

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S CLASSICAL AUCTIONS IN JULY

Christie's, King Street

4 to 7 July 2006

London – In July 2006 Christie's will host a week of auctions dedicated to classical collecting categories. Estimated to realise in the region of £25 million, an impressive selection of old master paintings and drawings, European furniture, sculpture, tapestries and important clocks will be on public view before going under the hammer between 4 and 7 July. Highlights of the week include works by Carracci, Dou, Parmigianino, Raphael, Rubens and van Huysum as well as furniture by the great French geniuses André-Charles Boulle and Jean-François Leleu, a magnificent collection 18th and 19th century mirrors and a superb group of Russian hardstone and marble artefacts from the collection of Grand Duke Peter Friedrich Ludwig of Oldenburg (1755-1829). The sales will be scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, 4 July

Old Master and 19th Century Drawings



The annual London sale of Old Master and 19th Century Drawings will offer approximately 150 works by European artists from the early 16th century through to the 19th century. Leading the sale is *Head of the Madonna* by Raffaello Sanzio, known as Raphael (1483-1520) which carries an estimate of £50,000-70,000. This drawing dates to *circa* 1505, about which time Raphael moved to Florence. This is believed to be one of the Renaissance master's earliest studies in red chalk, a medium which he adopted having befriended and drawn influence from Leonardo da Vinci. Many of Raphael's most celebrated depictions of the Virgin Mary date from his Florentine Period and it is possible that the present drawing was a study for an altarpiece painted for the convent of Sant' Antonio in Perugia *circa* 1505, now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Another highlight of the sale is a group of twelve large 16th century architectural drawings on vellum by Jacques Androuet du Cerceau (*circa* 1500/10-*circa* 1586/7), the most important architectural theorist in Renaissance France. Despite the fact that du Cerceau enjoyed the patronage of the French Royal Court, and that his designs were studied by the great architects of the day, he does not seem to have actually built anything. His importance is due to his innovative designs, which were still being followed until the Revolution, and his drawings of long destroyed 16th century chateaux. These twelve drawings represent a variety of fantastic designs for façades, galleries, a fortress, a palace, a triumphal arch and a fountain and carry individual estimates ranging from £8,000 to £50,000.

Further highlights of the sale include *A panoramic view of the village of Hofgastein in the Salzburg Alps* by Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781-1841), the greatest German architect of the 19th century, which carries an estimate of £40,000-60,000, *Ecce Homo* (estimate: £50,000-80,000) and *An allegorical scene* (estimate: £30,000-40,000) by Paolo Farinati (1524-1606), the finest drawings by the Veronese master to be offered at auction for 50 years, and *A male teal* by Johann Jacob Walther (*circa* 1600-1679) which is expected to realise £20,000-30,000.

Wednesday, 5 July

Important Clocks and Marine Chronometers



Highlighting the sale is *The Brunel Regulator*, an historically important oak month-going wall regulator by E. J. Dent, London *circa* 1845 which belonged to the legendary British engineer Isambard Kingdon Brunel and hung in his office at Duke Street in Westminster, London (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Brunel is best remembered for the feats of engineering which he achieved on a large-scale; the Thames Tunnel, the Clifton suspension bridge and the steamship *The Great Western*, among others. Having studied Horology under Abraham Louis Breguet, the greatest French clockmaker of the 19th century, he had an excellent understanding of the art and this regulator, which has passed by family descent, is offered in the bicentenary of his birth.

Elsewhere the sale will offer approximately 140 lots that exemplify the beautiful craftsmanship and highest quality of mechanisms by some of the world's most significant makers. Highlights include a fine Dutch walnut astronomical longcase clock by Rutgerus Van Meurs, Amsterdam, *circa* 1780 which is estimated to realise £50,000-80,000, a directoire ormolu, jewelled enamel and white marble skeleton clock, signed 'Prosper Simon' and signed and dated 'Coteau 1796' (estimate: £40,000-60,000) and a fine George II ebony and brass-mounted musical large table clock with calendar and quarter repeat, by Simon Decharms, London, *circa* 1725 (estimate: £30,000-50,000).

Thursday, 6 July

Important European Furniture, Sculpture and Tapestries (see separate release)

This sale will offer approximately 250 lots of furniture, tapestries, sculpture and works of art from the 15th to the 19th century including a selection of 18th century Parisian furniture, featuring works by André-Charles Boulle and Jean-François Leleu, a magnificent single-owner collection of 17th and 18th century mirrors and a superb group of Russian hardstone and marble artefacts from the Collection of Grand Duke Peter Friedrich Ludwig of Oldenberg (1755-1829). Highlights from the sculpture section of the sale include a pair of marble figures of Venus and Mercury by Jean-Baptiste Pigalle (1714-1785) *circa* 1750 which carry an estimate of £300,000-500,000 and a terracotta and wood crucifixion group of Christ, the good thief and the bad thief, in which the thieves are cast from models attributed to Michelangelo and the Christ from a model by the Circle of Michelangelo (estimate: £20,000-30,000).



Thursday, 6 July

Important Old Master Pictures (see separate release)



This sale will include a diverse offering of still-lives, landscapes and portraits representing over 300 years of European art, a large number of which are entirely fresh to the market. Highlights include *The Coronation of the Virgin by the Trinity*, an oil sketch for an altarpiece by Sir Peter Paul Rubens (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000), *Salmacis and Hermaphroditus*, a rediscovered and unlined masterpiece by Ludovico Carracci (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000), a rediscovered pair of Roman views by Hubert Robert still on their original stretchers (estimate: £300,000-500,000), and the second part of the finest collection of Italian still-life pictures ever to come to auction.

Friday, 7 July

Old Master Pictures



The day sale of Old Master Pictures will include approximately 140 Dutch, Flemish, French, German, Italian and Spanish paintings from the 15th through to the 19th centuries, with estimates ranging from £5,000 to £100,000. One of the highlights of the sale is a group of twenty-six early pictures to be offered from a private French Collection including *The Annunciation, with a roundel of Moses receiving the Tablets of the Law* by the circle of Roger van der Weyden (circa 1399-1464) which carries an estimate of £20,000-30,000 and *An extensive landscape with shepherds and their flock, a coastal town in the distance* by Hans Bol (1534-1593) which is expected to realise £60,000-80,000. Further highlights include *The Canal della Giudecca* by Johann Anton Richter (1665 or 1685-1730) which has an estimate of £30,000-50,000, *The interior of a Gothic Cathedral* by Johann Ludwig Ernst Morgenstern (1738-1819), an oil on copper painting signed by the artist and dated 1788 (estimate: £10,000-15,000) and *Church of San Giovanni* by the Master of Langmatt Foundation (estimate: £30,000-50,000).

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Images available on request

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Notes to editors:

- Paintings, furniture, sculpture, clocks and works of art to be sold during this week will be on public view at Christie's, King Street, between 1 July and 6 July 2006. See www.christies.com for further details.
- In 2005, Christie's International Old Master Department achieved annual sales of £127.5 million / \$230.8 million, reaffirming their position as market leaders in both the Old Master Picture and Old Master Drawing categories, with a 53% market share over the nearest competitor in the Old Master category as a whole.
- In 2005, Christie's Furniture and Sculpture Sales in London realised a total of £37,200,488 million (\$65,993,666/€54,870,720) establishing a 70% market share over the nearest rivals.