

For Immediate Release

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**MATISSE MASTERPIECE SELLS FOR £6.6 MILLION AT CHRISTIE'S
TONIGHT**

***Highest Price Achieved in the Impressionist And Modern Art Category In London
This Season***

Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale

22 June 2004

London – Christie's evening sale of Impressionist and Modern Art was held in London tonight (22 June 2004) and achieved a total of £28,957,950 (\$52,848,259/€43,668,589). The top price was set by Henri Matisse's Odalisque au fauteuil noir, which realized £6,613,250 (\$12,069,181/ €9,972,781) and was the top selling lot for the Impressionist and Modern Art category in London this season.

“The strong prices achieved this evening are the result of an intelligent and informed market, where the range of buyers is broader than ever before,” commented Jussi Pylkkänen, tonight's auctioneer, International Director of Impressionist and 20th Century Art Department and Deputy Chairman of Christie's UK. “There was plenty of strong competition for the top lots and the results achieved tonight also clearly demonstrate the continuing strength of the market for works by the Modern Masters.”

Executed at the beginning of 1942, Odalisque au fauteuil noir shows Matisse developing his favourite motif, first conceived in the late 1920s. He returned to the Odalisque theme in the early 1940s with new brio, executing a series of pivotal colour canvases, which rarely appear on the market.

Buyer activity in the Impressionist and Modern Art Evening sale was 23% from the UK, 45% from Europe, 26% from the Americas, 3% from Asia and 3% from others. The sale was 67% sold by lot and 82% sold by value. 87% of lots sold within or above estimate.

*The second highest price of £3,029,250 (\$5,528,381/€4,568,109) was achieved for Wassily Kandinsky's *Dünaberg*, a brilliant gem-like painting that marks the beginning of the artist's artistic journey towards abstraction. Signed and dated 'Kandinsky 1909', this oil on board is from a small group of landscapes that Kandinsky painted in the town of Murnau, in the Bavarian Alps, in 1909.*

*Claude Monet's *Plage de Juan-les-Pins*, 1888, was the third highest selling work tonight, achieving a price of £2,637,250 (\$4,812,981/€3,976,973).*

*Further highlights of the evening sale were the seven works sold from a Private Family Trust, collectively totalling £3,889,580 (\$ 7,098,427/€5,865,440). The top selling work from the group was Alfred Sisley's *Le pont de Moret, effet du matin* 1891, which realized £957,250 (\$1,746,981/€987,513).*

*Seven works sold for over £1 million and sixteen works sold for more than \$1 million. A new world record at auction was established for George Lemmen for his work *La modiste*, 1901, which fetched £173,250 (\$316,181/€261,261).*

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Images available on request

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