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CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES RECORD WORLDWIDE SALES OF £1.17 BILLION ($2.13 BILLION) FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2006, UP 39% FROM THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

Company Growth Strategy Continues with Inaugural Sale in Dubai and Launch of Christie's LIVE

Sales in Europe Total £596 million ($1.08 billion) Up 50% & Sales in Americas Total £490 Million ($888 million) Up 32% on Half Year Period 2005

London/New York – Christie's International announce today worldwide auction sales totalled £1.17 billion ($2.13 billion) for the first six months of 2006, an increase of 38% in £'s (39% in $'s) on last year's figure of £888 million ($1.65 billion) for the same period. This figure includes sales premium. In Christie's salesrooms around the world, 189 works of art sold for more than $1 million, compared to 178 works sold during the same period last year.

"Christie's 2006 first half-year results reflect the current strength of the global art market as sales across all categories and geographies of our business performed extremely well," said Edward Dolman, Chief Executive Officer, Christie's International. "This record company performance was underpinned by robust high-end auctions of Impressionist and Modern art, Post-War and Contemporary art, Jewellery, Asian art, Old Master Pictures and 20th Century Decorative Arts. Christie's is committed to further growth as we continue to execute our strategies including the exciting launch of Christie's LIVE, the real-time internet bidding facility that will be rolled out across our auction sales throughout the year. We also continue to grow our revenue and profitability.

"Christie's innovative and aggressive emerging markets strategy has also resulted in tremendous sales in Hong Kong and as well as in the growth sectors of Russian and Indian art. In addition, Christie's became the first international auction house to stage a sale in the United Arab Emirates when our inaugural auction in Dubai totaled £4.9 million ($8.4 million) in May. It is our goal to inspire clients across all categories in all the areas we sell.

"Among our global highlights this year were Vincent van Gogh's *L'Arlesienne, Madame Ginoux*, which sold for £22,041,530/$40, 336,000 and J. M. W. Turner's *Giudecca, La Donna della Salute San Giorgio*, that sold for £20,489,143/$35,856,000 -- a new world record for the artist and for a British painting. A further particular success was the sale of the Claude and Simone Dray Collection in Paris in June which realized €59.7 million (£41.3 million/$76.3 million), the highest total for a sale in France for over fifteen years and setting a new record for both a sale and works of 20th century decorative arts.

"Christie's regional sales have also performed well due to strong economies as well as our effective marketing approaches. We continue to offer our clients what they are looking for, from masterpieces to mixed category sales, weekend views, lower priced objects, new online opportunities. All our activities are underpinned by our unrivalled network of experts.

"The Autumn season looks highly encouraging and recent consignments include the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation's Blue Period Picasso, works of art and Old Master paintings from the gallery and personal collection of the renowned Parisian fine arts dealer Maurice Ségoura, and the historic Star Trek memorabilia from the vaults of Paramount Studios on the occasion of the programme's 40th anniversary (See www.christies.com for Fall 2006 Season Highlights)."

International Sale Centres for January – June 2006

For the first half of 2006, the U.K. and Europe generated sales of £596 million ($1.08 million), up 50% of the same period last year (up 50% by $), and the Americas totaled £490 million ($888 million), up 32% from the same period in 2005 (up 31% by $). The breakdown of sales is as follows:

• Europe & Middle East	£596 million	$1.08 billion
• King Street	£395 million	$715 million
• South Kensington	£39 million	$70 million
• France	£85 million	$153 million
• United States	£490 million	$888 million
• Rockefeller Center	£486 million	$880 million
• Asia and Australia	£88 million	$159 million

Top International Department Totals for January – June 2006

Key departmental increases for the first half of 2006 compared to the same period last year include: Old Masters Pictures, up 53%; Impressionist & Modern Art, up 45%; Post-War and Contemporary Art, up 37%, Asian Art, up 30%, and British & Irish Art, up 41%. The breakdown of categories is as follows:

• Impressionist & Modern Art	£338 million	$611 million
• Post-War & Contemporary Art	£218 million	$394 million
• Jewellery, Jadeite, Watches	£89 million	$160 million
• Asian Art	£106 million	$192 million

•	European Furniture	£65 million	$117 million
•	Old Masters (Paintings & Drawings)	£59 million	$107 million
•	British & Irish Art	£77 million	$140 million
•	American Paintings	£46 million	$83 million
•	Books & Manuscripts	£25 million	$46 million
•	Silver	£10 million	$19 million
•	20th Century Decorative Arts	£48 million	$87 million
•	Prints	£16 million	$29 million
•	Russian Works of Art	£10 million	$18 million

Top Ten Lots Sold at Christie's Worldwide for January – June 2006

1. Vincent van Gogh, *L'Arlesienne, Madame Ginoux,* 1890 — £22,041,530 /$40, 336,000
   Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's New York, 2 May

2. J. M. W. Turner, *Giudecca, La Donna della Salute San Giorgio* — £20,489,143 /$35,856,000
   Important Old Master Paintings, Christie's New York, 6 April

3. Pablo Picasso, *Le Repos*, 1932 — £18,981,421 /$34,736,000
   Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's New York, 2 May

4. Egon Schiele, *Herbstsonne,* 1914 — £11,768,000 /$21,688,424
   Impressionist and Modern Art including German and Austrian Art, Christie's London, 20 June

5. Charles Willson Peale, *George Washington at Princeton* — £12,031,638 /$21,296,000
   Property from the Collection of Mrs. J. Insley Blair, Christie's New York, 21 January

6. Pablo Picasso, *Portrait de Germaine,* 1902 — £10,168,306 /$18,608,000
   Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's New York, 2 May

7. Chaim Soutine, *Le Boeuf Ecorche*, 1924 — £7,848,000 /$13,773,240
   Impressionist and Modern Art including German and Austrian and Art of the Surreal, Christie's London, 6 February

8. Andy Warhol, *Small Torn Campbell Soup Can (Pepper Pot),* 1962 — £6,331,183 /$11,776,000
   Post War & Contemporary Art, Christie's New York, 9 May

9. Claude Monet, *Nympheas, Temps Gris*, 1907 — £6,128,962 /$11,216,000
   Impressionist and Modern Art, Christie's New York, 2 May

10. J. M. W. Turner, *The Blue Rigi: Lake of Lucerne, Sunrise* — £5,832,000 /$10,987,488
    British Art on Paper, Christie's London, 5 June

Additional International Highlights for January – June 2006

Europe

- The art market continues to respond strongly to all single-owner and Collections sales internationally. In the U.K. market, these sales were led by two Royal sales offered at Christie's King Street. Property from the Collection of the Late Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester was sold in January and realised £5 million ($9 million) and the glamorous and high profile auction of Jewellery and works of art from the Collection of the Late Princess Margaret realised £13.6 million ($25.1 million).
- British Art Week was launched in June and totalled a record £32.8 million. The pace of the week was set at the first sale when *The Blue Rigi* by J.M.W. Turner sold for £5.8 million, a world record price for a British work on paper. *20th Century British Art* continued its pattern of growth and realised £12.4 million ($22.8 million) breaking Christie's own record from November 2005, for the highest sale total in this category ever sold.
- Christie's London sales of Impressionist, Modern, Post-War and Contemporary Art achieved a season total of £141.5 million ($260.7 million), the highest ever achieved in Europe. Fourteen new world records were established, with 49 works selling for over $1 million and clients from 45 countries bidding in the week of sales. The top lot of the week was Egon Schiele's lost masterpiece *Herbstonne* which sold for £11,768,000 ($21,688,424).
- The Collection of Claude and Simone Dray became the highest totalling sale in France for more than fifteen years in Paris in June when the superb selection of artworks led by 20th century decorative arts realised €59.7 million ($76.3 million/£41.3 million). Nineteen artist records were established with 13 lots selling for more than €1 million.
- Christie's Switzerland continued its successes at a stunning new location at the Hotel des Bergues in Geneva in May. The jewellery sale realised $19. 1 million (€14.7 million) and was led by an antique diamond riviere formerly the property of Queen Olga of Greece that sold for $855,000. The international watch department continue their strategy for growth and reaffirmed the timeless appeal of vintage watches with a successful season that was highlighted by a record sale in Geneva which totalled $13.6 million (€10.5 million), the highest total in this category ever achieved by an international auction house. In June, the renowned Zumsteg Collection and the Swiss Art sale totalled £9.4 million ($17.2 million).

Middle East and India

- International market history was made by Christie's on 24 May in Dubai as a new platform for buying and selling art was launched in an inaugural sale that totalled $8.5 million (AED31.2 million). Fifty-three new artist records were established as, in many cases, a wealth of new talent was showcased for the first time at an international auction. Offering over 120 works of art from the Arab world, Iran, India, Pakistan and the West, the sale was staged at the Jumeirah Emirates Towers and attended by hundreds of visitors and bidders, many new to the auction process.
- An exclusive exhibition of Modern and Contemporary Indian art took place in Mumbai in March. The exhibition celebrated the growth of this area of the market and was hosted by Ganieve Grewal, Christie's Representative in India. Christie's remain the only international auction house with full-time commitment and presence to both India and the Gulf region.

Asia and Australia

- Christie's Hong Kong Spring Auctions of Asian Art, Jewellery and Watches (28 May – 1 June) held in conjunction with its 20th anniversary this year achieved a spectacular total of over HK$1.2 billion/ US$154 million / £84 million, a record total for any series of auctions in Asia. Christie's market share in Asia now stands at 58%, confirming once again Christie's leadership in the region.
- The Asian art sales achieved a combined total of HK$847 million/ US$110 million / £59 million, setting a record total for any series of Asian art auctions held anywhere in the world. A magnificent early Ming underglaze copper-red vase, Yuhuchunping, of the Hongwu period (1368-1398) realized an astonishing HK$78.5 million/ US$10.3 million / £5.5 million in The Imperial Sale, setting a world auction record for Ming porcelain.
- The 20th Century Chinese Art sale and the Asian Contemporary Art sale realized a combined total of over HK$301 million/ US$39 million, the highest total ever achieved anywhere in the world. *Rouge, La pluie de pétales sur le village*; *Blanc, Le nuage au-dessus de la maison No. 53* by Chu Teh-Chun (Zhu Dequn, born in 1920) sold for HK$25.9 million / US$3.4 million / £1.8 million, a world auction record for the artist.
- The Magnificent Jewellery & Jadeite Jewellery sale realized over HK$295 million/ US$38.3 million / £20.6 million, the highest total ever for a jewellery sale in Asia.

Americas

- New York's evening sale of *Impressionist and Modern Art* totaled $180 million (£98.5 million), representing the highest total for an Impressionist and Modern Art Evening sale since 1990, and the second highest in company history for this category. The evening sale of *Post-War and Contemporary Art* totaled $147 million (£79 million), the second highest total for a sale in the field. Twelve new world auction records were set. A group of 35 works by *Donald Judd*, not only realized $27.8 million (£14.9 million) in the Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening and Afternoon sales, it also became New York's talk of the town with Christie's specially designed exhibition at Rockefeller Center.
- Asian sales at Christie's New York achieved their highest total ever at $46.2 million (£26.5 million). Highlights included the sale of the Evelyn Annenberg Hall Collection of Chinese Ceramics ($5.5 million/£3.1 million); a superb Japanese Hasegawa School screen ($968,000/£553,000); a Yuan dynasty double gourd vase ($2 million/£1.1 million); and the Indian artist Gaitonde's painting *Untitled* ($1.5 million/£845,000).
- Christie's International Old Masters Department realized $74.5 million (£42.5 million) on April 6, for its inaugural April sale of *Important Old Master Paintings* sale at Christie's in New York, the largest ever single sale of Old Master Paintings in the U.S. The highlight of the sale was Turner's *Giudecca, La Donna della Salute and San Giorgio,* which sold for $35.8 million (£20.4 million), the most expensive British painting ever sold at auction and the most expensive Old Master to be sold at auction in the U.S.
- Christie's New York achieved the highest total ever for a series of Americana sales when the three sales, *Property from the Collection of Mrs. J. Insley Blair*; *Property from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. E.J.Nusrala* and *Important American Furniture, Folk Art, Silver and Prints Including the Garbisch Collection from the Sky Club*, totaled $41.9 million (£23.6 million), setting several important new world auction records and establishing the Blair Collection as the highest selling single owner collection of Americana ever to have appeared at auction.

- The spring Magnificent Jewels held on April 11 totalled \$39 million (£22.4 million). Christie's was proud to offer in this sale the stunning jewels from the estate of Joan B. Kroc, noted philanthropist and wife of Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's. Leading her collection was a magnificent coloured diamond necklace set with a detachable pear-shaped fancy intense yellow diamond of approximately 42.13 carats, by Harry Winston which sold for \$2 million (£1.1 million).
- The April 24th sale of *Russian Paintings and Works of Art* marked a change in the Christie's Russian department - commencing with this sale all Christie's New York sales of Russian works of art and paintings will be combined into one dedicated sale. Christie's was honoured to offer the collection of 42 works from *The Collection of Ambassador Charles R. Crane*. The sales totalled \$15 million (£8.4 million), setting many world auction records in the process.

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Images available on request

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About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading auction house, 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 nearly 1,000 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$20 million. Christie's has 90 offices in 30 countries and 16 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai. In 2005 Christie's annual global sales increased 38% to \$3.2 billion, the highest total in company history and propelling the auction house into global market leadership.