

**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Rhiannon Broomfield +44 (0) 207 389 2117 [rbroomfield@christies.com](mailto:rbroomfield@christies.com)

**SPECTACULAR IMPRESSIONIST & MODERN ART MASTERS  
LEAD CHRISTIE'S JUNE SALE IN LONDON**



Claude Monet, *Les arceaux de roses, Giverny*, 1913  
Estimate: £9million-12 million



Claude Monet, *Waterloo Bridge, temps couvert*, 1904  
Estimate: £6 million-8 million

**Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale  
Christie's King Street  
Monday, 18 June 2007 at 6.30pm**

**London** – Building on the success of Christie's February 2007 evening sale in London which realised a record total of £90 million\*, the world's leading art business will present its most important **Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale** ever held in London on 18 June 2007. Featuring an outstanding selection of 74 works, every area of this field from Impressionism to Surrealism and from Post-Impressionism to Fauvism, German and Austrian Art and Cubism is represented in the sale by examples of the highest quality. With a record pre-sale estimate of between £78 million and £108 million, the auction is led by *The Private American Collection* of Impressionist and Modern masterpieces, including one of the most important works by Claude Monet to appear at auction in recent years, which have been hidden away and appear at auction for the first time in nearly half a century.

*"We are thrilled to offer the strongest and most valuable sale of Impressionist & Modern Art to date at Christie's in Europe. The strength and depth of the market is evidenced by the superb quality and breadth of the works which are offered in our London Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale which, combined with the day sales, is estimated to fetch between a record £100 million and £140 million. The week of the 18 June promises to be the most important and exciting week of the London auction calendar for 2007,"* comments **Olivier Camu, Head of Impressionist & Modern Art, Christie's London.**

One of the most important works by Claude Monet (1840-1926) to appear at auction in recent years leads Christie's **Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale** on **18 June 2007**. *Les arceaux de roses, Giverny*, 1913, last publicly exhibited in the great 1960 *Claude Monet: Seasons and moments* exhibition at the New York Museum of Modern Art, is a very rare and beautiful depiction of Monet's water-lily pond which demonstrates the artist's virtuosity at using all the colours of his palette. Like its sister piece, *Les arches fleuries* of 1913 which hangs in the Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona, *Les arceaux de roses* shows the artist's rose bower and its dazzling reflection on a water surface strewn with water-lilies in full bloom. It is estimated to fetch between £9 million and £12 million and is the crown jewel of *The Private American Collection* of 10 superb works of art by masters of Impressionist and Modern Art including Camille Pissarro, Paul Signac, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Marc Chagall. The collection, not seen in public for nearly half a century, is estimated between £14 million and £19 million.

Also offered from *The Private American Collection*, Camille Pissarro's (1830-1903) *Le Pont-Neuf, naufrage de la Bonne Mère*, 1901 (estimate: £2,200,000-3,200,000), formerly in the celebrated Fuld Collection and last seen at auction in 1964, shows the artist as a painter of the modern age with the bustling street atmosphere perfectly conveyed in this scene of cosmopolitan Parisian life. Amongst his series depicting the Pont-Neuf Pissarro painted only two momentous views with the shipwreck of the *Bonne Mère* just after its collision with the piers of the bridge. Another brilliant rendering of city life on the water is Paul Signac's (1863-1935) sumptuous view of *Constantinople (Corne d'or)*, 1909 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,500,000). This breathtaking pointillist view of Istanbul's Golden Horn and its palaces and mosques with multiple minarets peppering a pink and yellow sunset sky and with shipping in the foreground, combines the artists' two great passions: painting and boats. *Please see separate press release for further information regarding The Private American Collection.*

A second museum quality work by Claude Monet in the sale, the very modern and beautiful *Waterloo Bridge, temps couvert* 1904 (estimate: £6,000,000-8,000,000) (*pictured above right*) formerly in Sir Alexander Korda's collection, is from his most celebrated series of paintings showing various views of the Thames. Painted from his room in the then newly-built, luxurious Savoy Hotel, the work captures Waterloo Bridge with the morning sun glinting on the blue and purple water between the arches. It is a tribute to the success of Monet's paintings of Waterloo Bridge that most of them are in museum collections throughout the world, leaving only a small number – and very few of the quality of the current example – still in private hands.

Impressionism is also well represented by Alfred Sisley (1839-1899) in this sale with two major landscapes. The earliest of the two, *La route de Marly-le-Roi*, 1875 (estimate: £1,600,000-2,400,000), with a wonderful provenance history, depicts with energetic and bold brushstrokes the road leading to *Marly-le-Roi*, nearby Paris, under a bright blue sky with thick billowy clouds providing great light contrasts below. The second example, *Le Loing à Moret*, 1886 (estimate: £1,400,000-1,800,000), captures in bright colours the wooded banks of the

Loing and the town of Moret in the distance under a cloudless sky, all reflected in the river in the foreground, a dazzling tour de force on the part of Sisley.

Leading a group of three works in pastels by the artist, Edgar Degas' large and colourful *Femme à sa toilette*, circa 1892 (estimate: £1,400,000-1,800,000) is the perfect example of Degas' voyeuristic talent in catching and framing in a revolutionary way a domestic bathroom scene.

And last but not least for the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist section, *Village derrière les arbres, Ile de France* (estimate: £2,000,000-2,500,000) is a strongly architected landscape of circa 1879 which perfectly condenses the ideas that Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) had developed during the years leading up to this point, and which would continue to reverberate through the history of art for decades to come.

The sale boasts a wonderful and unusually broad section of Fauve works painted at the high point of Fauvism by André Derain (1880-1954), Maurice de Vlaminck (1876-1958), Kees van Dongen (1877-1968) and Othon Friesz (1879-1949). They are filled with the vibrant, ardent palette that was deemed so savage that the critic Louis Vauxcelles denounced them as *fauves* (wild beasts). Derain's masterly *Bateaux à Collioure*, circa 1905 (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000), is a brilliant display of thick dashes of pure unmixed colour defining a quiet harbour scene with fishermen seen from above tending to their nets and boats. In a similar stroke of experimental genius, Vlaminck, Derain's friend and co-founder of Fauvism, painted *Maisons au bord de la Seine à Chatou*, circa 1906-07 (estimate: £1,600,000-2,200,000), in which he recreates the riverscape of Chatou in darting brushstrokes of pure complimentary hues of red and green as well as yellow and blue.

From Russian artist Natalia Goncharova (1881-1962), *Picking Apples* is one of a series of highly important paintings of Russian Peasants made by the artist between 1908 and 1911 that proudly announce the awakening of a new indigenous spirit in Russian art and lay the foundations of its avant-garde (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000). Goncharova's fascination with the ethnic identification between man, nation, tradition and style is evident in *The Spanish Dancers*, circa 1918 (estimate: £400,000-600,000), which is one of a series of subjects she painted repeatedly throughout the 1920s and early 30s of Spanish women elaborately dressed in native costume.

Other artists that originated from Russia or the former Russian empire are also well represented in the sale which boasts no less than six works by Alexej von Jawlensky (1864-1941) which span his oeuvre from the 1907 *Stilleben mit Früchten, Figur und Flasche*, (estimate £250,000-350,000), a jewel-like still life revealing the influences of Cezanne, Gauguin and obviously Matisse, to the seductive *Infantin (Spanierin)*, 1912-13 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000), a ravishing Spanish portrait from the *Blaue Reiter* period, the model for which was

Helene Neznakomova, Jawlensky's wife to be, and, finally, several paintings of heads and *Variations* from the 1910s and 1920s.

*L'escalier rouge à Cagnes* (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000) was painted in 1923-24 by Chaïm Soutine (1893-1943), who was born in Belarus. Its striking and vibrant landscape filled with the sense of movement and raw emotional power reveals a torrent of red paint forming the staircase in Cagnes. It is one of the best landscapes to have come onto the market by the artist in the last few years.

Marc Chagall (1887-1985), born in the Belarus town of Vitebsk, is represented in the sale with no less than five works. Two large paintings lead the group: *La neige (Snow)*, 1951-53 (estimate: £1,300,000-1,600,000) is a wonderfully poetic combination of dream, childhood memories and imagination, using the same palette that Chagall had used in his earlier years; while *L'hiver (Winter)*, a very large painting of 1966 (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000), boasts the bright acidic colours of his later years and contains many of Chagall's most favoured motifs and themes: music, flowers, romance. The sale also features works by Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944) and the Lithuanian, Lasar Segall (1889-1957).

The sale includes a strong selection of six works by Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) which span his career, from the tender portrait of his mistress and important early muse Fernande Olivier, *Buste de femme la main gauche levée (Fernande Olivier)*, 1905-06, (estimate: £2,500,000-3,500,000), to his large and bold rendition of a female nude seated with a comical musketeer *Mousquetaire et nu assis* of 1967 (estimate: £4,500,000-5,500,000). Cubism is present in the form of his 1914 still life *Nature morte à la guitare* (£200,000-300,000) and of a neo-cubist nude of Dora Maar, *Nu assis*, 1939 (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000).

Fernand Léger (1881-1955) is present with five paintings, a group led by *Un disque dans la ville* of 1919 (estimate: £3,000,000-4,000,000) one of a small group of outstanding and vibrant paintings that Leger made that year on the theme of the metropolis. *Le mécanicien dans l'usine*, 1918, is a tight and colourful mechanistic work depicting a lone mechanic integrated into a new and semi abstract world of mechanics and machinery (estimate: £1,700,000-2,500,000).

Just four years later Piet Mondrian (1872-1944) painted his own abstracted vision in *Composition with Blue, Yellow, Red and Grey*, 1922 (estimate: £1,600,000-2,400,000), which comes to the sale with the formidable history of having been the only work by the artist to have belonged to the painter and theorist Theo van Doesburg, Mondrian's closest intellectual companion.

The existentialist vein is present in the sale with Alberto Giacometti's (1901-1966) monochromatic and highly moving portrait *Buste d'homme*, 1951 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000).

And last but not least Surrealism is represented by two major works. René Magritte (1898-1967) shows his mastery of conceptual ambiguity with the beautiful *Le sabbat* (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) painted in 1959. *La veillée* (estimate: £600,000-900,000), a highly poetic work painted in February 1940, is one of those extremely rare works from the best five years of the oeuvre of Paul Delvaux (1897-1994).

Over 190 lots will be offered in Christie's **Impressionist and Modern Art Day** sale on 19 June which is expected to realise in excess of £15million. Highlights in the sale include *Le compotier*, 1914, by Pierre Bonnard (estimate: £300,000-400,000); Raoul Dufy's vibrant image capturing movement and light *La plage de Sainte Adresse*, 1908-1909 (estimate: £250,000-350,000); Pierre Auguste Renoir's *Bouquet de roses dans un vase vert* (estimate: £400,000-600,000) and *Paris, rue animée le soir*, 1896, by Maximilien Luce (estimate: £250,000-350,000).



Works by Pablo Picasso include *Paysage au pin*, 1953 (estimate: £400,000-600,000) and *Tête d'homme barbu*, 1965 (estimate: £300,000-400,000) illustrated left, which is from a series of male portraits Picasso painted in 1965; many of his portraits painted during this reclusive period are thought to use the face of his chauffeur as inspiration. Works by Chaim Soutine include the atmospheric *La femme à l'ombrelle*, circa 1936-37 (estimate: £450,000-650,000) and *Les faisans*, circa 1926 (estimate: £300,000-500,000) which is a classic example of the artist's favoured theme, use of vivid hues and dynamic brush strokes.

Further stunning works include an array of tapestries and rugs, led by *Escargot, femme, fleur, étoile*, after a design by Joan Miró, 1955 (estimate: £60,000-80,000), which hung in the principal reception room of the Miró family house "Son Abrines" in Palma de Mallorca, where the artist lived from 1956 until his death. Executed by the Marie Cuttoli atelier, the exuberant lyricism of this tapestry, which is after his 1934 painting, effectively conveys the artist's spontaneity and joy in the creation of organic forms. *L'ange passant*, a tapestry after a design by Chagall (estimate: £20,000-30,000) and *Le promenade des amis*, a rug after a design by Diego Giacometti (estimate: £10,000-15,000) will also be offered.

The **Impressionist and Modern Art Works on Paper** sale at Christie's on 19 June will offer 154 lots which are expected to realise in excess of £7 million. Opening with rare Impressionist and Neo-Impressionist works, highlights include Gustave Caillebotte's *Etude pour Les canotiers ramant sur l'Yerres*, circa 1877 (estimate: £150,000-200,000) and Charles Angrand's *Maternité*, circa 1896 (estimate: £30,000-40,000) which reflects the meticulous draughtsman's artistic sensitivity. A strong selection of works from the Viennese Secession period are led by Gustave Klimt's rare blue crayon nude *Liegender Halbakt nach links*, circa 1913 (estimate: £100,000-150,000). In the Modern section, several early works by Fernand Léger will be offered, including two 1918 drawings and his preparatory watercolour *Étude*

*pour Le grand déjeuner, 1921* (estimate: £120,000-180,000) for the artist's 1921 masterpiece *Le grand déjeuner*, which is now in the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Pablo Picasso's striking 1969 brush and ink double portrait *Têtes d'homme* (estimate: £120,000-150,000) is one of a variety of works to be offered spanning the period of his career. Marc Chagall's *Le peintre à la veste orange, 1973* (estimate: £150,000-200,000) illustrated right, as well as works covering his most celebrated themes of music, romance, the magnificence of animals, his love of nature and the artist as a poet of the world, will also be offered. Elsewhere in the sale, stunning works include Kurt Schwitters' *MZ 268 Hannover, 1921* (estimate: £100,000-150,000) and Christian Rohlf's *Amaryllis auf grünem Grund, circa 1937* (estimate: £30,000-50,000).



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A selection of images is available on request

### Notes to Editors

\* Christie's evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* held on 6 February 2007 realised £89,684,000 / \$175,870,324 / €135,781,576, a record total for any auction of *Impressionist and Modern Art* held by Christie's in Europe

### International Exhibition Tour of Select Highlights

- 7-9 June 2007: Gritti Palace Hotel, Venice, Italy

### Christie's London Auctions in June 2007 of Impressionist & Modern Art and Post War & Contemporary Art:

- Impressionist and Modern Art (Evening Sale): 18 June 2007 at 6.30pm
- Impressionist and Modern Art (Day Sale): 19 June 2007 at 2.00pm
- Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper: 19 June 2007 at 10.30am
- Post War and Contemporary Art (Evening Sale): 20 June 2007 at 6.30pm
- Post War & Contemporary Art (Day Sale): 21 June 2007 at 10.00am

### About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global sales in 2005 that totaled \$3.2 billion. It is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 600 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.