

For Immediate Release

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CHRISTIE'S WEEK OF CLASSIC AUCTIONS REALISES £38.7 MILLION (\$70.5 MILLION)

King Street – Christie's week-long series of auctions dedicated to classical collecting categories concluded today having realised a total of £38.7 million / \$71 million / €55.6 million. The top lot of the week was *Salmacis and Hermaphroditus* by Ludovico Carracci (1555-1619) which sold at the evening sale of *Important Old Master Pictures* on 6 July at over six times its high estimate for £7,400,000, establishing a new world record price for the artist. The Old Master Department realised a total of £32,066,400 (£58.9 million), establishing a leading market share over the nearest competitor.

The breakdown for the sales was as follows:

<i>Old Master and 19th Century Drawings</i> , Tuesday, 4 July	£1,148,280 / \$2,117,428
<i>Important Clocks and Marine Chronometers</i> , Wednesday, 5 July	£1,206,648 / \$2,226,265
<i>Important European Furniture, Sculpture and Works of Art</i> , Thursday, 6 July	£5,413,000 / \$9,434,859
<i>Important Old Master Pictures</i> , Thursday, 6 July	£27,438,400 / \$50,376,902
<i>Old Master Pictures</i> , Friday, 7 July	£3,479,720 / \$6,388,766
TOTAL	£38,686,048 / \$70,544,220

Charles Cator, Co-Chairman, Christie's UK and International Head of Christie's Furniture Department with Richard Knight and Nicholas Hall, International Directors of the Old Master Picture Department commented: "This week's auctions have illustrated the increasing and invigorated popularity of classical collecting categories; the pre-sale exhibition was extremely popular with hundreds of people coming through the doors and we have welcomed a notable number of bidders to the sales, some of whom are new to these sale categories and some who are new to Christie's altogether. These results further confirm London's leading position in presenting classical works of quality and importance to the international marketplace."

Highlighting the week was *Salmacis and Hermaphroditus*, a rediscovered and unlined masterpiece by Ludovico Carracci which sold at the evening sale of *Important Old Master Pictures* on 6 July at over six times its high estimate for £7,400,000, establishing a new world record price for the artist.

At the same sale *Colonnade et jardins du Palais Médici: Gentleman sketching in an Italianate garden* and *Restes du Palais du pape Jules: An architectural capriccio with haymakers*, a recently rediscovered pair of paintings by Hubert Robert (1733-1808) which were also offered in superb condition sold for £3,368,000. Previously known only by engravings made after them by Jean-François Janinet (1752-1814), these impressive and contrasting pictures were offered still on their original stretchers, in their original frames and possibly even coated with their original varnish.

The sale of *Important European Furniture, Sculpture and Tapestries* was led by a Louis XV ormolu-mounted tulipwood amaranth, marquetry and parquetry commode by Jean-François Leleu (1729-1807) from *circa* 1760-70 which sold for £590,400. Further highlights included a pair of marble figures of Venus and Mercury by Jean-Baptiste Pigalle (1714-1785) *circa* 1750 which realised £310,400, and an unusual and magnificent collection of 17th and 18th century mirrors which realised a total of £553,800.

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Notes to editors:

- To date in 2006, Christie's International Old Master Department have realised a total of £91,321,811 establishing a 50.1% market share over the nearest competitor. The next sale of *Important Old Master Pictures* takes place at Christie's New York on 17 October 2006.

- In 2005, Christie's International Old Master Department achieved annual sales of £127.5 million / \$230.8 million, reaffirming their position as market leaders in both the Old Master Picture and Old Master Drawing categories, with a 53% market share over the nearest competitor in the Old Master category as a whole.

- In 2005, Christie's Furniture and Sculpture Sales in London realised a total of £37,200,488 million (\$65,993,666/ €54,870,720) establishing a 70% market share over the nearest rivals.