

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S CAPTURES THE FIELD IN AMERICAN PAINTINGS SALES

**Highest Total Ever For A Various-Owner American Paintings sale at Christie's
Total Soars Over \$6 Million Above High Estimate
Eighteen World Auction Records Broken**

New York – Today's *Important American Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture* sale at Christie's in New York was a resounding success. Realizing an exceptional \$40,669,200, the sale produced the highest total for any various-owner American Paintings sale in Christie's history. The final auction result soared over \$6 million above the high pre-sale estimate, and marked the highest sale total for any auction house during American Paintings week in New York. Six paintings exceeded \$1 million and the sale was 95% sold by value, 84% by lot.

The sale was led by a dramatic full-length masterpiece by Robert Henri, *Jessica Penn in Black with White Plumes*, 1908, from The Collection of Helen and David B. Pall. Fetching \$3.6 million, the work established a new benchmark for the artist, shattering the previous world auction record for Henri which stood at \$478,400. Christie's set new world records for major American masters including Julius LeBlanc Stewart, Sanford Robinson Gifford and Willard Leroy Metcalf, among others.

"It was a thrilling auction today at Christie's," said Eric Widing, Senior Vice President and Head of American Paintings, "with many works breaking new barriers and achieving records in a broad range of categories, from the Hudson River School to 20th century modernist paintings.

"Our top lot, Henri's portrait of Jessica Penn, enchanted many collectors and realized a sensational \$3.6 million. We were particularly delighted with the results for Gifford's spectacular Fire Island beachscape, Julius Stewart's stunning yachting scene, and Marsden Hartley's early Cubist

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masterpiece. Clients vied for the best works, and it was a thrill to watch Christopher Burge manage the bidding battles playing out in the room. The American paintings market is vibrant and we look forward to a strong Fall season.”

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