

For Immediate Release

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**TWELVE PICASSOS LEAD THE IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN ART EVENING
SALE AT CHRISTIE'S THIS JUNE 2006**



Paul Cézanne
Maisons dans la verdure, circa 1881
(estimate: £3,500,000-4,500,000)



Pablo Picasso
Femme dans un fauteuil, les bras croises, 1963
(estimate: £2,600,000-3,400,000)

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale

Including German and Austrian Art

Christie's King Street

20 June 2006

London – Following the record sales at Christie's New York this May and the auctions in London in February 2006, the forthcoming evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art*, including *German and Austrian Art* on 20 June 2006, will offer a superb selection of outstanding works. Highlights include paintings by Cézanne, Renoir, Braque, and Ernst together with other major European artists from the 19th and 20th centuries. A selection of twelve works by Pablo Picasso as well as a highly important group of examples by Egon Schiele lead the sale (see separate press release).

“The exceptionally robust auction prices achieved recently in New York demonstrate that the Impressionist and Modern Art market is very strong. Christie's London sale is fuelled by excellent works, many fresh to the market, such as Cézanne's ground-breaking painting - Maisons dans la verdure. We hope the series of sales, including the day sale and works on paper auction, will continue to attract new collectors to this sector and we expect demand for the top lots to be strong this season,” said Jussi Pylkkänen, President of Christie's Europe.

The evening sale boasts twelve works by Pablo Picasso spanning different periods of his work, beginning with an historic picture shown at his first exhibition. This early painting, *Au Moulin Rouge*, 1901 (estimate: £3,200,000-3,800,000), which was exhibited at Vollard's legendary Paris show, conveys the exuberant energy and riotous atmosphere of the cabaret. Further highlights are two striking portraits of his wife Jacqueline, *Femme assise dans un fauteuil*, 1962 (estimate: £3,000,000-5,000,000), and *Femme dans un fauteuil, les bras croises*, 1963 (estimate: £2,600,000-3,400,000), both painted during one of the happiest periods of the artist's life. These works present an intriguing combination of gestural brushwork and graceful poise as Jacqueline is portrayed with a deliberate regal air. While an energetic and colourful later work of 1969, *Homme à la pipe assis et amour* (estimate: £2,800,000-£3,800,000), is filled with the whimsy and romance that makes Picasso's late pictures so engaging.

One of the major highlights of the sale is Paul Cézanne's ground-breaking work *Maisons dans la verdure, circa 1881* (estimate: £3,500,000-4,500,000), which was previously owned by great friend and fellow artist, Pierre-Auguste Renoir. This exciting transitional painting shows the artist's journey towards Post-Impressionism as he explores new means of representing a three-dimensional world in two dimensions. Here, the variations in landscape combine and contrast with the foliage and geometric buildings to create an array of textures, depth and form. Pierre-Auguste Renoir is believed to have obtained this work as part of an exchange with Cézanne. In 1926, exactly eighty years ago to the month, the picture was acquired by the celebrated American art collector Ralph Booth directly from Renoir's private collection. This particular painting has remained in the family collection since then and has not been publicly exhibited since 1931.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir's sublime painting of 1884, *L'Été; Jeune femme dans un champ fleuri* (estimate: £3,800,000-4,500,000) portrays Aline, his lover, favourite model and later his wife. The lush greenery, feathered brushstrokes and glowing light showcase the artist's formidable skills while Aline's presence, glowing in the light-soaked French summer, indicate the artist's own feelings towards his subject. Also offered in the evening sale is an early, exquisite painting by Berthe Morisot, *Intérieur*, dating from 1872 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,600,000). A sense of domesticity and informality fills this beautiful and spontaneous work, as the artist captures an intimate, unguarded moment of a woman deep in thought.

An oil painting by Edouard Manet from one of his celebrated Paris scenes will also be offered. In *Chanteuse de Café Concert*, 1879 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,600,000), Manet's swirling brushwork deftly captures the spontaneity of a singer taking a bow at the end of her evening performance. Joining the line-up is a striking work by Vincent van Gogh, *Still Life: Vase with Gladioli and Lilacs*, 1886 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) painted after he returned to live in Paris. It was during this period that Van Gogh was exposed to and developed a love of colour that would mark his greatest paintings.

An outstanding group of paintings by Camille Pissarro will be offered. In *Le Pont Boieldieu et la gare d'Orléans, Rouen, matin, cinq heures*, 1898 (estimate: £1,200,000-1,600,000), Pissarro captures the atmosphere of the gentle glow of a post-dawn summer sun as it bathes the city's architecture and the Seine. This is one of a number of similar scenes of Rouen that Pissarro painted at varying times of day and seasons over the course of a year. A further work is *Bedford Park, Bath Road, La Passerelle, Londres*, 1897 (estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000), painted during Pissarro's last visit to London, which presents the viewer with a beautiful and strikingly modern view of a railway bridge with the park beyond. Meanwhile, *Le Potager du manoir d'Ango, Varengeville, soleil couchant*, 1899

(estimate: £1,000,000-1,500,000), is a romantic work that celebrates the richness of the countryside surrounding a manor house.

The magnificent *Maisons à L'Estaque*, dating from 1907 (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000) is an exceptionally rare and exciting painting from George Braque's transitional period. A series of exhibition tributes following Cézanne's death the previous year exposed Braque to the great artist's work. This painting shows how Braque quickly adsorbed and adapted the influence of Cézanne in particular, which would imminently lead to his invention, with Picasso, of Cubism. True Cubism is represented by Juan Gris's *La nappe blanche*, 1916 (estimate: £800,000-1,200,000). This wonderful painting has a classical simplicity that shows the artist fusing the still-life tradition of the Old Masters with the pioneering developments of Cubism and modern art.

One of the earliest Expressionist landscapes also features in the sale. Edvard Munch's *Ferlandschaft bei Aasgaardstrand*, late 1890s (estimate: £1,500,000-2,000,000) reveals much about the artist and his state of mind. Suffused with a strange and haunting calm and tranquillity, the beach is illuminated by the glow of a Northern evening. Painted in 1905-6, *L'Espagnole* (estimate: £1,800,000-2,500,000) is an early work from Kees van Dongen's most celebrated Fauve period, in which, through the use of bold colour, he was to develop his own technique to create paintings that are still arresting in their immediacy.

Two striking paintings by Amedeo Modigliani from a private European collection will be offered. A rare work dating from when Modigliani was a sculptor, *Le buste rouge (Cariatide)*, 1913, (estimate £1,000,000-1,500,000) echoes the reduced, elongated forms of the most elegant and celebrated of his sculptures. While in *Homme assis sur fond orange*, 1918 (estimate: £2,000,000-3,000,000) Modigliani has used a strong orange background to thrust the figure of the suited sitter into the foreground.

Leading the Surrealist section of the sale is *La Horde*, 1927 (estimate £2,500,000-3,500,000) one of the finest examples from a small series of strange and powerful paintings by Max Ernst, made with his then newly discovered grattage technique. "This exciting discovery is the most important work by Max Ernst to appear at auction in at least a decade", said Olivier Camu, Co-Head of the evening sale. One of Yves Tanguy's earliest extraordinary mental landscapes, *Sans titre*, 1926 (estimate: £350,000-550,000) is a work that marks his breakthrough to maturity. The work reflects a range of influence from his fellow Surrealists, and not only articulated a new and bizarre world of pictorial form unique to his imagination but also established his method of working from this date onwards.

Also in the Surrealist section is the most important group of museum-quality works by Óscar Domínguez to appear at auction, three from a private family collection and one from Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. The use of dream imagery that fuelled much of Domínguez's paintings can be seen in *Personajes surrealistas*, 1937 (estimate: £400,000-600,000) where various forms, realities and apparitions bleed into each other while in *Deux couples; Femmes aux boîtes de sardines*, 1937 (estimate: £200,000-300,000), Domínguez reveals elemental forces that exist below the surface of the visual world.

Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art day sale, 21 June 2006

Highlights include Marc Chagall's *Nu sur les toits*, 1964 (estimate: £250,000-350,000) and Le Corbusier's *Table, bouteille et livre*, 1926 (estimate: £220,000-280,000). A group of works by Raoul Dufy including *Régates à*

Deauville, circa 1946 (estimate: £120,000-180,000) will also be offered, as well as Russian artist Alexeandra Exter's *Venise, le bateau et la ville*, 1925 (estimate: £200,000-300,000).

“As last season showed, a considerable number of new buyers from emerging markets such as Russia, the Middle East and the Far East are competing with established collectors for works in the mid-range section £50,000-300,000,” said Jay Vincze, Head of Sale. *“The high demand for classic Impressionism continues, whilst there is an increasing demand for early 20th century Modernism.”*

The sale also includes an exceptional group of forty Post-Impressionist and early 20th century ceramics and porcelain from a Swiss private collection. One of the finest collections of modern ceramics by avant-garde artists in private hands, it includes artists as diverse as Edouard Vuillard, Raoul Dufy, André Derain, Maurice de Vlaminck, Auguste Rodin, Kees van Dongen, Pierre Bonnard, Aristide Maillol and Jozsef Rippl-Ronai. Estimates range from £800 to £80,000.

Christie's Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper sale, 22 June 2006

Leading the sale is Pablo Picasso's *Portrait de Sylvette*, 1954 (estimate: £250,000-350,000). Three works by Raoul Dufy from the collection of the late Robert Sangster set the tone for the summer racing season; *Le Derby à Epsom*, 1933 (estimate: £100,000-150,000), *Le champ de courses à Epsom* (estimate: £80,000-120,000) and *Le champ de courses Deauville* (estimate: £25,000-35,000). Other highlights include the Henri Matisse's *Portrait de Marguerite*, which portrays the artist's twelve year old daughter (estimate: £200,000-300,000), Kurt Schwitters's collage *Ohne Titel Merzeichnung*, 1929 (estimate: £80,000-120,000) and Edgar Degas' *Paysage, circa 1890* (estimate: £70,000-100,000). Following the success of the formidable collection of works by Fernand Léger in February, three works by the artist will be offered, including *Personnages dans la ville*, 1924 (estimate: £180,000-250,000), a preparatory study for an oil of the same year.

“The niche market for Impressionist and Modern works on paper continues to be very strong with dedicated private collectors, particularly in Europe. In addition, there is a consistently high demand for preparatory studies,” said Giovanna Bertazzoni, Head of Sale.

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Images available on request

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Notes to Editor:

Christie's New York evening sale of Impressionist and Modern Art in May 2006 totaled \$180,280,000 and was the highest total for an Impressionist and Modern Art evening sale since 1990, and the second highest in the company history for this category. The top lot was Vincent van Gogh's *Portrait of Madame Ginoux* at \$40,336,000, the fourth highest price ever obtained at auction by the artist. At Christie's London in February 2006, the evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* incorporated two dedicated sections, *German and Austrian Art* and *The Art of the Surreal* and achieved a total of £61,645,200 (\$108,186,970), the highest total since 1989.