at Rockefeller Center June 5
Viewing: The Plaza Streets at Rockefeller Center June 3 - 5

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Images available upon request

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