

For Immediate Release

31 May 2006

Contact: Matthew Paton 020 7389 2965
Alexandra Kindermann 020 7389 2289

mpaton@christies.com

akindermann@christies.com

CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER £12 MILLION AUCTION OF 19th CENTURY ART IN JUNE

19th Century European Art, including Orientalist and Spanish Art
14 June 2006



King Street – Christie's announce the sale of *19th Century European Art, including Orientalist and Spanish Art* which will take place on 14 June 2006 and will offer approximately 200 lots of Austrian, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Scandinavian paintings, as well as dedicated sections to both Orientalist and Spanish art. Leading the sale is a portrait of Olga Nikolaevna,

Grand Duchess of Russia and later Queen of Württemberg, by Franz Xaver Winterhalter (German, 1801-1873) which carries an estimate of £1,000,000-1,500,000. Further highlights include *Pescadora Valenciana* by Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida (Spanish, 1863-1923) (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000) (*illustrated left*) and *La mosquée bleue* by Jean-Léon Gérôme (French, 1824-1904) which has an estimate of £800,000-1,200,000. The sale is expected to realise in excess of £12 million, the highest ever pre-sale estimate for this category at Christie's London.

19th Century European Art



The main section of the sale is led by a portrait of Olga Nikolaevna, Grand Duchess of Russia and later Queen of Württemberg, by Franz Xaver Winterhalter (German, 1801-1873) (*illustrated left*) which carries an estimate of £1,000,000-1,500,000. The third of seven children of Emperor Nicholas I and Empress Alexandra of Russia, this painting shows a youthful Olga seated in a landscape, gracefully holding red roses evidently plucked from the rose bush behind her. She sits at perfect ease, in an imaginary Arcadian landscape. The direct lighting from the left throws the whites and mauves of her costume into brilliant relief against the dark green foliage, and shadows the right side of the sitter's face to give her a pensive and mysterious air. The present work shows that Winterhalter could not only make his subjects regal and glamorous as figures of state, but also romantic as individuals.

A further highlight of this section is a group of five works by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot (French, 1796-1875) with examples representing each stage of his working career including *Acqua Acetosa*, 1846 (estimate: £70,000-100,000) and *Rives d'un étang, circa 1865-70* (estimate: £150,000-250,000). *La Contessa Speranza* by

Giovanni Boldini (Italian, 1842-1931) is an exceptional portrait by one of the notable society portraitists of the late 19th and early 20th century and is expected to realise £350,000-450,000 while *Veduta di Londra (The Victoria Embankment, London)* by Giuseppe de Nittis (Italian, 1846-1884) carries an estimate of £250,000-350,000.

Orientalist Art



Leading this section of the sale is *La mosquée bleue* by Jean-Léon Gérôme (French, 1824-1904) which carries an estimate of £800,000-1,200,000 (*illustrated left*). Gérôme, who had trained as a pupil of Paul Delaroche, adopted his master's highly-finished style of painting. Inspired by a number of visits he made to Egypt and the Middle East, Gérôme gained great popularity for his oriental depictions as well as for his rebellion towards the progressive art scene, and

Impressionism in particular. The present work is an exceptional example that highlights Gérôme's intricate attention to detail as each figure is distinctly different from the others in style, clothing and posture. This attention to detail is further illustrated by *Les pigeons*, also by Jean-Léon Gérôme, which shows a group of ladies guarded by a eunuch in front of the Hall of Divan in Istanbul (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000). Further highlights from this section include *Lion et lionne dans les montagnes* (estimate: £70,000-100,000) and *Arab stalking a lion* (estimate: £150,000-200,000) by Eugene Delacroix (French, 1798-1863), *The Fortune Teller* by Ludwig Deutsch (Austrian, 1855-1935) which carries an estimate of £300,000-400,000 and *Danse dans une rue de Caire* by Fabio Fabbi (Italian, 1861-1946) which is expected to realise £100,000-200,000.

Spanish Art



This section of the sale is led by *Pescadora Valenciana* by Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida (Spanish, 1863-1923) which is expected to realise £1,000,000-1,500,000. Another work by Sorolla, *Niños en el mar, Palay de Valencia*, also portrays the beach of the artist's home city of Valencia (estimate: £700,000-1,000,000). Further highlights include the decorative *Grupas Valencianas* by Hermenegildo Anglada Camarasa (Spanish, 1872-1959) (*illustrated left*), a crisp example of the artist's expressionistic portrayals of folkloric subjects (estimate: £300,000-500,000), *Marina* by Eliseo

Meifren y Roig (Spanish, 1859-1940) which carries an estimate of £70,000-100,000 and *Las barcas del Bon* by Francisco Miralles Galup (Spanish, 1848-1901) which is expected to realise £80,000-120,000.

###

Images available on request
Visit Christie's at www.christies.com

Notes to Editors:

- *19th Century European Art, including Orientalist and Spanish Art* will be on public view at Christie's, 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT between 10 and 14 June. See website for further details.