

For Immediate Release

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FINE GREEK AND ROMAN SCULPTURE TO LEAD CHRISTIE'S ANTIQUITIES SALE

**Antiquities
June 8, 2007**

New York – On June 8, Christie's New York will hold its bi-annual sale of *Antiquities*. This season, the auction will offer a particularly beautiful selection of Greek works of art, including a superb limestone head of Hermes and a marble torso of Artemis, alongside fine examples of Roman, Egyptian, Phoenician and Near Eastern works of art.

Roman highlights

A Roman bronze head of a man, circa 1st century B.C. – 1st century A.D.

Exquisitely modeled, this is the head of a youthful man with smooth skin, high cheekbones, sensual lips and luscious tousled curls. The style is reminiscent of earlier Greek forms which was very much sought after by Roman collectors. Estimate: \$300,000-500,000

A Roman marble mosaic panel, circa 3rd century A.D.

The scene depicts a central figure surrounded by a leopard, a panther and representations of winged, nude Eros figures, set in elaborate scrolling foliage. Estimate: \$200,000-300,000

Greek highlights

A Greek limestone head of Hermes, Classical Period, circa 4th century B.C.

Mainland and Western Greek artists employed limestone for their sculptures beginning in the Archaic Period. Like all Greek sculptures, this fine statue of a god would have been brightly

painted. The fact that a deity is presented, sculpted in the round, harmoniously proportioned and showing crisp, refined details, suggests that this work may once have served as a cult statue or in a temple pediment. Estimate: \$250,000-350,000

A Greek marble torso of Artemis, Hellenistic Period, circa 1st century B.C.

This sculpture depicts the goddess wearing diaphanous garments, revealing her body beneath, and is sculpted in an elegant and sophisticated way, particularly the treatment of the drapery and the rendering of the vigorous forward movement. Estimate: \$180,000-220,000

A Greek marble portrait of a man, Late Hellenistic Period, circa 1st century B.C.

The head is slightly turned to the right and reveals a distinctive hooked nose, thin lips pressed together, a finely trimmed moustache and a beard roughly picked to be completed in stucco. The use of stucco to finish details is typical of sculpture associated with the Ptolemaic court of Egypt. Also unusual in this portrait is the extent of preservation of the painted details, especially for the individual eye lashes. Estimate: \$50,000-80,000

A Greek bronze dancer, Hellenistic Period, circa 2nd-1st Century B.C.

Among the striking characteristics of this sensual bronze is the depiction of a female dancer in such a risqué costume. Indeed – the torso is elongated, the small breasts are set high on the chest, she is playing the castanets and the only garment worn by her is a band-like perizoma, covering her buttocks. Estimate: \$60,000-90,000

An attic red-figured Kylix, Attributed to Onesimos, circa 490-480 B.C.

The depicted scene is a hoplitodromos, a footrace between nude competitors armed with greaves, helmet and shield, and it made its appearance during the Olympic Games in 520 B.C. Onesimos is considered one of the finest cup painters of the generation succeeding the Pioneers. Estimate: \$60,000-90,000

Egyptian highlights

An Egyptian wood figure of a man, Old Kingdom, Dynasty VI, 2323-2150 B.C.

This figure is represented standing with the left leg advanced in stride. He has an elongated torso with slender musculature and is wearing a short kilt. Extensive pigment is preserved all over this statue which is made from a hard wood, probably ebony or yew. These were expensive and highly desirable materials reserved most often for the royal workshops which suggests that the figure had some royal association, an assumption further emphasized by the impressive scale and quality of this walking man. Estimate: \$200,000-300,000

An Egyptian wood and bronze ibis, Late Period to Ptolemaic Period, 664-30 B.C.

Thoth, a multi-purpose god in the Egyptian pantheon was most often depicted with an ibis head and a human body. Gilt, bronze and wood ibises, such as the present example, would have likely been offerings to the god. Estimate: \$60,000-90,000

Other highlights

A Roman parcel gilt silver scyphus, circa 2nd century A.D.

Estimate: \$120,000-180,000

A South Arabian bronze inscriptional plaque, circa 4th – 3rd century B.C.

Estimate: \$60,000-90,000

A Phoenician ivory plaque, circa 8th century B.C.

From the collection of Thomas T. Solley

Estimate: \$25,000-35,000

Auction: Antiquities

June 8 at 10 a.m.

Viewing: Christie's Galleries at Rockefeller Center

June 2 – 7

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