

For Immediate Release

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

**MONET MASTERPIECE HIGHLIGHTS PRIVATE COLLECTION TO
BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN JUNE**



Paul Signac
Constantinople (Corne d'or), 1909
Estimate: £1,500,000-2,500,000



Claude Monet
Les arceaux de roses, Giverny, 1913
Estimate: £9,000,000-£12,000,000



Camille Pissarro
Le Pont-Neuf, naufrage de la Bonne Mère, 1901
Estimate: £2,200,000-3,200,000

Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale: 18 June 2007 at 6.30pm

Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale: 19 June 2007 at 2.00pm

Christie's London

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 is estimated to fetch between £9 million and £12 million and is the crown jewel of *The Private American Collection* of 10 important works of art by masters of Impressionist and Modern Art which also include Camille Pissarro, Paul Signac, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Marc Chagall. Hidden away and appearing at auction for the first time in over 40 years, the collection is estimated between £14 million and £19 million.

*"We are delighted to have been entrusted with such a significant collection. *Les arceaux de roses, Giverny* 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. It is one of the most important works by Claude Monet to appear at auction in recent years and we expect strong international interest when it is offered at Christie's London on 18 June,"* says **Olivier Camu, Head of Impressionist & Modern Art at Christie's London**.

Les arceaux de roses, Giverny, 1913, leads the selection of 5 works from the collection offered in the **Impressionist & Modern Art Evening Sale** on 18 June 2007. It was last publicly exhibited in the great 1960 *Claude Monet: Seasons and moments* exhibition at the New York

Museum of Modern Art and is one of those iconic depictions of Monet's water-lily pond. 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. Filled with water and the reflections and plays of light, the painting demonstrates Monet's absolute love of colour and is a tour-de-force in the artist's oeuvre. It was essentially as a result of this love of colour that Monet created his now-legendary garden at Giverny, which remains a site of pilgrimage for admirers to this day. Monet moved to Giverny in 1883 and as his recognition and wealth grew, he gradually created a garden in which a thousand beautiful impressions could be captured. Bursting with plants and colour, the garden was described by Arsène Alexandre as *floral fireworks* and this effect is clearly visible in the vibrant red roses in the present work.

Also offered from *The Private American Collection* in Christie's evening sale is 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. It 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. Of the six views of the Pont-Neuf that Pissarro painted in the winter of 1901, only these two and one other are not in museum collections.

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, exudes vibrant colours and combines the artists' two great passions: painting and boats.

In the 1890s, Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) developed a very intimate style of portraiture that was well suited to portraying family members, friends and neighbours who posed for him. The sitter for *Gabrielle* (estimate: £500,000-700,000) was Gabrielle Renard, who at the age of 16 joined the Renoirs' household looking after the children and later modelling frequently for Renoir. *Meditation*, 1930 by Marc Chagall (1887-1987) (estimate: £120,000-180,000) is a powerfully philosophical and spiritual work, rooted firmly in the artist's memories of his Hassidic Jewish upbringing in Vitebsk with the figure's similarity to his father recalling his loving and devout family.

A further 5 works from the collection will be included in the **Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale** on 19 June 2007. The selection is led by French painter Maurice Utrillo's (1833-1955) *Rue Saint-Rustique*, circa 1910 (estimate: £60,000-80,000) and Eugène Boudin's (1824-1899) *Clair de lune sur les marécages, La Touques*, circa 1888-1895 (estimate: £40,000-60,000). Also offered is *Vase de fleurs* by Maurice de Vlaminck (1876-1958) (estimate: £35,000-

50,000); *Les péniches* (estimate: £35,000-50,000) by Henri-Edmond Cross (1856-1910) and *Vase de roses*, 1908 by French painter Marie Laurencin (1883-1956) (estimate: £15,000-20,000).

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A selection of images is available on request*

Notes to Editors

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 auction sales in 2006 that totaled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. This 36% increase over 2005 marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. Christie's 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 18th, 19th and 20th 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 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 China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE, its unique, real-time online bidding service.