

## For Immediate Release

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## CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL APPOINTS AMIN JAFFER AS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR ASIAN ART

**New York** – Christie's International, the world's leading art business, announced today the appointment of Dr. Amin Jaffer as International Director of Asian Art, effective immediately. In this role, Dr. Jaffer will have a particular responsibility for developing Christie's brand and business within India and among Indian communities worldwide. Dr. Jaffer is based in London and will report directly to Jussi Pylkkänen, President of Christie's Europe and Su-Mei Thompson, Director of Strategic Business Development, Asia.

"Christie's strategies and activities over the past seasons have reflected the globalization of the art market in an extraordinary manner," said Mr. Pylkkänen. "The appointment of Dr. Jaffer underlines our strong commitment to the Indian market and will allow us to continue to strengthen the awareness of the Christie's brand". Ms. Thompson added: "Asia has always been and remains a top priority for Christie's. As the leading international fine art auctioneer in Asia and the first to have a presence in India, Christie's is continuing to expand its presence and influence in this fast-growing and dynamic region and we are delighted to welcome Dr. Jaffer to our strong and authoritative team of Asian art specialists and business getters."

Amin Jaffer joins Christie's from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London where he was both a Senior Curator and Senior Fundraiser. He has organized and contributed to multiple symposia and exhibitions and has an active international lecturing profile, having spoken at such venerable institutions as the Bard Graduate Center, New York; the China Society, London; the Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge; The Islamic Art Museum, Kuala Lumpur and the Government Museum, Madras. He is the author of the path-breaking volumes Furniture from British India and Ceylon and Made for Maharajas: a design diary of Princely India and is the co-editor of Encounters: the meeting of Asia and Europe: 1500-1800, which accompanied a blockbuster V&A exhibition.

Dr. Jaffer was awarded a Ph.D. for his thesis 'Furniture from British India 1750-1830' by the Victoria and Albert Museum/Royal College of Art in 1995 and a B.A. (honours) degree in History

and History of Art from Trinity College, University of Toronto in 1990. He attended the Attingham Summer School in 1997 and completed Royal Collection Studies at Windsor Castle in 1998.

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#### **Note to the editors:**

- Christie's started sales of Modern and Contemporary Indian Art in 1995 in London and currently offers Modern and Contemporary Indian Art in sales in New York, London, Hong Kong and Dubai.
- One of the market's historical moments took place in New York in September 2002, when Tyeb Mehta's triptych *Celebration* made \$317,500, marking the first time an Indian painting surpassed the \$100,000 level at auction – the same artist wrote history again in September 2005, when his painting *Mahisasura* realized \$1,584,000, breaking the \$1 million barrier for the first time at auction and setting what still is the world auction record for a painting by an Indian artist offered at auction.
- Christie's has a dedicated team dealing with Modern and Contemporary Indian Art which is led by Yamini Mehta, Director, based in London. Dr. Hugo Weihe, based in New York, heads up the sales of classical Indian and Southeast Asian Art. Dr. Weihe is International Director, Asian Art.
- Christie's appointed Ganieve Grewal as the Christie's representative in India, based in Mumbai in 2005.

#### **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.

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*Images available on request*

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