

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S SPRING SALE OF ANTIQUITIES TO INCLUDE WIDE VARIETY OF VESSELS, BRONZES, SCULPTURE AND OTHER OBJECTS FROM THE ANCIENT WORLD

Antiquities

June 11, 2003

New York – Numerous masterpieces from the ancient world will be offered in Christie's spring sale of Antiquities on June 11 at Rockefeller Center.

The selection of Egyptian objects includes major highlights of the sale, most notably a rare and beautiful Middle Kingdom Diorite Pair Statue depicting Nes-Montu, count and overseer of prophets, and his wife (estimate: \$250,000-350,000), and an imposing, superb royal torso, sculpted in dark graywacke, and inscribed for the 18th Dynasty pharaoh Tuthmosis III (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). An Egyptian wood group portraying women preparing bread (estimate: \$120,000-180,000), from the Middle Kingdom period, is representative of objects from this time that depict daily activities and rituals.

From the ancient Near East there are several impressive sculptures, including a schematic stone figure from the South Arabian Bronze Age (estimate: \$15,000-20,000). From the Early Dynastic period in Syria comes a fine limestone relief showing a votary standing before a seated deity (estimate: \$80,000-120,000). Also from Syria, but dating to the early 1st millennium B.C., comes a rare bronze figure of a voluptuous nude goddess, who stands with her feet together, cupping her breasts (estimate: \$50,000-70,000). The interior of a Sasanian silver elliptical bowl is beautifully

ornamented with a *senmurw*, a mythical winged creature, surrounded by fish and fowl (estimate: \$12,000-18,000).

From Classical lands come a number of ancient Greek red- and black-figured vases, many once in the Collection of Dr. Elie Borowski. Impressive for its scale, condition and subject is the Type A black-figured amphora by the Lysippides Painter, one side depicting the apotheosis of Herakles, the other with two warriors in combat over a fallen comrade (estimate: \$150,000-200,000). The Painter of Berlin 1686, the Marathon Painter, Leagros Group, Three Line Group, the Edinburgh Painter, the Nikoxenos Painter, the Berlin Painter, Onesimos, the Pig Painter, the Tithonos Painter, the Bowdoin Painter, the Phiale Painter, and the Naples Painter are all represented in the sale.

A stunning Greek marble female head dating to the mid 4th century B.C. is of a quality only seldom seen at auction (estimate: \$250,000-350,000). From the 1st century A.D. comes a splendid marble torso, an ancient Roman copy of the Doryphoros of Polykleitos of circa 440 B.C. (estimate: \$60,000-90,000). A superbly cast Roman bronze head of a wolf was likely an imperial commission during the reign of the emperor Caligula (estimate: \$100,000-150,000). There are a number of fine Roman marble portraits and other marble sculptures, including a sarcophagus illustrating the myth of Adonis on the main panel, and that of Hippolytus on the sides (estimate: \$140,000-180,000). Roman glass objects, Roman and Byzantine mosaics, and some rare objects from Dark Age Europe are also featured in the sale.

Auction: *Antiquities* **June 11 at 10 a.m.**

Viewing: *Christie's Galleries, 20 Rockefeller Plaza* **June 6 - 10**

Christies.com: *Christie's sales of Antiquities will be featured on www.christies.com in a special subsite that will include picture gallery and specialist's view of the sales. All lots in the sales can be viewed online, along with full catalogue descriptions on Lotfinder®. The Latin American Art subsite will be featured on christies.com two weeks prior to the sale date.*

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